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The Pocahontas Times

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GBEMS turns attendance into fun competition

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The main focus of all schools is academics – making sure students learn all they need to know before they go out into the world to pursue their career path. To do that, it is important that the students are at school and not missing out on vital instruction.

Attendance can be a struggle. It's nearly impossible for a student to not miss a few days due to illness, doctor's appointments or other issue. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, when it was a requirement to stay home, attendance has been an issue for all schools.

That's why at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School principal Missy Jordan and assistant principal Chloe Schaffner are implementing new programs to increase student attendance.

When the administrators began brainstorming ideas, GBEMS had a 92.7 percent attendance average which sounds good, but as Schaffner pointed out, it's actually the equivalent of getting a D in class.

With this in mind, as well as inspiration from recent training, the two have shifted focus to get students thinking about attendance every day.



AT GREEN BANK Elementary-Middle School, principal Missy Jordan and assistant principal Chloe Schaffner have implemented new programs to improve student attendance, and the students have taken to it very well. Above, the kindergarten class poses with the attendance trophy in front of the thermometers that measure the weekly attendance per grade. Each week, the class with the highest attendance rate wins the trophy to display in the classroom. S. Stewart photo

"Someone from the state education department came and presented to all the administrators in the county, and he said a lot of things that resonated with me, but

the main thing that really struck me, was when he said, 'If I walk into your school building, what would I think was your focus?'" Jordan said.

When she pictured the school in her mind, Jordan saw it is the trophy case that stands at the entrance of the school.

see Fun pg 6

PCHS Class of '86 gives back to alma mater

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The Warrior spirit remains a part of the alumni who spent their formative years at Pocahontas County High School. After graduating, alums may leave the county to pursue a career, only to return for family visits or class reunions, but the support for the school remains.

This spirit has remained for many members of the PCHS Class of 1986, so much so that they pulled the funding together to replace the school sign directing motorists to the football field.

Class representative Shelly Dean Hartmann said the sign has been in bad shape and she approached her classmates to see if they would be interested in helping the school replace it.

"What inspired us to do this is the old sign looks really, really bad and the old carpentry folks – like Mike Rogers – and others built it

when we were in school," she said. "The school has tried to fix it, but it's falling apart."

When Hartmann approached ag teacher Andy Friel about the sign, he suggested not only replacing that sign, but adding another sign near the entrance to Allegheny Mountain Radio for motorists approaching the school from that direction.

Friel also suggested lighting the signs.

The class pulled together \$3,000 for the project and presented it to Friel. The plan is for the agriculture students and Jonathan Taylor's carpentry students to build the two signs.

Hartmann said it's a great project to show the students how they can help the community with their efforts and how former students are there to help the school, as well.

"We're trying to show them that by working together, we're helping the community," she said.

Wilfong excels at International Livestock Expo

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Following in his dad's footsteps, Lane Wilfong, 11, of Warm Springs, Virginia, has become quite the sheep showman. The son of Ben and Kayala Wilfong, Lane has been showing sheep for six or seven years.

This past November, Lane showed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, where he won National Champion Bred and Owned Futurity, Eastern Regional Champion Futurity and National Reserve Champion Overall Futurity.

"On those awards, the Dorset Association has a competition for all the kids in the country that if they raise a sheep, they enter it and show it all summer long and get points at every show," Ben explained. "At the end of the year, the top five placing points are tallied up and then that's what determines the placing."

Lane showed a sheep raised from his flock and another sheep that he purchased from a breeder in Ohio.

It was a busy summer for the young farmer, but he said he enjoyed learning how to show sheep and carry on the family tradition.

"My brother did it and so did Dad," he said. "It's fun to do in the summer."

Lane's father, Ben, is the National Vice President of the board, and the Wilfong family – which also includes Lane's younger brother, Colton, and younger sister, Kinsley – show sheep, as well. Older brother Jaryd showed when he was younger but no longer joins the family on the road.

"We travel across the country," Ben said. "There's a national show for all juniors in the summer and it moves around the country. This year it was in East Lansing, Michigan, at Michigan State University. I think there were thirty-four hundred sheep, and more than seven hundred kids competed up there."

"[Lane] did really well there," he continued. "He

was fifth overall in his showmanship division and had several top five winners in actual showing."

"He has to do it by himself," Ben said. "I'm not allowed to help him in the show ring."

The Wilfongs also have beef cattle, but they stick to showing sheep. Ben recalls winning his first trophy in 1987 when he was four.

"It's just been in my blood," he said. "I got away from it for a few years when the cattle business really took off. Once the kids got old enough, they showed interest in it, and it was just the perfect fit for the family."

Along with showing on the national level, Lane is also a 4-H member and shows sheep locally. Although he has access to cattle and could move on to showing beef when he gets older, Lane said sheep are easier to work with and teach.

"I'll probably stick to sheep," he said.

Suzanne Stewart, sastewart@pocahontastimes.com



ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Lane Wilfong, son of Ben and Kayala Wilfong, of Warm Springs, Virginia, spent the summer working with and showing his two sheep – up and down the east coast. At the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, Wilfong – shown above with his dad – won National Champion Bred and Owned Futurity, Eastern Regional Champion Futurity and National Reserve Champion Overall Futurity. Lane also joins his family in showing sheep at other competitions. Photo courtesy of Ben Wilfong



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Changes to the landfill deed and ancillary side agreement to be reviewed

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

The “on again, off again” potential purchase of the currently leased county landfill, has again been stalled because of the wording in agreements and in the actual deed.

At its last meeting, the Solid Waste Authority and its attorney, David Sims, reviewed the proposed deed and made changes including removing some of the side agreements from the deed and including them in a separate agreement. During the December 17 commission meeting, the commission presented the side agreement and other changes to attorney Josh Hardy who represents the sellers – the Fertig Family – who were seeing these changes for the first time. Hardy said he would need to review those documents with his clients.

