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Periodical Postage Paid at Marlinton, WV 24954
THE POCAHONTAS TIMES
 (Post Office No. 436-640 - ISSN No. 07388373)



The Pocahontas Times

\$1.00

Serving Pocahontas County in the Endless Mountains of Appalachia

AUGUST 22, 2024 VOL. 142 NO. 14

MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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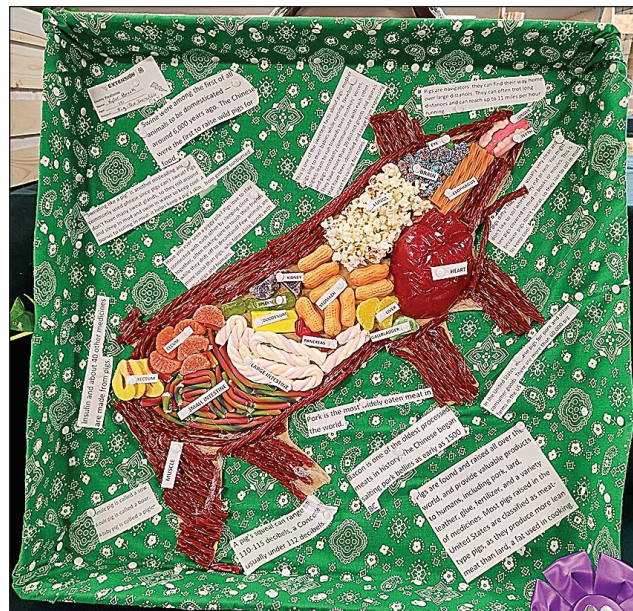
Two county 4-Hers win Best in Show at State Fair

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The West Virginia State Fair is always an exciting time. So many things to see and do – carnival rides, carnival food, exhibits and live music. Then there's all the competitions. The livestock show, the FFA exhibits and the 4-H exhibits.

4-Hers of all ages – from Cloverbuds to college students – enter projects in the hope of at least getting a blue ribbon for their efforts.

This year, two Pocahontas County 4-Hers received the illusive purple ribbon – Best



PROJECTS BY POCAHONTAS County 4-Hers Mia Valach, above, and Kylor Brock, at left, were on display at the West Virginia State Fair and came home with the honor of Best in Show. Photos courtesy of WVU Extension Service

in Show.

Twelve projects at the fair received Best in Show honors and included those by 11-year-old Mia Valach and 10-year-old Kylor Brock.

Valach made five bracelets, four of which were symbols of the four Hs – heart, head, hands and health and the fifth with matching beads, a four-leaf clover.

Although she has been in 4-H since she was a Cloverbud, Valach realized she had

never entered a project at state fair.

"I thought it would be good to have competed as a 4-H member, so that's one of the main reasons that I did it," she said. "I thought it would be unique to learn about the state and 4-H, too."

This was also Brock's first time competing, and only his second year in 4-H.

see 4-Hers pg 10

BOE begins search to fill vacant seat

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Four of the five members of the Pocahontas County Board of Education were present at the August 13 meeting to handle the rather large agenda. While it is not unusual for a board member to miss a meeting, board president Emery Grimes explained at the end of the meeting that board vice-president Becky Campbell resigned from her position due to health issues.

The board shared its concern for Campbell, and said they will miss her as a member. Grimes then led a discussion about finding someone to fill the vacancy until the next election. The board is now seeking an individual from the Northern or Central district to serve on the board as an interim member. That member will serve until the end of the canvass of the November 5 election results.

The board will have a special meeting Thursday, August 29, to interview applicants and will appoint a new board member at that time.

The unexpired seat will be placed on the November ballot in the general election.

In her update, superintendent Lynne Bostic said that a contingency of three from the West Virginia Department of Education visited last week to meet with departments heads and administrators at Pocahontas County High School. Bostic and directors Julie Shiflet and Kristy Tritapoe also attended.

Derek Lambert, manager of secondary support; Lauren Laundry, coordinator of secondary support; and Veronica Barron, coordinator of Career and Technical Education; were at the high school to go over the newly revised Policy 2510 which outlines what courses are required for students to graduate.

This meeting was prompted by action taken last year which unveiled that several classes offered at PCHS were no longer required in the policy, which

meant students were not getting credit toward their degree.

"They will be supporting us quite a bit this year as we try to turn the ship around," Bostic said. "We have some work to do, we know it. We had some discussions. Just because we did something back in 2017 and had it approved doesn't mean that it's still appropriate in 2024, so we have some work to do, but we're together and are moving forward."

Bostic also shared an update from maintenance director Duane Gibson who could not attend the meeting. In the report, Bostic said work continues on demolition of the old board office in Marlinton. There was a delay due to the discovery of more asbestos which had to be handled with care.

There was also extra care taken to ensure no rubble from the building will fall toward Marlinton Elementary School and the playground.

Bostic added that the board office is working with Pocahontas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Management Council for continued and improved safety and security. During the brainstorming session, Bostic said there was discussion about installing emergency phones at PCHS and emergency generators at four of the five schools.

Marlinton Middle School already has an emergency generator because it is a safe location for the community during flooding or other disasters.

Bostic yielded the floor to director of special education and preschool Kristy Tritapoe who gave a report with some good and bad news.

First she gave a "shout out" to the special education teachers at PCHS for completing their follow up surveys with students who had IEPs. They keep track of these students to see how they are doing post graduation.

see BOE pg 9

It's a big 'dill'

John Dean
Contributing Writer

A pickle-themed reception will announce the grand opening of Watoga State Park's revamped and reconstructed game courts Saturday, August 31, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Activities Center.

In addition to pickleball, other games and activities have been redesigned, installed and ready for use, including volleyball, basketball, shuffleboard, Four Square and disc golf. West Virginia native and five-time world champion Johnny Sias



THE NEWLY RECONSTRUCTED and revamped game courts at Watoga State Park now offer pickleball, basketball, shuffleboard and more. John Dean photo

designed Watoga's disc golf course.

The Labor Day weekend reception will feature appetizers of dill pickles, cheese, crackers, refreshments and more. Park employees and foundation volunteers will be

available to answer your questions. All game courts will be open. For the last few weeks, during the park's "soft" opening of the activities area, interest has been led by pickleball court inquiries, but shuffleboard

players also had questions and their participant levels rivaled those of pickleball enthusiasts.

It is \$10 per hour to rent pickleball equipment. Pric-

see Dill pg 5

Support Pocahontas County Youth... 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale
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IRS, states, tax industry announce new joint effort to combat growing scams and schemes

A coalition representing the Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the spectrum of the nation's tax industry has announced a new joint effort to combat the growth of scams and schemes threatening taxpayers and tax systems.

The new combined effort follows a variety of increased scams and schemes that intensified during the past filing season that aimed to exploit vulnerable taxpayers while enriching fraudsters and promoters.

Convened at the request of IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel, the coalition of federal and state tax agencies along with software and financial companies as well as key national tax professional associations agreed to a three-pronged approach. They will work to expand outreach and education about emerging scams, develop new approaches to identify potentially fraudulent returns at the point of filing and create infrastructure improvements to protect taxpayers as well as federal, state and industry tax systems.

The new task force will be called the Coalition Against Scam and Scheme Threats (CASST).

The new coalition is an outgrowth of the Security Summit effort, and while the new collaborative effort will not replace the Summit, the scams coalition will be closely modeled on the Summit. The Security Summit was launched in 2015 by the same groups to stem the growth in tax-related identity theft. The combined effort improved information sharing between the groups, identified common approaches to combat tax-related identity theft, improved internal tax system defenses and conducted extensive public awareness campaigns for taxpayers and tax professionals. While tax-related identity theft remains a concern, the improved protections have protected millions of taxpayers and prevented billions of dollars of fraudulent payments.

For this new project targeting scams, the CASST task force has agreed to high-level principles. The purpose of the group will be to better protect taxpayers from falling prey to un-

scrupulous actors by leveraging multilateral relationships across the tax ecosystem to minimize the filing of fraudulent tax returns.

During the past tax season, there has been increased activity involving a variety of scams and schemes harming taxpayers, including the Fuel Tax Credit, household employment taxes and the Sick and Family Leave Credit. The IRS has seen hundreds of thousands of dubious claims come in where it appears taxpayers are claiming credits for which they are not eligible, leading to refunds being delayed and the need for taxpayers to show they have legitimate documentation to support these claims.

Numerous other scams and schemes continue to be seen circulating on social media and are highlighted through efforts including the annual IRS Dirty Dozen list and alerts from the Security Summit partners. The new approach will increase collaborative efforts to raise awareness and education about schemes, not just during tax season but throughout the year.

see IRS pg 10

Farmland Protection Boards accepting applications

Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas counties are accepting applications for their Conservation Easement programs.

The Farmland Protection Boards are accepting applications for the FY25 funding cycle. Selections will be based on ranking criteria within each county, and then across the state. Selections are based on available funding within each county. Applications must be received by September 20,

2024, to be considered for the FY25 funding cycle. Applications can be obtained from your local NRCS office and via email: amy@saddlebackseriesvices.org

Please mail the completed application and supporting documents to Farmland Protection, PO Box 574, Union, WV 24983. You may also return your application via email to amy@saddlebackseriesvices.org

If you would like an application mailed to you or if



you would like to schedule a meeting to review the application and learn more about the program, please contact Amy Moloney, Executive Director, at 304-667-4877.

Permits available for the 2024 Ginseng Season on the Monongahela

Monongahela National Forest will begin selling ginseng permits for the 2024 harvest season Monday, August 26. In addition to following all state laws, a Forest Service permit is required to dig ginseng on National Forest System lands.

You can purchase a permit at the ranger stations in Parsons, Petersburg, Richwood, Bartow, Marlinton or White Sulphur Springs, or the Supervisor's Office in Elkins, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monongahela National

Forest ginseng permits cost \$20 each. A separate permit is required for each district on the Forest. This year, you may only buy one permit per district at a time. Each permit allows you to collect up to 95 plants from one ranger district during the West Virginia ginseng season, September 1 through November 30. You can purchase an additional permit for the same district after you return each completed permit, as supplies allow.

Ginseng plants must have three or more prongs and have produced fruit this year to be legal for harvest. When

harvesting, plant the fruit on-site and then keep the rest of the plant intact. Harvest no more than 24 plants per day and have no more than 24 plants in your possession while on national forest land.

For more information about state laws concerning ginseng harvest, refer to <https://wvforestry.com/laws-regulations/ginseng/>

For more information about Monongahela National Forest ginseng permits, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mnf/pass-permits/forestproducts/?cid=FSEPRD597459>

West Virginia Digital Title program – first in the nation

West Virginia Press Association

West Virginia marks a significant milestone in its digital title journey with the nationwide rollout of the country's first Digital Vehicle Title program. Setting a new standard in electronic titling systems, West Virginia's Digital Title is not only digital but also fully transactable, marking a distinctive advancement that will revolutionize the industry.

Fully transactable Digital Titles allow dealers and fleet operators to better manage inventory and eliminate the need for laborious, manual matching of titles with vehicles on the lot or in their systems. Digital Titles create real-time updates that ensure the system of record is continually kept current. Any time an attribute of the title changes – a lien is filed, a brand is added, a new owner is listed – the Digital Title is immediately updated in the state's system of record.

The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been working with Champ Titles, Inc., a leading provider of digital vehicle title, registration, and lien systems of record, and Tyler Technologies Inc., (NYSE: TYL) a leading public sector software and services provider, to take a revolutionary approach to modernizing the infrastructure of its statewide motor vehicle system. Launched in 2021, West Virginia's Digital Title and Registration Suite ("DTRS") is a comprehensive vehicle title administration solution to manage titles, registrations, liens, and dealer licensing.

"We are incredibly appreciative of the longstanding public-private partnership with the State of West Virginia and the DMV," said Ian McQuinn, General Manager for Tyler Technologies West Virginia. "We've worked closely with the DMV since 2007 to help modernize their services, and the launch of the Digital Title represents a major culmination of those efforts."

"We are so pleased to have such a bold and forward-thinking partner in the West Virginia DMV. The state's constituent-first approach to upgrading infrastructure continues today with the Digital Title. This technology will be a gamechanger for the country, realizing the digital efficiency that Champ

Titles set out to achieve when it was founded," said Shane Bigelow, Chief Executive Officer.

The printed version of the West Virginia Digital Title is listed in the most current version of the J.D Power Title and Registration Textbook. State DMV Commissioner Everett Frazier said, "This is a modern and secure approach to titling, but we realized that not every jurisdiction would be immediately comfortable using a digital title, so we created the printed version of the West Virginia Digital Title. Anyone with a Digital Title from West Virginia can print a copy of it any time they want. It is a legal, transactable physical representation of the West Virginia Digital Title, and verifiable by checking NMVTIS or West Virginia's own verification portal which can be found on the West Virginia DMV website."

The printed version of the West Virginia Digital Title is a paper representation of the Digital Title, akin to a mobile boarding pass, providing

a legal, transactable physical alternative. Just as boarding credentials can be presented using a mobile device, a Digital Title can be presented in the same way. But, if a physical copy is preferred, the printed version of the WV Digital Title exists for just that scenario.

Titles involved in transactions outside West Virginia using either the Digital Title or the printed version can be easily authenticated using West Virginia's verification portal, ensuring security, useability, and reliability.

The next phase aims to encourage jurisdictions nation-

see Title pg 10

Circuit Court

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

A status hearing was held in the case the State vs Tony Garretson, 53, of Marlinton, wherein the trial set for September will be continued. Both judges in the 11th Circuit have contested abuse/neglect matters set which take precedence over a trial. There are also medical issues with both parties in this case. The matter is set for November 18. Garretson was indicted on two counts, driving in a controlled substance (Methamphetamine) impaired state proximately causing death of any person; two counts, negligent homicide; one count, petit lar-

ceny. A plea agreement has been reached, but not reduced to writing, in the case the State vs Justin R. Arbogast, 36, of Valley Head. The trial, which was set for August 22, has been continued.

A plea agreement has been reached, but not reduced to writing, in the case the State vs Ashley Welch, 32, of Montersville. The trial, which was set for August 22, has been continued.