That delayed, once again, what was set to be the final agreement for the sale. One additional issue this caused is that if the sale is not completed by January 1, 2025, the Solid Waste Authority will owe a quarterly lease payment to the Fertig Family. Hardy said he could try and get the documents reviewed by then, but was unsure if that is possible given the holidays. He was assured that the new documents did not significantly alter the content of what was already contained in the deed, just moved some things from being in the deed into a separate agreement, however Hardy said that, while the revised deed and agreement appear at first glance to be ok, he still needs to review them thoroughly with his clients to ensure that is the case. Hardy said if it is all the

same, why not just approve the earlier version of the deed, as that could be done now at this meeting. That suggestion was not acceptable to Commissioner Jamie Walker – who is also a Solid Waste Authority Member. Walker insisted the side agreements not be included inside the actual deed, but be presented as a separate agreement.

Walker offered a motion, which passed – that the total price of the sale - \$157,297.50 – will be acceptable if the sellers review and accept the documents prior to January 1, and that no additional lease payments will be added to that sale price if the acceptance is reached before the new lease payment is due on January 1, 2025, even if the actual closing occurs after January 1. His motion stated that this only applies if the seller approves of the changes before January 1, but if the seller finds the revised deed and agreement unacceptable, the additional lease payment will be added to the sale price on January 1, but the remaining lease days after the sale actually occurs will be prorated and any unused lease payment amount will be returned to the buyer. That motion seemed to be acceptable to both the buyers and the seller, but still leaves the sale “up in the air” for now.

Also at the meeting, Marlinton Mayor Sam Felton reiterated his request that the commission donate \$30,000 to Durbin and \$30,000 to Marlinton to be used as local match funds for Mon Forest Towns Partnership grant writer Sarah Cottingham to use for grants she writes for each town. Felton said Cottingham has a good record of leveraging local match funds into much larger grant

awards. It should be noted, that during the December 12 commission meeting, when this issue was discussed at length, the commission did not actually vote to approve awarding the \$60,000, as this reporter erroneously reported they did.

Based upon a motion at December 17 meeting by Commissioner John Rebinski, the commission did vote to donate the \$60,000 – half to the Town of Durbin and half to the Town of Marlinton- although it was stated the towns could work it out between them if one needed a little more than half and the other a little less. Walker asked why Hillsboro was not included, and Felton explained it is because Hillsboro is not a Mon Forest Town.

In other business, the commission:

- awarded the only bid received for gasoline for the county offices for 2025. It was from Woodford Oil, at a cost of Rack Price plus 15 cents per gallon delivered. At today’s price that would be about \$2.07 per gallon.
- approved the PMH HVAC Project resolution #7; to pay invoices totaling \$89,662 and also Resolution #7 for the Public Service District’s Thornwood Water Extension Project to pay a \$560 EPA fee.
- approved a request from James Exline of Pocahontas Center to park flood evacuation buses at the ARC lot on Third Avenue in Marlinton.
- appointed Erica Clark and Hannah Scrafford to Parks and Recreation Board and appointed Leshia Caswell to the 911 Advisory Board.
- agreed to schedule interviews with the three applicants for a part-time worker position at the Animal Shelter.

BOE recognizes winners

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

At the December 17 Pocahontas County Board of Education meeting, superintendent Lynne Bostic recognized 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year Erin Murphy as well as the winners of the county spelling bee.

Murphy, who is an English/language arts teacher at Marlinton Middle School, was announced as the county Teacher of the Year back in May at the Super Scholars event.

“She is definitely a lifelong learner, and she instills that into her students,” Bostic said. “When I walk into her classroom, the students are engaged, they’re excited, she’s doing unique strategies, and they all know what to do and when to do it.”

Murphy explained one of her favorite lessons is for the students to take on the role of teaching.

“Toward the end of the year, I take something that I’ve already taught, and I assign them that standard and they have to teach it to their class,” she said. “They have to make a PowerPoint. They have to do guided notes for it. They have to make a test. They have to make an answer key. They have to come up with an interactive quiz to do with their peers. They have to grade the quiz.”

The lesson flips the classroom dynamic, and Murphy said she has seen improvement in state assessment scores since she started implementing this lesson.

“When I looked at the state assessment, I could identify the standards that I used for that,” she said. “My kids scored the best on it. Not only are they teaching their peers, but their peers are also being taught by somebody that maybe can explain it better than I

can because they’re on the same level.”

The board thanked Murphy for her continued efforts in the classroom and congratulated her for being selected as Teacher of the Year.

Bostic also announced the county spelling bee winners – third place, Bailey Goodwin; second place, Silas Dean; and first place, Brayden Ray. She said Ray will move on to compete in the regional spelling bee and will represent Pocahontas County well.

In other business, Bostic reported that she received word from the West Virginia School Building Authority that, regrettably, stated Pocahontas County Schools did not get funded for its Major Improvements Project grant application.

She said they will continue to seek funding and apply for the smaller, but still effective Needs Project which funds up to \$1 million for projects.

Regarding Pocahontas County High School, Bostic said the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Education Information System department have provided training for administrators to work on transcripts.

In other matters:

- Director Kristy Tritapoe gave an update on preschool, special education and federal programs. She provided information on the preschool enrollment updates and said the applications will be ready on January 3.

Tritapoe said she received several donations to give to preschool applicants including backpacks, water bottles, binoculars, an activity book designed by IT professional Krisi Hamons, and crayons.

She added that the special education program is reviewing IEPs to make sure everything is in order and

the school system is compliant according to state requirements.

Lastly, Tritapoe said she has requested technical assistance from the state education department regarding federal programs. That department will provide special training assistance to Tritapoe and Stephanie Burns.