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CHRIS CURRY PUTS the squeeze on Joe Miller during a rehearsal for "Breaking Legs." Photo by Pat Arnow

In search of their inner good fellas

Barbara Elliott

You might say that Chris Curry and Joe Miller are two nice guys in search of their inner good fellas. The pair are having a blast preparing for their roles as gangsters in the upcoming Pocahontas Drama Workshop production of *Breaking Legs*. *Breaking Legs* is Tom Dulack's comedy about a desperate playwright who seeks funding for his next production from some very questionable characters. This is not Curry's first appearance in a Drama

Workshop production. He played what he describes as a "low level henchman" in *Sherlock Homes*, and also had a role in one of the productions in the festival of short plays a few years back. In addition to those roles, he has been an extra in several movies, including the scene in *Dark Knight Rises* when the football stadium blows up. "I love movies, and it was fun to get a peek behind the scenes," Curry said. "It was a really cool experience." **see Search pg 10**



We recently wrapped up our fiscal year at Pocahontas County Libraries and Visitor Information Centers. That's a time when we like to take stock of how our patrons used our libraries. The short answer is that you used it a lot. We had a total of 38,530 visits across our five libraries. Just a little under two in five of those visits happened at McClintic, with the remaining spread fairly evenly across the remaining four branches. Around 2,500 of those patrons were visitors—people from outside Pocahontas County stopping by for information. The Durbin branch is especially popular with visitors, with tourists accounting for about 30% of its total attendance. You all really like to read. Patrons checked out 73,120 print items over the course of the year. Pocahontas County library patrons also read 4,313 e-books and 1,568 e-magazines through Libby. That works out to about 10 books or magazines for every county resident. But reading wasn't the only thing people were doing at libraries this year. Our computers and Wi-Fi were used more than 11,000 times. We hosted 433 meetings. And programs across the different libraries drew

more than 8,000 people. That last figure includes our summer reading program. This year, several branches hosted twice as many summer readers as last year! We are also quite fortunate to have a lot of people in our area who actively work to make our libraries a little nicer. All told, residents volunteered 333 hours of their time to help with things like spring cleaning, caring for the landscaping around our buildings and helping with book sales. Many more of you have donated reading materials, food and toiletries to distribute to those who find themselves in a tight spot, and money that helps keep our staff paid and the lights on. In the coming weeks, we'll talk about how we make use of all this data—beginning next week with a discussion of how our librarians decide what materials to order. In the meantime, thank you all for visiting us over the past year. You are—quite literally—the reason we exist. We look forward to serving even more of you in the coming year! And, as always, if you have suggestions about things we could be doing, feel free to drop me a line at joe@pocahontaslibrary.org or stop by any of our branches and chat with your local librarian.

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

1. What southern politician was shot and paralyzed by Arthur Bremer on May 15, 1972?
2. What was explorer Ponce de Leon's first name?
3. Who became the first person to become a billionaire by writing books?
4. Who created the character Hercule Poirot?

Burma-Shave A Blast from the Past
Courtesy of the Ruth Friel Estate

Henry VIII... Sure had trouble... Short term wives... Long term stubble.	Substitutes... Are like a girdle... They find some jobs... They just can't hurdle.
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The Amazing Ellie visits local libraries

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Every dog owner thinks their dog is awesome, but Donna Dombek knows for sure that her dog, Ellie, is amazing. That's because Ellie is a certified therapy dog and has earned the highest level possible with the American Kennel Club – Elite Performer – as a trick dog. Last week, Dombek and Ellie visited Linwood Community Library and Durbin Community Library for a special reading hour where they, well Dombek, read a couple of dog-related books to the crowd and answered questions, while Ellie performed a few tricks.



THE AMAZING ELLIE, a beagle mix, sits with her owner, Donna Dombek, as she reads a book to a group gathered at the Durbin Community Library last Friday. Ellie is considered amazing because she is an elite trick dog and therapy dog. She knows how to perform more than 50 tricks and is attuned to the emotional needs of humans. S. Stewart photo

When it comes to the tricks Ellie has learned, Dombek said it sometimes takes her longer to figure out how to teach them than it does for Ellie to actually learn them. She has quite a few tricks up her doggy sleeve – from the easy sit, stay and roll over to the more complex tricks that actually include several smaller tricks, such as fetch and dunk the basketball.

"The simpler ones, I'd show her once or twice and she'd have it," Dombek said. "She's pretty amazing." Ellie's life didn't begin amazing though. She was born at the home of a beagle breeder who relinquished her

litter to a rescue in Kentucky. She was taken to New York by Empire Animal Rescue Society, or EARS, and that's where Dombek met her and adopted her. "She has been in school since I got her at about age

fourteen weeks," Dombek said. "She tested to be a therapy dog at about eighteen months and we went through a lot of training."

see Ellie pg 11

Pocahontas County – best kept secret

Kellyn Cassell

Sure, we all know it – but do they? As locals, it can often be easy to find the flaws with living in the rural West Virginia mountains. Spotty cell service, windy roads, shopping trips that take forethought and planning, and bone chilling winters. As a kid growing up in Pocahontas County, I looked forward to the days when I could leave the small-town life behind and see the world. And while I did move away and now call North Carolina my home, I have come to realize that certain aspects of Pocahontas County are not replicated anywhere else in the world. Perhaps it took distance, maturity, and perspective, but I now see that the extraordinary awe-inspiring surroundings of Pocahontas County are unmatched. With its endless natural beauty, it is a place that awaits whenever your soul may need to reconnect with nature. No matter who you are or where you come from, it calls to

you. It welcomes you. While the scenery may be what reels you in, it is the people of Pocahontas County who really make you see just how charming and special a place it is. Most people I talk to about my hometown have never visited Pocahontas County—most likely couldn't even find it on a map. But there is a unique sense of pride that comes with growing up in a place like it, and it is apparent any time you chat with a friendly local. We are proud to share our hometown with others whenever given the chance because we know just how much of a special hidden gem it is – one of West Virginia's best kept secrets. A secret worth sharing. That's exactly what I wanted to do seven years ago when I started the Greenbrier River Trail Marathon, which may also be one of the best kept secrets. I wanted to bring friends back to where I grew up and show it off. I wanted them to be able to experience the nature, the quiet, the beauty, and the

feeling of our hometown. What better way to do so, than to run through 26.2 miles of it. And, apparently, hundreds of people each year agree. Since 2017, people from all over the United States have traveled to Pocahontas County to run our marathon and half marathon, and hundreds more are going to do so again this October. Some come to get closer to their 50-state marathon quest, some come searching for a fast time on our USATF-certified (Boston qualifying) flat course. Others come to achieve a bucket list goal or simply because they like running and appreciate the sound of the train whistle that sounds to start our race at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning. While they all boast about the beauty of the trail, what they talk about even more are our wonderful volunteers – those friends and neighbors of yours that stand along the course for hours and hand out water or lend a hand and cheer on "those crazy runners." In the marathon community, we

may not yet be a very well-known race, but we like to think of ourselves, not unlike our Pocahontas County home, as a wonderfully kept secret that we want to share. We, as a race, try to give back to the volunteer groups by having a "Best Water Stop" competition, where the runners vote and the top three water stop groups split a \$500 pot – a nice fundraiser for a couple of hours of work. This year, maybe more than ever, we need help from our community. So if you, your friends, or your group want to come out and volunteer on Sunday, October 6, please reach out to us at grtmarathon@gmail.com or volunteer through our website www.grtmara.com or at RunSignUp.com. If you can't volunteer or take on the challenge and run yourself, please still mark your calendars – even if it's just to avoid the crowd – or come out and cheer on these runners, who have traveled from near and far to experience our wild and wonderful hometown.

Watoga Art in the Park

August 31 and Sept. 1 • 10 a.m - 4 p.m. daily

Watoga State Park - Bush Settlement area, near the old horse stables

Live Music

SATURDAY

11 a.m. ~ Mudhole Control
2 p.m. ~ Shawn Owen

SUNDAY

11 a.m. ~ Nate Seldomridge
2 p.m. ~ Richard Hefner and Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys

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Complaining

By Bryan Golden

Is complaining an effective strategy for solving problems? Will complaining improve your situation? Do others enjoy listening to you complain? The answer to all three questions is no. Then why do people complain?

There are a number of reasons a person complains. He or she may be looking for sympathy, assistance, support or just letting off steam. There are also people who are habitual whiners who are never satisfied or content.

In the case of sympathy, there is an erroneous assumption that if enough other people feel sorry for them, it will somehow improve the complainer's situation. All that will be accomplished is that others will grow tired of their moaning and give them a wide berth. Everyone has their own problems and very few people want to spend their discretionary time listening to the tales of woe of others.

Sympathy seekers tend to dwell on their problems rather than seeking solutions. When potential solutions are presented, they invariably find fault with and summarily dismiss them. These complainers seek attention and monopolize conversations. They look for

opportunities to show how their plight is worse than everyone else's.

Spending time with sympathy seekers can be draining. They are consumed with their own situation and show little or no interest in other people. Regardless of how good you may feel, a gripe session with a sympathy seeker will depress your mood.

Some complainers are looking for assistance in solving a problem. In this case they are interested in advice that will lead to a solution. The danger here is that they will indiscriminately seek guidance from anyone. In their attempt to overcome an obstacle, they will try virtually any remedy offered without considering the qualifications of the source.

Following bad advice can exacerbate a problem. Advice seekers that jump from one bad suggestion to another will become frustrated as they fail to solve their problem. The result is the erroneous conclusion that their situation has no solution.

Complainers in search of advice must be very selective in whom they approach. Only those who have successfully solved similar problems or who have appropriate expertise should be sought out. When the right

person is identified, they should be asked for advice directly rather than complaining to them.

Perhaps a complainer is looking for support. They may be overwhelmed by unexpected events or overloaded with responsibilities. This type of complainer is likely looking for help rather than advice. If you are so inclined, offer to lend a hand.

Even when they are helped out, some complainers always wind up in another crisis situation. Helping them out again will only improve their situation temporarily. Without a change in strategy, they will soon become immersed in another crisis.

Complainers who are incessant whiners find fault with virtually everything. They complain about their lives, other people's lives, the weather, politics, religion, society, etc. Everything they comment on is flawed. All of life is tainted. Their glass is always half empty and probably leaking. These people are not happy unless they are unhappy.

Whiners will never be satisfied. They don't want sympathy, solutions or help. They just want to complain. These people will never

The deadline for Letters to the Editor is Monday at noon. Writers may use a maximum of 600 words. Letters should be issue-oriented and never personal. Send letters to jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com For further information, please contact The Pocahontas Times at 304-799-4973.

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change and their minds are closed to new ideas.

Your only option is to limit exposure to their griping.

Complaining is unproductive and destructive. If you have problems, find solutions. If you need help, ask. Occasional complaining to seek understanding or let off steam is ok. But don't make it a way of life or a topic of every conversation.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2024 Bryan Golden

Dill, from page 1

ing for all games and activities, along with additional information about Watoga, will be available at Saturday's reception. You can call the park office at 304-799-4087 for pricing for other activities or any other park-related questions.

Preliminary work for the new games area involved reviewing court designs, researching options for the new courts, and negotiating pricing for this major improvement. Extensive re-

pairs, including leveling, inspections, materials selection, fencing modifications and relocation and more had to be completed before the courts could be painted those vibrant blue and green colors you see from the road above.

Once designated teams were assembled, work began. After hundreds of hours of work, more details needed to be finalized and completed. Watoga State Park personnel were instrumental in the labor-intensive aspects of this project. The state park system and the foundation collaboratively funded the costs of the new activities area.

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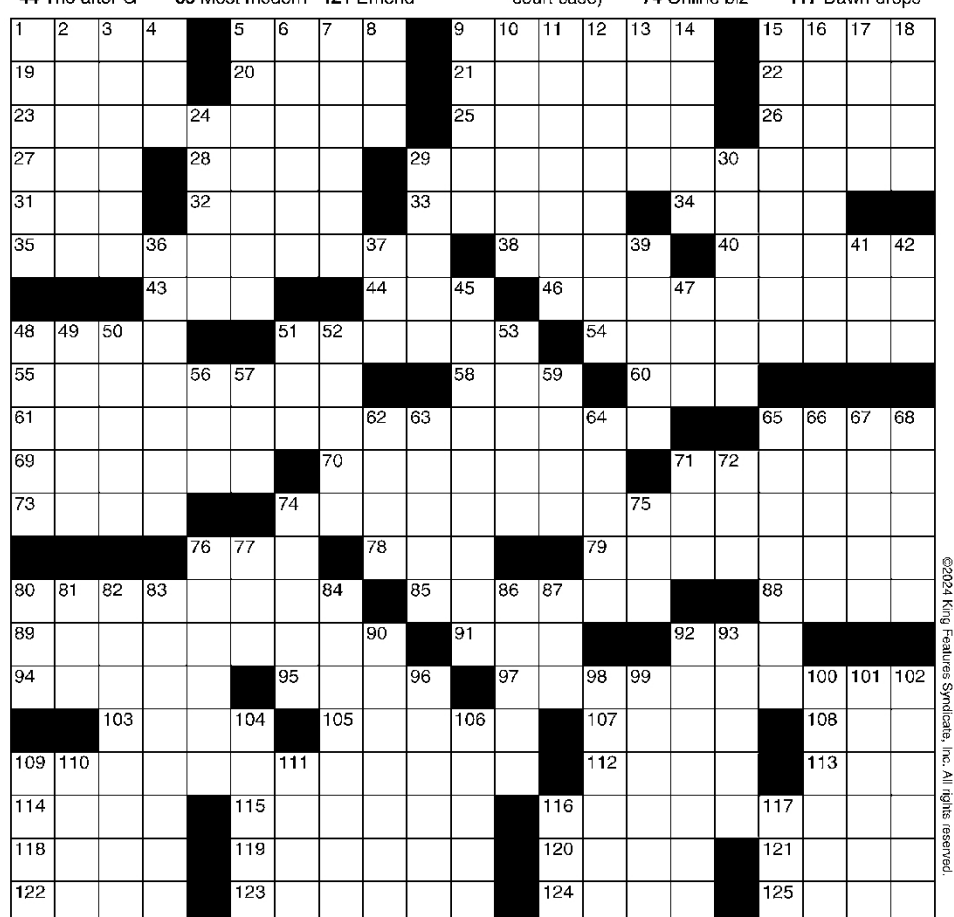
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Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Human rights org.
 - 5 Costa —
 - 9 Scored two under par
 - 15 Apparel
 - 19 Stars and Stripes, e.g.
 - 20 Big whoops
 - 21 Louisiana cuisine style
 - 22 French girlfriend
 - 23 Places to buy salmon fillets and such
 - 25 Everyday routine
 - 26 Metal beam with two flanges
 - 27 Brainpower stats
 - 28 Actor Bana
 - 29 Overnight delivery, say
 - 31 Regret deeply
 - 32 Nothin' at all
 - 33 Lauder of perfumery
 - 34 Shutter strip
 - 35 Breathable gym bottoms
 - 38 Actor Alan
 - 40 Vaping devices
 - 43 Some tech. inst. grads
 - 44 Trio after G
 - 46 They're like lay-ups, but farther from the basket
 - 48 Father, to a tiny tot
 - 51 Like some artificial body parts
 - 54 A snake injecting venom, e.g.
 - 55 Become too warm
 - 58 Like a bass voice
 - 60 Napoleonic marshal
 - 61 Coin that was worth 12 pence
 - 65 Purvey
 - 69 Often-flexed arm muscles
 - 70 Paint coat applied to rough plaster
 - 71 Brand of snowmobiles
 - 73 Snow glider
 - 74 Informal name for a herding breed
 - 76 Congregated
 - 78 Concealed
 - 79 City development area
 - 80 Dangler on a garment in a store
 - 85 Most modern
 - 88 Harper of "Far North"
 - 89 Top worn on a safari
 - 91 Snooze
 - 92 Epoch
 - 94 Opera solos
 - 95 Tomb-raiding
 - 97 Resembling a plate
 - 103 Turner of the Washington Nationals
 - 105 Check recipient
 - 107 Tubular snack cake
 - 108 Flat-fixing org.
 - 109 Guard to keep something dry
 - 112 Novelist
 - 113 Kingsley or Martin
 - 113 "Despicable Me" villain
 - 114 Very dry
 - 115 Tiki bar drink
 - 116 What nine answers in this puzzle suggest that you do twice?
 - 118 Donat
 - 119 Peeves
 - 120 Les — (French for "some")
 - 121 Emend
 - 122 Tomahawks
 - 123 Level
 - 124 Indiana-to-Ohio direction
 - 125 Witty types
- DOWN**
- 1 Validate
 - 2 In-group
 - 3 Maidens
 - 4 "Yuck!"
 - 5 Pep rally cheers
 - 6 Excited response to "Who wants dessert?"
 - 7 Police ride
 - 8 Horse cousin
 - 9 Beige shades
 - 10 Sony record label
 - 11 Be assisted
 - 12 Bungled
 - 13 "In the Valley of —" (2007 drama film)
 - 14 Slow sources
 - 15 Cold Spanish soup
 - 16 Eager desire
 - 17 "Knives Out" director
 - 18 Arctic hazard
 - 24 Gut feeling
 - 29 Pine product
 - 30 — v. Ferguson (landmark court case)
 - 36 Word after big, cold or soft
 - 37 Albert, in brief
 - 39 For — (very cheaply)
 - 41 Former rival of AT&T
 - 42 Former Russ. state
 - 45 First lady after Melania Trump
 - 47 Move hastily
 - 48 Lou formerly of CNN
 - 49 Pop rocker
 - 50 Rid of frost
 - 51 Crank's cry
 - 52 "Challenge accepted!"
 - 53 Rum mixers
 - 56 Clued in
 - 57 Lion chaser?
 - 59 Hope (for)
 - 62 Opposite of 58-Across
 - 63 "You Be —" (1986 Run-D.M.C. hit)
 - 64 Avian abodes
 - 65 Savors Earl Grey, say
 - 66 Funny Murphy
 - 67 Sacks in war
 - 68 Balcony sections
 - 71 Use stitches
 - 72 Mattel man
 - 74 Online biz
 - 75 Torrid
 - 76 Untidy states
 - 77 Afr. country
 - 80 Keglers' org.
 - 81 Karel Capek sci-fi play
 - 82 Question starter in old Memorex ads
 - 83 Total shams
 - 84 Plotting in math class
 - 86 Walked in water
 - 87 Dermis or Pen lead-in
 - 90 Turncoat
 - 92 Most pasty
 - 93 Phantom
 - 96 "Yes, cap'n!"
 - 98 Reporter on "Parks and Recreation"
 - 99 Buds from the hood
 - 100 Multi-roof temple
 - 101 Winged bug with pincers
 - 102 Intimidates
 - 104 Sportscaster
 - 106 "Für —" (piano piece)
 - 109 Chronicle
 - 110 Grand — (annual race)
 - 111 Clearheaded
 - 116 "— pasa?"
 - 117 Dawn drops