In financial management, the board approved payment of vendor listing, payment of local government purchasing card, employee payroll, extra duty pay, grant awards, summary of schedule of revenues and expenditures on a cash basis and budget adjustments.

In miscellaneous management, the board approved the following:

- Resolution urging West Virginia to stabilize the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA).

In personnel management, the board approved the following:

- Resignation of Kaylea Kelley as fifth grade teacher at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, effective April 10, 2025.
- Employment of Phillip Probst as volunteer basketball coach for boys at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Employment of Carrie Curry as special education/classroom/bus aid for Hillsboro Elementary School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, for a term of 110 days. Term of employment shall be 200 days each year thereafter.
- Resignation of Tresten Taylor as CTE teacher of business at Pocahontas County High School, effective January 5, 2025.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the board of education conference room, 404 Old Buckeye Road.

Grand Jury returns indictments for negligent homicide

The Pocahontas County Grand Jury returned a three-count indictment against two individuals with regard to the May 19, 2024 death of Josey W. Armstrong.

Jonathan K. Bennett, 34, of Marlinton was indicted on one count, driving a vehicle

while impaired by alcohol and/or a controlled substance, and such was the cause of a crash which led to the death of Josey W. Armstrong; one count, negligent homicide; and one count, operating a vehicle while license was suspended by the Magistrate Court for failure to appear for a hearing.

Matthew R. Anderson, 28, of Arbovale, was indicted on one count driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and/or a controlled substance, and such was the cause of a crash which led to the death of Josey W. Armstrong; and one count negligent homicide.

Lottery tickets and gambling are not for kids

This time of year, many people are looking for last-minute stocking stuffers for the children in their lives. While considering those gifts, West Virginia’s Problem Gambling Help Network (WVPGHN) wants to remind parents and other caring adults that lottery tickets, gambling gift cards, and gambling games are inappropriate for children under age 18. This year, a particular concern is mobile betting gift cards. Online gambling has become increasingly popular, especially among young people, and is frequently mentioned as a primary type of gambling by 1-800-GAMBLER helpline callers. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, youth are 2-4 times more likely

than adults to develop a gambling problem. Also, the earlier a person begins gambling, the greater the likelihood of developing a problem with gambling.

“We consistently receive more calls for help from younger people,” Maricel Bernardo, Program Director of the Problem Gambling Network said. “Online gambling has exploded, and kids are inundated with betting ads. Many parents don’t realize that this is not a harmless activity for teenagers.

The younger they start gambling, the more likely they are to become addicted, and this disorder can have devastating consequences. Parents should not encourage this behavior by giving their kids lottery tickets or online betting gift cards.”

Anyone experiencing problem gambling issues can call or text 1-800-GAMBLER or chat online at 1800Gambler.net

To learn more about youth gambling, visit GetAheadOfTheGame.net

Circuit Court

The following hearings were recently held in Pocahontas County Circuit Court before the Honorable Judge Robert E. Richardson:

Defense counsel for Joshua Kincaid, 39, of Marlinton, asked that a trial date be set for this case. The court noted that a new prosecutor and a new judge will take office January 1, 2025, therefore this court is reluctant to set a trial date at this time. Kincaid was indicted on one count, conspiracy; two counts, conspiracy; one count, receiving or transferring stolen goods.

In person sentencing was held in the case the State vs Christopher Gibson, wherein the defendant was sentenced to the West Virginia Department of Corrections for an indeterminate period of not less than one year nor more than five years. Gibson will be permitted to serve his sentence on monitored home incarceration on weekdays and will self-report to the Tygart Valley Regional Jail on Fridays by 7 p.m. to be

incarcerated through weekends and released each Sunday at 7 p.m. Weekend incarceration will continue six months – until June 30, 2025.

Home incarceration fees were lowered for Derek S. Hannah, 38, of Marlinton.

A hearing on motion to revoke bond was held in the case the State vs Angela Turner, 50, of Marlinton. The defendant admitted to the allegations in the petition and the court found that she had violated her probation. An evidentiary hearing is set for January 22, 2025.

A hearing on petition to revoke probation was held in the case the State vs Casey Crabtree, 28, of Marlinton, wherein the state advised the court that the defendant has not been properly paying restitution payments as ordered by the court at the (September 14, 2023) sentencing hearing. The court denied a defense motion to dismiss the petition. The court treated the matter as a modification and reduced

restitution payments from \$300 to \$200 per month.

Jonathan K. Bennett, 35, of Marlinton, appeared by video from Tygart Valley Jail for an arraignment hearing in which he pleaded not guilty to one count, burglary, a felony; one count, trespassing, a misdemeanor; one count, stalking, a misdemeanor; one count, harassment, a misdemeanor.

Jonathan K. Bennett, 35, of Marlinton, appeared by video from TVRJ for an arraignment hearing wherein he pleaded not guilty to one count, driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and/or a controlled substance, and such was the cause of a crash which led to the death of Josey W. Armstrong; one count, negligent homicide; and one count, operating a vehicle while license was suspended by the Magistrate Court for failure to appear for a hearing. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash/surety with the added condition of home incarceration.

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TRIP LIGHT



Library Lines

by Joe Miller,
Director of Development

The Library Lines team is celebrating Christmas this week. We're reprinting the holiday letter we sent out to our mailing list. If you didn't get a letter and would like to next year, drop me a line at joe@pocahontaslibrary.org

We write to extend warm wishes for a joyous holiday season!

This has been an eventful year in the PCL and VIC system. For the first time, we have co-directors at the library. Hallie Herold ensures that the libraries continue to operate as smoothly and efficiently as always, while I work on securing ongoing, steady sources of funding.

It's been another busy year! We recorded more than 31,000 visits across our five branches. That's an incredible figure in a county with fewer than 8,000 residents. You simply don't see those numbers in most rural libraries.