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

8 AM Fair Set-Up
9 AM Horse Show (Grandstand)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

3-6 PM Weigh-in & Entry of Livestock (4-H/FFA)
4-8 PM Enter Exhibits (Elementary School Gym)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

"Family Night" — Valley Amusement rides at reduced rates

8-9:AM Accepting Flower Exhibit Entries
9-10 AM Accepting Educational Exhibit Entries
9 AM-7 PM Judging Exhibits (Gym CLOSED)
11 AM..... 4-H & FFA Goats & Sheep Livestock Show (Show Barn)
..... Goat & Lamb Pet Contest, following Livestock Show
6 PM Parade (Spruce St, Main St, Myers-Moon Rd.)
7:30 PM Jack & Davis Reid (Under Big Tent)
ROAMING THROUGH THE AFTERNOON.....
..... Sky High Skyler & Cowgirl Circus

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

1 PM 4-H & FFA Hogs & Beef Livestock Show (Show Barn)
..... Calf Pet Contest, following Livestock Show
4-6 PM..... The Crestmen, Gospel Music (Under the Big Tent)
7 PM Demolition Derby, Thomas Motorsport LLC. (Grandstand)
..... Stock Full Size and Stock Compact
ROAMING THROUGH THE AFTERNOON.....
..... Sky High Skyler & Cowgirl Circus

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

10 AM Kiddie Show (Under Big Tent)
4:30 PM Sheep Costume Contest & Obstacle Course (Show Barn)
6 PM Little Switzerland Cloggers (High School Gym)
7 PM Bullride Mania (Grandstand)
..... Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Women's Breakaway, Youth Mutton Busting & Stick Horse Racing
ROAMING THROUGH THE AFTERNOON.....
..... Sky High Skyler & Cowgirl Circus

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

9 AM Dog Show (Grandstand if not raining)
11 AM- 2 PM Bluegrass Music—3 Bands (Under Big Tent)
2 PM 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale (Livestock Show Barn)
2 PM Corn Hole Tournament (High School Gym)
3 PM Cameron Simmons — Country Favorites (Under Big Tent)
5 PM Truck, Tractor & Diesel Truck Pull Contest (Grandstand)
ROAMING THROUGH THE AFTERNOON.....
..... Sky High Skyler & Cowgirl Circus
10 PM Fireworks Display (Finale)

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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

L. C. Wright Family – Thornwood, 1913



PORTRAIT OF MR. and Mrs. Louis C. Wright and Family of Thornwood, W.Va. Seated at left: Louis Clinton Wright. Seated at right: wife, Bertha Hamner Wright. Standing behind: Bertha's mother, Mrs. Hamner. Children left to right: Louis Page Wright and sister Nina Wright. The photograph was taken around 1913 by Lee's Studio of Elkins, W.Va. (Courtesy of Louis B. Wright; ID: PHP000047)

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

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

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Andrew Price, Editor

Thursday,
August 24, 1899

Late advances from Paris are of a very serious character. There was a riot in the city last Sunday, brought on by a thousand anarchists. Two churches were sacked and the sacred furniture thrown into the streets. A crucifix was burned and altars and pulpits were used for bonfires. Like outrages have not been witnessed since the Communist outrages in 1871. Statues of the Savior and of the Virgin were torn from their pedestals and destroyed.

At Mr. Alvin Clark's place in the Levels there has been a big turtle which had destroyed a number of chickens. It lived in the spring branch near its head and by lying in wait would catch a chicken by the leg and draw it under. The back of the turtle looked like a muddy stone, and it is supposed that the chickens would feed around until the turtle could snap at them and catch them. The chicken would make an outcry. The turtle had escaped capture until a rifle was used and a shot through the shell while it was drawing its prey down.

Among the houses which block the way of the railroad is the patchwork palace of Charles Irvings. The surveyors have already committed the indignity of knocking off

a board and surveying right through it, and Irvings is now wondering whether there is any truth in the old belief that a man's house is his castle, and "tho the rains may leak in and the winds whistle through, the king cannot enter." He is also wondering whether the contractor will put a force of men around it and gently lift the home and deposit it at a certain place he has picked out, or whether they will put a stick of dynamite under it and let it do the work...

H. H. McClintic is busy watching the bears which are preying on his sheep. He knows of the loss of five sheep and fears that at least three times that many are gone. The grass is so short the sheep cannot thrive on it, and when they stick their noses in the woods there is a bear waiting for them. It is enough to worry a man. He says, too, he would rather see a week's rain than even the railroad.

ARBOVALE
Still plenty of dry, hot weather.

Gordon Slaven is sinking W. L. Brown's well deeper in search of more water.

Emery Conrad is working in the saddle shop with Sol Phares.

The Arbovale Church dedication will be about the last of September.

Rhodes Wenger is in from Horton looking after his in-

terest in town.
E. M. Brown and wife have been at Travelers Rest putting up blackberries this week.

On Sunday morning, a crowd of railroad men passed through with seven, four-mule wagons loaded with tools and nine road scrapers.

There has been quite a lot of dynamiting for fish in Greenbrier River. We will hear the particulars after court.

James Phillips had several sheep killed by law un-abiding dogs. Percy Tracy's flock has also been diminished.

LOBELIA
Warm and very dry. Corn drying up.

S. J. Payne was in this neighborhood buying stock last week.

Will Crookshanks, of Elkins, called today and reported Will Brock of this place not dead. It was reported he had been killed in Tucker county by the falling of a tree.

Alpheus Tharp came very near being killed by the falling of a horse and throwing him among rocks. Dr. McClintic dressed his wounds and he is doing nicely today.

Remus Rogers has a snake tale to tell. Your correspondent had him before Constable Shisler and he made the following statement: Length 26 1/2 inches, thick as his leg, and it was covered with black hair on its back. This takes the rag off of the bush. It was killed near the big Grapevine on J. B. Kinnison's lands.



Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday,
August 22, 1974

Mrs. Floyd Frampton, Jeph Double and Mrs. Pearl Rucker

VANREENEN REUNION

Those attending the VanReenen Family Reunion at the Edray Community Center from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Porter VanReenen and daughter, Mrs. James Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Groseclose, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Groseclose and family, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest VanReenen, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dilley, Mr. and Mrs. Carl VanReenen, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin VanReenen, Mrs. A. C. VanReenen, Mr. and Mrs. Garth VanReenen and family, Mrs. Cora McCallister,

Weather Wise

The average rainfall on the Cranberry River watershed for the month of July was 4.86 inches.

High temperature for the month was 86 degrees at Aldrich Branch on July 4. Low temperature July 22 at Black Mountain was 40 degrees.

WEDDING

The Marlinton Presbyterian Church will be the setting at two o'clock in the afternoon Sunday, Septem-

ber 8, 1974, for the wedding of Miss Anne Winters Mallow and William Thomas Workman. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Mallow, of Marlinton, and he is the son of William D. Workman, of Hillsboro, and the late Grace Rogers Workman.

Miss Katherine Ruckman McClure, daughter of the late Lantie G. and Madge Ruckman McClure, and the granddaughter of the late Mathew Ruckman, of Mill Point, became the bride of Kyle Nickell Beard, son of the late Richard M. and Bessie E. Beard, of Beard, at four-thirty o'clock Thursday afternoon, August 8, 1974, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Dysard in Lewisburg.

see 50 pg 12

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
August 25, 1949

Some weeks since, this paper copied an item from the 50 years ago notes of the Greenbrier Independent about the big safe of the then new Bank of Marlinton being hauled through Lewisburg by four big horses. O. B. Spitzer, of Renick's Valley, tells me to correct the statement by adding two more horses. It was a six-horse team, and he was the young driver.

They are telling me now about all the new front and back porches, concrete walks and approaches, additions and contractions and things missed in new building notes. All I can say is that I failed to mention the new dog house down home, and all the foregoing sins of omission put me into it deeper than ever.

Of course, every nice little girl enjoys the trip and visit to grandfather's farm. However, it seems to me that a little Marlinton girl of 8 years, gets more than average joy

out of the 10-mile trip from father's home in Marlinton to grandfather's farm on Laurel Creek. The little Miss is Ann Gay Mason. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mason and grandfather is T. J. Mason. By inheritance and bringing up, the little girl is air-minded; her father flies a plane and grandfather has bulldozed out a big long strip in his best meadow field for a flying field with wind stocking and all. The elapsed time from home to the farm is about 15 minutes with about 3 minutes in the air.

STUDENTS

Robert Clay Kellison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kellison, of Marlinton, has been awarded a \$200 scholarship from Davis and Elkins College. He is a graduate of Marlinton High School, Class of '49, with high scholastic achievements...

Joel Hannah, of Arbovale, has been awarded one of the four summer fellowships by the Danworth Foundation to West Virginia University students. The award includes two weeks of camping at the

American Youth Foundation Leadership Training Camp at Shelby, Michigan.

WEDDING

Announcement is being made of the marriage of Miss Leona Marie Landis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lanty Landis, to Beverly C. Kenney, son of Mrs. J. L. Kenney and the late Mr. Kenney, all of Marlinton. The wedding took place at the Marlinton Methodist Church Monday evening, August 15, 1949, with Rev. R. H. Skaggs, officiating...

CAMPING

Rev. John B. McLaughlin and son, Bill, of Keyser, have been camping at the lower end of Austin Duncan's sugar camp at Buckeye. This is their 16th year of camping and fishing there. On Friday night, a picnic supper was enjoyed at the "preacher's camp" by the following: Mr. and Mrs. Jess McNeill, Mrs. Fred Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Verl Loudermilk and Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Duncan and Jerry, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Duncan and George, Addison Pennel, Taylor Morrison, Lus Wood-dell, Mrs. Edd Loury, Mrs. Jack Duncan and son, John Lee, and nephew, Johnie Fenwick.

see 75 pg 12

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
August 21, 1924

We understand that B. B. Campbell has finished up his contract of close to four million feet of lumber. This job has only been in operation about nine months, and finishes up the entire Warn Lumber Company operation of about 10 years of steady work.

THE FAIR

Pocahontas County Fair opened Monday night, bigger and better than ever before. The weather Monday and Tuesday was all that could be desired and the crowds were the largest of any opening day. Wednesday, the rain came down, but better days are hoped for Thursday and Friday.

With every department a regular exposition in itself, how is a body to write about it anyway?

To begin with, the horse department never before had as many fast and fine horses gathered together in the Greenbrier Valley. The large stables are crowded. The track is in perfect condition and, each afternoon, fast racing is given...

There are 128 cattle in the barns, about equally divided between Herefords and Shorthorn. There are about twice as many Angus than last year...

A special effort was made this year to make the sheep show worthy of the best sheep county in the State. The pens are crowded full of the finest sheep you ever saw. Much of our prosperity is due to animals with the golden hoof, and the sheep exhibit is worth the whole fair costs.

As for hogs, there are plenty of fine ones, too. Red appears to be the prevailing fashion, but there is a sprinkling of whites, black and spots...

The music is furnished by Higgins and his band from New York City. A large crowd was attracted to the grounds Sunday afternoon by the concert given by these musicians. The Higgins Band has many important engage-

ments in the South and East, and has booked some of the biggest fairs this season.

AROUND THE STATE

Wheeling — Norman L. Westenhaver, aged 38, who shot and killed Mrs. Elsie West Wincher, aged 28, here because, according to his own story, "she wouldn't let him alone" will be held without bail on a charge of first degree murder, according to Clinton R. Campbell, assistant Ohio County prosecutor. Westenhaver had attempted suicide before any of the hundreds of shoppers at the Wheeling center market house, who had seen him shoot down Mrs. Wincher, could interfere.

Morgantown — Wilbur Darling, 25, is in a hospital here with severe burns sustained when he absent-mindedly lighted his pipe near a gas well.