I've been with the library for only a few months, but that's plenty of time to realize how much each branch means to its community. I was at Green Bank when volunteers washed all the toys from the children's section. I met community leaders who willed Linwood into existence. I read financial records showing the generosity that built a new facility in Durbin. I saw the Friends of the Hillsboro Library buy new furniture for the community room. I joined the visitors traipsing to McClintic to admire the art contest entries at Pioneer

Days.

In a recent Library Lines column, I noted that library use decreases when patrons have to travel further to reach them.

We staff five full-service branches—one in each of our communities. That means we can offer services tailored to each community and that more of our residents can take advantage of those services. When you check out a book, read a magazine through Libby, browse the Internet from our public WiFi, borrow from our seed library, visit an exhibit or attend a program, you're telling the world that public libraries are important. We are grateful for each and every one of you.

But maintaining those services across five branches is expensive. Public funds are finite and fickle. A warm winter or a change in county priorities creates the potential for large swings in annual funding. Donations from the public help to stabilize our funding.

I ask those of you who are able to please consider a gift this holiday season. You can send your donation to PCL and VIC, 500 Eighth Street, Marlinton WV 24954; drop it off in person; or donate online at www.pocahontaslibrary.org

Thank you all for being part of our library community!

Warmest regards,
Joe Miller and Hallie Herold

Co-directors, PCL and VIC

Wassail the Apple Trees

Laura Dean Bennett
Staff Writer

Naturally, when Old World immigrants came to the New World, they didn't leave their precious apple trees or the traditions associated with apples behind. One of those traditions was that of "wassailing the apple trees."

The ancient Celtic pagan tradition of wassailing has roots that go back to the Middle Ages in Britain and beyond.

Wassail is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *was hael* meaning "to be healthy." The ritual was intended to drive evil spirits from the orchard and encourage a healthy apple crop the next summer.

The wassail tradition was celebrated in many parts of Britain on January 17, a date known as "Old Twelvy Night." In other parts of the British Isles, the pagan ritual was anglicized and included

in Christmas celebrations.

One of the trees in the orchard would be selected to be the Apple Tree Man - the guardian and representative of the entire orchard. Noise to scare away evil spirits would be made by the clattering of pans or blowing of horns before there would be a torchlight procession around the Apple Tree Man accompanied by the singing of a traditional Wassail song.

To wish good health to the orchard, cider containing roasted apples would be poured on the roots of the Apple Tree Man and cider-soaked toast would be hung as an offering on the tree's branches by the orchard King and Queen (usually played by two children).

A Wassailing cup or bowl was used to dip the toast before hanging it in the trees. This tradition of dipping the piece of toasted bread is said to have given rise to the expression "to make a toast."

In some places in today's



Photo courtesy of thesaucyfig.com

Britain, a modern version of wassailing, usually taking place between Christmas and New Year's Day, has been making a comeback. In some communities, apples are blessed in churches on Saint James's Day, July 25.

see Wassail pg 10

Pocahontas to join Greenbrier Valley Martin Luther King Day contests

For the past decade, students from Greenbrier and Monroe counties have participated in competitions to increase young people's understanding of Martin Luther King's life and career. Third graders take part in an art contest and students from fourth through eighth grade participate in an essay contest.

This year Pocahontas

County students will have an opportunity to be a part of the competitions.

Parents who would like their child to participate, should contact their school principal or Stephanie Burns at the Pocahontas County Board of Education Office.

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TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. What Steven Spielberg Holocaust film was based on a historical non-fiction book by Thomas Keneally?
2. 1944's "Absent in the Spring" is one of the non-mystery novels this author wrote under the name Mary Westmacott. Who was she?
3. "This" children's literature classic has a chapter

- called "The Puppies Arrive."
4. Born a slave, Sethe escapes to Ohio but is haunted by memories of a lost baby in "this" Toni Morrison novel.

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Senior Legal Aid

Deb Miller, JD Volunteer

Looking for ways to avoid being financially exploited? In today's world, an ounce of prevention is worth its weight in gold and silver combined.

We are hearing more about financial scams, online fraud, and other rip-offs. We're sitting ducks, evidently.

Just about anyone with more than \$100 to their name can become the target of those who would happily rip them off without regret and then blame the victim for "letting them" do it.

Financial exploitation is happening every minute of every day. The victims are often too embarrassed and reluctant to tell anyone.

The Federal Trade Commission reported \$10 billion in consumer fraud losses during 2023, a 14% increase over 2022.

The agency received 2.6

million complaints from adults in every age group for a variety of scams, with nearly 100,000 people reporting losses of \$10,000 or more. Investment scams accounted for almost half of the fraud losses.

To lower the chances of such losses happening to you, here are three worthwhile protective measures. Common sense helps a lot also.

Sign up online for the free service from the U.S. Postal Service that emails you images of the mail you will receive each day. Some may feel this is unnecessary, but it allows you to watch for financial statements, family messages, packages, or other important documents hours before they arrive. The email is proof that such an item is to be delivered to you.

You can also choose to have a trusted family member or friend receive these emails about your daily mail.

If they see something suspicious or an unexpected change in your mail patterns, they may be able to detect exploitation or a scam and alert you to take action.

It's easy to benefit from this free service. Sign up online at informedelivery.usps.com Protecting your mail is also protecting yourself from horrible surprises.

A second way to minimize the possibility of financial exploitation is to give your debit and credit card companies permission to send you emails or text messages for purchases, withdrawals, and other transactions above a certain amount that you select.

This free financial monitoring method gives you early warning of any suspicious charges or other activity. Acting quickly can prevent further fraud.

Check online or call the company to find out how this notification service can work for your benefit.

The third protective measure is to select and work with a "watchdog."

You and the watchdog, a trusted relative or friend, can

set up an informal arrangement to discuss financial and budgeting decisions and undertake planning to assure long-term financial well-being. It's not a typical topic of conversation, but it can be highly effective.