Clarksburg — V. S. Lynch, Buckhannon business man, was found guilty by a Circuit Court jury of passing a worthless check for \$400 and sentenced to serve three years in the penitentiary.

see 100 pg 12

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The Pocahontas Times will be closed Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.
Early deadline for the September 5 edition is Friday, August 30, at 3 p.m.

4-Hers, from page 1

Brock, who also showed a pig, chose to do his project about the inner workings of a pig, illustrated with lots and lots of candy.

When it came time to make the project, Brock, with the help of his mom, Nicole, looked up ideas on Pinterest and found an example of the candy pig.

“We just saw a picture and we bought all kinds of candy,” Brock said. “We used that as body parts.”

“It was actually better than the one we were looking at so it wasn’t a Pinterest fail,” Nicole added, laughing. “We had a good time with it. That was the first project he’s ever done, so now we’re like, ‘how are we going to top that one.’”

While making the candy pig, Brock admitted it was hard to avoid eating some of the candy in the process.

“A lot of the candy was good,” he said.

Although their 4-H careers started out differently, Valach and Brock both agree on one thing, well two things – camp is their favorite part of being 4-Hers, and it was

exciting to win Best in Show for their projects.

“Camp’s really fun to be with a bunch of kids who are one, your age, and two, are experiencing the same thing,” Valach said. “I think that’s my favorite part. That’s my favorite week of summer.”

“I like camp probably the most,” Brock said.

Valach is such a huge fan of 4-H that she has recruited several of her friends to join.

“They’ve all had a great time, and they all said they were coming back next year,” she said.

Valach is the daughter of Mikey and Tracey Valach, of Snowshoe; and Brock is the son of Damon and Nicole rock, of Dunmore.

Other 4-Hers who entered exhibits at the State Fair were: Kya Arbogast, Cora Baldwin, Grayson Barlow, Adalyn Beverage, Madalynn Brock, Makiya Burns, Parker Burns, Kegan Calhoun, Kysor Calhoun, Silas Dean, Victor Dean, Amber Defibaugh, Brayden Diller, Ayla Fanning, Zara Fanning, Michael Friel, Khloe Gainer, Crickett Gregory, Riley Hammons, Levi Hill, Natalie Irvine, Konrad Lowe, Sheldon Maitland, Cambree

McLaughlin, Rufus Morgan, Amelia Rogers, Sullivan Seldomridge, Alayna Sharp, Evan Sharp, Savana Sharp, Owen Short, Natalie Sisler, Jameson Slifer, Eden Smith, Abigail Taylor, Luke Taylor, Lydia Taylor and Arabella Wade.

Non 4-H members who exhibited during the State Fair were: Symphony Aiello, Madelyn Albaugh, Abigail Arbogast, Savannah Barnes, Hampton Bennett, Tristan Bennett, Marlee Bickford, Dominick Blankenship, Jase Bryan, Penelope Buzzard, Darren Deputy, Elena Friel, Tucker Greenleaf, Aiden Harrell, Brentley Hazard, Kendyl Hummel, Elijah Keatley, Aaliyah Lawson, Serenity Lycans, Caleb Moore, Preston Moore, Tyler Pace, Aurora Phillips, Braxton Pugh, Brayden Ray, Briley Reed, Talleighia Reynolds, Olivia Shoemaker, Caleb Smith, Selena Smith, Gage Starks, Gaven Starks, Abigail Stewart, Jennifer Taylor, Aalina Thompson, Mason Turner, Cameron Waugh and Emma Willfong.

A list of 4-Hers who showed livestock will be included in a separate article after the 4-H/FFA Livestock Show.

IRS, from page 2

With the new scam and scheme initiatives, the IRS, states and the private sector will work to put in place new protections by filing season 2025. The combined effort is particularly important because the group has seen instances where scammers look for weak points in government systems and the private sector to exploit. The combined effort will improve defenses across both the private and public sector with a goal of making it more difficult for scammers to slip improper or false tax returns through the system.

The group will also work to make long-term structural changes to fundamentally

improve the ability to identify and stop scams. This includes working to improve EFIN and PTIN validation and new steps to combat “ghost preparers,” who prepare tax returns for a fee and do not in any way sign a tax return or disclose their role

on the tax return as the preparer. In many cases, these are inflated tax refunds that lead to millions in revenue loss and add risk for taxpayers who file potentially improper claims with only the individual’s name associated with the tax return.

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Title, from page 2

wide to recognize and accept Digital Title transactions.

The process of educating the country on the use of Digital Titles and evaluating their usability starts now. Frazier continues, “We are launching an educational campaign to ensure that every motor vehicle administrator across the country is familiar with and knows how to transact using the West Virginia Digital Title. We will be talking about it with motor vehicle administrators at their conferences and in their newsletters, and

we will continue to work closely with our partners in industry. As other states move in this same direction, it is imperative that we support one another. It is with this support that we’ll successfully bring the Digital Title to the market.”

West Virginia DMV joined with DDI Technology (DDI), a leading automotive title management firm and a subsidiary of IAA Holdings, LLC (IAA), a leading global digital marketplace, connecting vehicle buyers and sellers, to begin a nationwide pilot of the technology. DDI tested a limited number of Digital Title and printed versions of the WV Digital Title transactions throughout the

US, using the tools created for West Virginia to support that process.

According to Kevin Park, Government Affairs and Industry Relations Manager of Insurance Auto Auctions at DDI, “This was a hypercare pilot, where we engaged with our partners to guide the Digital Title transactions through the entire process. We demonstrated usability, proved the verification tools, and validated the end-to-end security of the program.”

More information on the program, the related technologies and system security can be found at <https://transportation.wv.gov/dmv/Pages/default.aspx>

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Search, from page 3

In this production, his character, Mike Francisco, a wise guy turned theatrical producer, is larger and more central to the story line than anything he has done before. He is not only having to master the cadences of Italian mob speak, but also a ghastly laugh that strikes fear in the hearts of men. Although his character is admittedly not the best of guys, Curry believes Mike is doing things he thinks he has to do.

Curry is impressed by the professionalism of his fellow cast members and feels he really needs to up his game with this group.

“That laugh is the thing that is turning my head,” he laughs. “If I do it right, it might be a real confidence booster in the future.”

Unlike Curry, Joe Miller had not been in a play since he was eight years old and he had no aspiration to become an actor. In fact, he was so impressed after attending last year’s Drama Workshop production of The Cocktail Hour, he approached director Margaret Baker and offered to help in any way with future productions except being on stage.

“This group has existed for 25 years, and I wanted to be sure it kept going,” Miller explained.

Miller obviously had not heard of Baker’s legendary ability to talk people into auditioning. In Breaking Legs, he plays Frankie Salvucci, whose inability to pay his debts gets him in a spot of bother with his fellow mobsters. He says he is enjoying the experience, even though acting is outside his comfort zone.

“Given that I hadn’t done any theater before, I had no expectations going in,” he said. “It’s been a giant learning experience. For much of my life, I have gone to plays and enjoyed watching TV, so

I had a sense of what was good acting and what wasn’t, but I didn’t know how it happened. It has been interesting to see how Margaret evokes different reactions and tweaks scenes.”

Unfortunately, Miller does not find any redeeming traits in his character.

“He a terrible guy—kind of cocky and racist—a horrible dude,” he confesses. “He doesn’t live up to his obligations and gets in over his head. As written, he is not very sympathetic.”

Nevertheless, Miller has embraced playing a character so unlike himself, and he believes anyone who has ever seen a gangster film will enjoy this fun and funny romp.