No formal document is needed because this helpful person will simply provide their input on financial choices to be sure the right things are happening for you.

Of course, part of the arrangement will be that you are willing to listen seriously to your watchdog's opinions and guidance. Otherwise, it will be frustrating for all.

Knowing that you have a backup for such important directions in life, an extra brain to evaluate a situation, helps assure that you can protect your financial well-being and not fall victim to scammers or thieves.

For assistance with financial exploitation concerns and other legal matters, state residents who are 60 or older may contact West Virginia Senior Legal Aid at 800-229-5068 or info@seniorlegalaids.org



Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

To you and yours, peace on earth at Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have the ingredients for both.

How we handle these ingredients determines the outcome.

I want to thank our Pocahontas County Commission, once again, for granting the request for a one-time donation of \$60,000 on behalf of Pocahontas County's two Mon Forest Towns. This seed money will help bring about the vision for moving both Towns in a positive direction. Rest assured, the trust given to Woodlands and the MFTP to properly handle and multiply this funding will not be in vain. This commitment is not just Christmas coming early for the towns of Durbin and Marlinton. These funds can enable the first steps leading

to a series of Happy New Years. It will not happen overnight.

What is your vision?

For now, each Town has \$30,000 in the bank. It will not be spent willy-nilly. It must be used as an investment for the future. We all want our projects completed in the first six-months or a year. It seldom happens that way. Pray for individual committee members who are willing to commit two, three or four years of their life and who want to see their communities improve.

Each will have to come together and work out the best options. Plan your work – Work your plan. Bring forward a project the town council can support. Understand, the project will have the support of The Mon-Forest Towns Partnership. Both

see Mayor's pg 10

Community Calendar

PUBLIC NOTICE
All Green Box sites will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, December 26, and Thursday, January 2.

Town of Marlinton garbage pickup for Tuesday and Wednesday will be December 27.

The Marlinton Town Office will close at noon Tuesday, December 31, and reopen Thursday, January 2. Garbage pickup will be January 2.

Pocahontas County Landfill and the Solid Waste Office will close at noon New Year's Eve and remain closed New Year's Day.

The Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority reminds all Pocahontas County residential property owners that the 2024 Green Box Fee must be paid by December 31, 2024 to avoid the 10% late fee.

Free Day at Pocahontas County Landfill for disposal of up to one pickup truck load of residential garbage will be Monday, December 30. Landfill hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both dates.

Green Boxes winter hours: Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MEETINGS
Open Sew with Library Quilters of Marlinton, second Monday of each month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McClintic Library. Everyone welcome.

Upper Pocahontas Community Cooperative second Monday of each month 6:30 p.m. at Durbin Community Library. Call 304-456-4994 for more info.

EVENTS
First Day Hike at Watauga State Park Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 11 a.m. Meet at the Activities Building. Two-mile hike includes stops to explore animal tracks and learn about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Warm layers and sturdy boots are advised. Hot coffee and cocoa will be served after the hike.

LIBRARY EVENTS
All Pocahontas County Libraries will accept non-perishable food donations through January 2 to be added to the Be Kind Boxes in place of overdue fines.

New! Budding Bookworms Playgroups at McClintic Library, Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at Hillsboro Library, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Hello Universe" Book Club for fifth through seventh graders. After school until 6 p.m. Hillsboro Library on Tuesdays and McClintic Library on Thursdays.

"Paper Towns" Book Club for eighth through 10th graders at McClintic Library. Wednesdays, after school, until 6 p.m.

Friday Fun at Durbin Community Library Fridays from 4 to 5 p.m. for ages three to 10.

Budding Bookworms at Green Bank Library Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Story time and play group for children ages five and younger, accompanied by a grown up. Cancelled when schools are closed.

PARKS AND REC
Zumba Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Yoga at Durbin Library Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and at Linwood Center Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Taekwondo, Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH NOTICES
Marlinton United Methodist Church – Worship at 11 a.m. Parking lot service on 90.3 FM radio or join us on Facebook.

Central Union United Methodist Church, Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m.

Marlinton Presbyterian Church – Bible Study 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.

New Hope Church of the Brethren, Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Arbovale – Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.

Cochran Creek Baptist Church, Rimel – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Campbelltown Church, Marlinton – Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.

Cook Town Community Church, Rt. 219 – Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Edray United Church – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

see Calendar pg 6



What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Festive Cheese Ball
12 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
1 1/4 cups crumbled blue cheese
2 cups grated cheddar cheese
1/2 cup grated onion
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
2 tsp. soy sauce
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
1/4-1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes, or more to taste
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
Chopped pecans or walnuts
Blend together all ingredients except nuts. Form into a ball then roll in chopped nuts. Chill. Serve with crackers or raw vegetables.

Artichoke Squares
2 - 6 ounce jars marinated artichoke hearts
1 clove garlic, finely minced
1/2 cup onion finely

chopped
2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
4 large eggs
1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 jar diced pimiento, optional
1/8-1/4 tsp. salt
1/8-1/4 tsp. pepper
Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish, set aside
Drain liquids from one jar of artichokes into skillet. Sauté onion and garlic until soft. Drain liquid from other jar and discard. Chop artichokes.

In mixing bowl, beat eggs then add breadcrumbs and oregano. Stir in onion mixture, chopped artichokes, cheese, pimiento and a dash of salt and pepper. Pour into greased baking dish. Bake 30-35 minutes. Cool, cut into squares and serve.

Super Crossword

JANUARY 1 FUN

ACROSS
1 Drag race vehicle
8 Schuss, e.g.
11 Singing flier
15 Contributed
19 Halloween mask feature
20 Hoodwink
21 Falco of TV
22 Leave off
23 Tendency toward chaos
24 Fido's noise
25 * Star of the 1950s TV series "China Smith"
27 BLT seller
28 Naval forces
30 — Field (Mr. Met's home)
31 * Getting tired
34 Baby bird
38 Evergreen with red arils
39 Actress Polo
40 Stephen of "V for Vendetta"
42 Young moray, e.g.
43 Cowi wearer
45 * Hope when the situation is desperate
51 Mosque official
54 Scrooge portrayer Alastair
55 Minerals in thin sheets
56 * "Vanity Fair" novelist
61 "One World" musician John
65 Holders of frozen cubes
66 Girl in the fam
67 "Insecure" actress
69 — Hawkins dance
70 Astonishment
73 E'en if
75 Actor Bridges
76 Fathers
79 Auditing gp.
81 Was disgusting to
84 Deep desires
85 * Period superseded by automobiles
89 Ragtime pianist Blake
90 Aficionado
91 Large cut
92 * Three-part novel by Gertrude Stein
98 Green-light
102 Removal of restrictions, for short
103 RV refuge org.
104 Six-legged marchers
107 Suffix with Carol
108 How Alaska is populated
111 * Town crier's cry
116 Cab cost
117 "It takes two" dances
118 Agents, in brief
119 * "The Price Is Right" host
123 Happy dance
124 Net, as earnings
127 Ames' state
128 Saturate
129 Bullfight yell
130 Dissimilar
131 Legal equal
132 Brontë's Jane
133 Despite this
134 What the last four letters of eight key answers in this puzzle might be considered, cryptically
6 Of Swiss mountains
7 Playa del —
8 Climb up
9 Divided
10 Asian land
11 Get by logic
10 Joints closely
12 Org. for cavity fixers
13 Thereafter
14 Counterparts of manis
15 Cousin of a chimpanzee
16 Poehler of "Baby Mama"
17 Fight (for)
18 Zeta follower
26 Pronounces
28 "Just my opinion," in a text
29 Supermodel Banks
31 Fitness locale
32 Early auto
33 Award for U2
34 All-time low
35 Creeping vine
36 Once called
37 Fido's threat
41 Intertwine
44 Tartan skirt wearers
46 Suffix with owl or wolf
47 Vardalos of Hollywood
48 Sierra, Yukon and Acadia
49 Trendy berry
50 Shells out
52 Boggy areas
53 Motorists' gp.
56 Very thin, as clouds
57 "It matters to me"
58 Escorted from outside
59 Org. with bag screeners
60 The whole — and caboodle
61 Fox-sighting cry
62 Jagged, as a leaf's edge
63 "When I Need You" singer Leo
64 Hopper of old gossip
68 Fake coins
71 Not fooled by
72 Previous to
74 Globe
77 Ergo
78 Japanese noodle type
80 In no danger
82 Playwright O'Neill
83 Links letters
86 Dangerous
87 Vetoing vote
88 Genetic stuff
89 Spider's hatching pouch
92 NFL goals
93 With it, in old slang
94 Lyricist Gershwin
95 Battle with spongy balls
96 "So funny!"
97 Light beams
99 Actress Alley
100 Even a single
101 "— how!"
105 Regal seat
106 Playground fixture
109 Wipe clean
110 "Bad, Bad — Brown"
112 Delight in
113 Nimble
114 Big name in thesaures
115 In a fitting manner
117 Small kid
119 Chip topper
120 Fish spawn
121 She-sheep
122 Mug handle
124 Bit of word wit
125 Rap sheet abbr.
126 Boomer's kid

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New Year's Eve Bingo!

December 31 = 9 p.m.
(doors open at 8 p.m.)

Green Bank Firehouse

Please bring a drink or snack to share with everyone.



PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION

OPENS JANUARY 3

3 Available Locations:
• Green Bank Elem.-Middle School
• Hillsboro Elementary School
• Marlinton Elementary School

Please note: Children must be age 4 by July 1 of the program year to qualify

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Old Time Concoctions

Melondy Phillips
Staff Writer

As winter swoops in, colds, flu and sore throats are bound to follow. Doctors were not always right around the corner or present in 24-hour urgent care facilities. So how did the colonists make it through these chilling times without a doctor a phone call away and what were some of their old-time solutions to relieving the many wintertime ailments?

This article is for informational purposes only and should not be used in place of medical advice.

Having a winter medicine cabinet was crucial, but knowing how to use the items in it was just as important. “The Family Physician,” by George Hartman, was published in 1696. The highly sought after book contained more than 500 pages of approved and experienced remedies for the cure of almost all human diseases for home healthcare.

Elderberries are listed as the primary ingredient in several recipes within the pages of this comprehensive text. With medicinal uses dating back thousands of years, even Hippocrates called elderberries “the medicine crier” due to its many health benefits. Some of the ailments that have been historically treated with elderberries include anemia, cough, colds, flu and digestive issues. Adding honey to elderberries produces a synergistic effect, multiplying its benefits.

Ginger and lemon hot tea is nothing new. Both ginger

and lemons are high in antioxidant, are anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal. For one treatment of bad fevers, this book lists a process for purifying and fermenting lemon juice so that it should last for five to six years (before refrigeration). Lemons contain limonene which aids digestion while ginger has been used for nausea and digestion issues. Ginger also contains salicylate which is a compound that naturally thins the blood.

Mullein is a common weed that freely grows throughout most of North America and up into Canada. Used for respiratory issues such as cough and cold, asthma and bronchitis, as well as tonsillitis, mullein contains compounds that help suppress cough while thinning any mucus that is present. According to the National Institute of Health, ursolic acid (UA - a compound in mullein) “may inhibit main protease of SARS-CoV-2, and inhibits the interface flanked by SARS-CoV-2 viral proteins and its entry point commonly recognized as angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2). In addition, UA attenuates SARS-CoV-2-induced inflammatory reactions and oxidative stress. Therefore, UA could avert SARS-CoV-2 infection from causing acute lung injury.” The anti-inflammation compounds in this traditional herb may even help reduce pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis.