Breaking Legs will be performed at the Pocahontas

County Opera House Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m. each night. Language may not be appropriate for all ages. PG 13.

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Fueling the imagination



MARGARET WORTH, (R), LIBRARIAN at Hillsboro Public Library welcomes four year old Alessia Caradonna as the library's youngest international patron. Alessia traveled from Toronto, Canada, to meet her great-great-great Auntie Helena Gondry, of historic Droop Mountain. Together they had a magical adventure to the library and into a new world of books. *H. Gondry photo*

Letters, from page 4

Editor;
I am writing in response to last week's letter to the editor about Israel.

Let us not forget Israel's role as a reliable ally and partner in the Middle East. Until the worst killing of Jews since the Holocaust, attacks by Hamas on October 7th rattled the fragile ceasefire already in place in a fraught region.

Imagine for a second a town near Marlinton invades killing everyone in the middle of the night including women and children, taking hundreds as hostage, and burns their homes.

Without a doubt Pocahontas County would be up in arms – and so too is Israel. There is no ceasefire while Hamas keeps hostages, some of them Americans!

As far as bombing hospitals, schools, etc., Hamas fighters use human shields in these places with no regard for their own people and this is tragic.

If the hostages were released, I am sure the violence would stop. It's hard to have a dialogue with a group whose main goal is to kill you and destroy your country. So, Israel must be militarily strong and tough.

Until both sides respect their neighbors there will be no peace.

A. Rudley
Renick

Editor,
In September 2022, I learned that the Town of Marlinton had purchased the piece of property near the Greenbrier River on Sixth Street directly across from my property. I knew that the selling price could have a direct affect on me so, I went to the county clerk's office

and discovered that the town did not buy the property. The Housing Authority of the Town of Marlinton bought the property, however, there was no signature from anyone representing the Housing Authority.

To learn more, I read through 8 months of Marlinton Town Council minutes and could not find any information regarding the Town Council authorizing the Housing Authority to make the recent purchase. I called the Marlinton Mayor's Office and requested a copy of the Housing Authority's meeting agendas and minutes over the last 6 months. I was told that the Housing Authority hadn't met in years, so the documents I was requesting didn't exist. All of the terms of any prior Housing Authority had expired. I requested any information that the mayor's office had on file and was given a copy of an agenda for a meeting on February 7, 2014. There were no minutes for this meeting. The mayor's office was able to provide the names they have on record for the House Authority members whose terms are expired: Fred Burns, Jr; Jake Krack; Shawn Ervine; JoAnn Eddy; John Snyder.

I took this information to the September 2022 Town Council meeting and asked questions that remain unanswered.

In the meantime there has been an up-tick in new structures and new businesses as well as the town receiving a grant to help tear down dilapidated structures.

At the August 2024 town council meeting, Crystal Dean, local developer, was on the agenda to discuss the current status of the Marlinton Housing Authority. She noted that, just as I found two years ago, there were no

current Housing Authority documents on file. She also presented to the Council a list of seven people she believed are interested in serving on the authority. Those names are Crystal Dean; J.L. Clifton; Heather Walton; Buck Morrison; Richard Gandy; Shelly Dean; Dawnetta Evans. Knowing I had not seen any call for volunteers to serve on the Housing Authority, I asked if public notification in the media had been given to allow citizens an opportunity to volunteer. After further discussion about the importance of the Housing Authority, council voted to advertise for volunteers to serve. Councilman Scott Gibb asked me directly if I would like my name added to the list and I replied yes and that I would be happy to serve as a volunteer on the Marlinton Housing Authority.

Under WV State Code, The Housing Authority of Marlinton was created in 1986 by the town council and in 2011 they passed a resolution giving the housing authority the powers, duties and authority of the Urban Renewal Authority. Visit this site to learn more <https://wvleap.wvu.edu/land-banks/urban-renewal-authority>

The Town of Marlinton Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2019 recommends that the town and housing authority, who owns many properties within the town limits, work together to develop a plan for the use of these properties that is in the best interest of all parties involved.

If the Housing Authority has not met in the past decade and has no current members, how does it have the authority to purchase and own property?

Thank you,
Caroline Sharp
Marlinton

Shenandoah Memorial Park, Winchester, Virginia.

Mrs. Grace J. Moore, 91, of Minnehaha Springs, born at Doe Hill, Virginia, a daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Jones. Funeral service from the Minnehaha Springs United Methodist Church with burial in the Minnehaha Cemetery.

Mrs. Levva Gray Freeman, 81, of Durbin, lifelong resident and member of the Durbin Church of the Brethren. Funeral at the church with burial in the Arbovale Cemetery.

Humor from the Treasure Chest

Teenagers are people who express a burning desire to be different by dressing exactly alike.

Our friend says he finally got his lawnmower back from his neighbors. He bought it at their garage sale.

50, from page 7

DEATHS

Claude A. Auldridge, 47, of Buckeye; a sawmill employee and member of the Presbyterian Church. Funeral held from the Buckeye Presbyterian Church with burial in the Kee Cemetery.

Charlie Myers, 84, of Green Bank, a pioneer woodsman, employee of Howes Leather and a retired farmer. Funeral service from the Durbin Church of the Brethren with burial in the Arbovale Cemetery.

Robert Keith Judy, Sr., 52, of Stephens City, Virginia; born at Edray, a son of the late James Franklin and Lucy P. Hannah Judy. Funeral service from the Ridings Chapel United Methodist church with burial in

High school teacher we know wants to switch to elementary school, so she can be sure of getting a parking space.

75, from page 7

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mullenax, of Boyer, a daughter.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Shrader, of Marlinton, a daughter, named Sharon Roberta.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Guy Sharp, of Huntersville, a daughter, Sharon Rowena.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rose, of Hillsboro, a daughter, Patricia Margaret.

DEATH

Samuel Peter Landis, aged 70, died at the home of his brother, John. On Monday afternoon his body was buried in Indian Draft Cemetery, the service being held from the church... The deceased was a son of the late John H. and Mary Ann Douglas Landis.

100, from page 7

Welch – John Crago was awarded \$75 in damages by a magistrate court for the death of his cow which ate 800 hotdog buns left in front of a bakery. The cow died soon after eating the buns.

BIRTH

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Dever, at Minnehaha Springs, a daughter.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Virginia Sharp, 62, wife of John Sharp, of Jacox, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ethel Simmons, of Hillsboro, July 29, 1924, after a lingering and painful illness of many months from a cancerous

tumor and other ailments...

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Sharp's earthly remains were brought to Hills Chapel, her home church, and the funeral was preached by Rev. Mr. Hines, of Seebert... after which her remains were taken to the family graveyard nearby and laid to rest by the side of her daughter, Mattie, who died several years ago, in the bloom of young womanhood...

TRIVIA ANSWERS: (1). George Wallace (2). Juan (3). J. K. Rowling (4) Agatha Christie

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

6673 – Hill Country. 2-3BR/2BA quality built home with basement on 8.05 acres. Quiet country setting. Three bay garage with 10' RV bay. Large garden area. Small orchard. – \$299,000

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

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

6671 – Marlinton. 3BR/2BA home in close proximity to all Pocahontas County has to offer. Town living. Great starter, vacation or permanent home. – \$92,000

6665 – Elkins. 3-4BR/2BA home, with large cinderblock garage, concrete floor and large attic. House needs full rehab. As-is. Cash sale. – \$14,900

6672 – Huntersville. Beautiful 3BR/2BA home on 27 +/- rolling acres. Majority is woodland with 1.5 acre pasture. Spacious home. – \$269,000

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