Slippery elm, which comes from the inner bark of the slippery elm tree, was a

standard for treating sore inflamed throats. The high level of mucilage coats and soothes throats while helping to calm persistent cough. It was also used as a laxative to aid detoxification, help with acid reflux, for coating the stomach to relieve IBS and other stomach issues, and as a poultice for skin wounds and ailments. Because of its high mucilage content, slippery elm may interfere with the absorption of medicines.

Cayenne pepper is a common culinary spice that packs a potent pain-relieving punch. It’s one of my main go-to remedies for a sore throat, including strep throat. When the cayenne in a hot tea first hits a sore throat, it burns fiercely, however, after a few seconds the capsaicin can desensitize the nerves, causing a numbing effect in some people. CAUTION: It’s best to start with a tiny pinch then SLOWLY work your way up as it is tolerated. Cayenne pepper has a long list of health benefits, including but not limited to anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, antioxidant, pain management and circulation improvement.

Turmeric is another long standing medicinal and culinary herb. This member of the ginger family has been used as a remedy for inflamed joints, and for digestion, and for respiratory and skin issues. I normally partner turmeric with cayenne and black pepper for a sore throat due to allergies or sickness, or for joint inflammation after a long day of working hard outside.

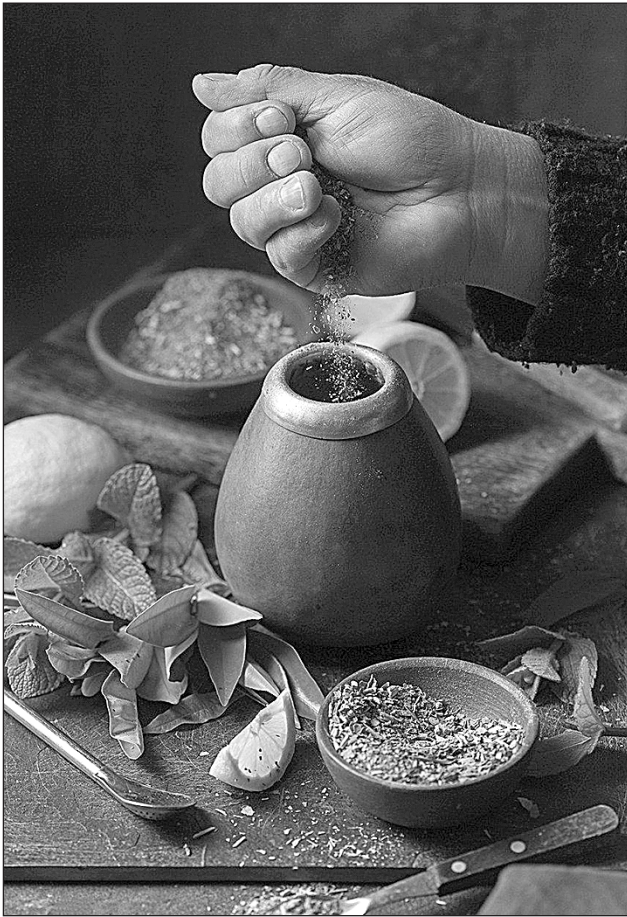
White horehound contains



a compound called marrubinin. This bitter herb has been used for centuries to treat sore throats, coughs and even gallbladder and digestive concerns. White horehound is a powerful expectorant used to thin mucus secretions, helps reduce spasms in the stomach and intestines, decrease swelling (inflammation), and may even lower blood sugar and blood pressure. Black horehound has been used for nausea, vomiting, nervous disorders, cough, spasms, gout and infection of the intestines by parasites. Taking large amounts of horehound may cause vomiting. It is not advised to use horehound during pregnancy as it may stimulate contractions and cause miscarriage.

The NIH states, “Extensive pharmacological studies have demonstrated that marrubinin displays a suite of activities including antinociceptive [pain relieving], antioxidant, antigenotoxic [ability to reduce DNA damage caused by substances

see Time pg 8



GATHERING RESOURCES TO keep on hand doesn’t help much unless the knowledge of how to use them is also present; wisdom is even better. Photos courtesy of Pixabay

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Obituaries

Larry Chestnut
Larry Joseph Chestnut, 88, of Neola, died Friday, December 20, 2024 at Genesis Nursing Home in White Sulphur Springs.
Born August 1, 1936, Joe was a son of the late Edward Chestnut and Mabel Grace Trainer Chestnut.
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Murl Chestnut, Bill Chestnut, George Chestnut, Howard Chestnut and Grady Chestnut.
He is survived by brothers, Franklin Chestnut (Dreama), of Hot Springs, Virginia, and Bernard Chestnut Sr. (Marie), of White Sulphur Springs; and sisters, Lucy Cahoon, of Clifton Forge, Virginia, Mary Grace Chestnut, of Lewisburg, and Erma Jean McKinney (George), of White Sulphur Springs.
Funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 28, 2024, at VanReenen Funeral Home in Marlinton.
The family will receive friends from noon to 1 p.m.
Burial will be in the Chestnut Family Cemetery on Little Back Creek, County Rt 601, in Bath County, Virginia.
A meal will follow at Mountain Grove Community Church.



Susan Shaw
Susan Simpson Shaw, 79, peacefully passed away Sunday, November 24, 2024, in Lake Wylie, South Carolina.

Born April 16, 1945, in Marlinton, she was a daughter of the late Helen Spitzer and John R. “Jack” Simpson.
Susan spent most of her life in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Lake Wylie, South Carolina.
In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her grandparents, Pete and Trudie Johnson Spitzer; her youngest son, William Blake Shaw; and her aunt, Dotty Hiner Mitchell.
She is survived by her sons, Lawrence M. Shaw, Jr. (Karen), of Charlotte, North Carolina, and John P. Shaw (Wanda), of Lake Wylie, Clover, South Carolina; granddaughters, Avery Shaw Rogers (Patrick) and Julia E. Shaw, all of Charlotte, North Carolina; sister, Cynthia S. Hattersley, of Statesville, North Carolina; niece, Patricia Pettengill (Michael), of Statesville, North Carolina; and many dear cousins.
A celebration of her life will take place in the spring.



Latricia Underwood
Latricia Ann Underwood, 86, of Buckeye, peacefully passed away Friday, December 6, in Marlinton.
Born February 27, 1938, and growing up in Mt. Look-out, she was the beloved daughter of the late Earl and Virginia Legg.
On her 16th birthday, February 27, 1954, with her dad’s permission, she married the love of her life, Otis

Edward Underwood, who preceded her in death April 14, 2023.
Trish was a devoted wife and homemaker, together she and Otis created a loving home, first in Cleveland, Ohio, and then, in 1985, after Otis retired from Ford Motor Company, they moved to Pocahontas County, living out the rest of their lives there. As a faithful servant of Jehovah, her life was a testament to her faith, inspiring others. She was a source of comfort and strength to all who needed a listening ear, providing strength and comfort to all. Her life was a model of steadfast devotion to her faith, family and congregation.
In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Ricky Allen Underwood; and daughter, Tina Louise Underwood.
She is survived by her brother, Barry Legg, and wife, Linda, and their children, Rhonda (Phil) Ketchum, Joel (Pam) and grandchildren. Trish’s legacy of love and kindness continues through her grandchildren, Jason (Melissa) Scott Underwood, of Odessa, Texas, Jennifer (Jeff) Lynn Schade, of Gainesville, Georgia, and Jamie Marie Underwood, of Lubbock, Texas. She was a proud great-grandmother to Bryce Underwood, of Midland, Texas, Keyauna Underwood, of Odessa, Texas, Xavier Underwood and Mollie Underwood, both of Odessa, Texas, Sierra Schade, of Atlanta, Georgia, Hayden Schade and Bayleigh Schade, both of Gainesville, Georgia, Alucia Newnan, of Asheville, North Carolina, and Lillian Mason and Mitchell Mason, both of Lubbock, Texas; and a great-great-grandmother to Aerabella and Zendaya, of Odessa, Texas.

She is also survived by many other family members and friends who loved her and will miss her. Trish believed wholeheartedly in the resurrection and the words at Revelation 21:3,4 “He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.
“We take comfort in our hope of seeing her again soon in the “new world to come.”
The family would like to express our deepest gratitude to Pocahontas Center for the loving care that they gave to our beloved Trish.
A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 4 p.m. at Kingdom Hall, 5900 Franklin Blvd, Cleveland, Ohio.
Zoom information Meeting ID: 853 8366 8212 Password: 81575
Lantz Funeral Home is honored to help the Underwood family in their time of need.



Walter Warder
Walter Paul Warder, 82, of Slaty Fork, passed away Wednesday, November 20, 2024, in Mon General Hospital.
Born October 2, 1942, he was a son of the late Paul and Audra Warder.
A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Campbelltown Church with Pastor Sam Felton officiating.

The Gift in the Manger

by Dawn Reed

I can’t stop thinking about that first Christmas morning.
Mary and Joseph must have been exhausted, mentally and physically. So much had happened: an unexpected pregnancy, the disbelief-at first-of Joseph, a long trip to Bethlehem to pay taxes, no room in the inn, unexpected guests.
Lying in the manger was the Son of God - the greatest gift the world would ever know. It had happened just like God had said it would. The virgin had indeed given birth as Isaiah had declared 700 years before it happened (Isaiah 7:14). It came to pass in Bethlehem, just as Micah foretold (Micah 5:2). After centuries of waiting, the Messiah had come. With no fanfare, no balloons, no flowers.
God’s most precious treasure had come to earth. Made of flesh and blood. He would change the world. He would change EVERYTHING.
When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, God knew how it would need to go. He promised to send a Savior. And He did. When the time had fully come, God sent His Son (Galatians 4:4). Oh, the love that brought salvation’s plan!
A bit ago, my son and his new bride were in. One evening we were at the table; she was learning to play Rook (a life skill). Everyone was laughing. I looked over at my smiling son who has a dark brown beard and my heart lurched. How had God done it? I thought to myself. How had He given His Son?
Suddenly, my eyes filled with tears. He noticed. “Are you OK?” he whispered with concern. “Yes,” I squeaked out. But I wasn’t. At that moment, I was undone by the love of God. How had He given His most



Dawn Reed
precious treasure to save mankind? I love all y’all, but I wouldn’t give my son up for anyone.
This Christmas, as we open our presents, let’s also ponder and cherish the priceless, magnificent Gift in the manger.
“For God so loved the world, He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life,” John 3:16. Amen and amen.

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Calendar, from page 4
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.
New Vision Praise and Worship, 215 Fifth Street, Marlinton – Praise and Worship 10 a.m.; Preaching and Teaching 11 a.m.
Trinity Baptist Church, Rt. 219
Buckeye Hill – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Marlinton Church of God, Beard Heights – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 5 p.m. Book of Revelation.

Fun, from page 1
“My wheels started turning and then he said ‘whatever you’re putting out there is what everybody is going to focus on, so think about what you’re putting out there,’” Jordan said.
The first change made at GBEMS was to the bulletin board at the main entrance. It was removed and replaced with paper thermometers for each class to measure attendance.
The thermometers are used for a friendly competition Jordan and Schaffner set up as part of the attendance incentive.
“We have a grade level competition and it’s just their overall percentage of attendance for the week,” Jordan said. “There is a trophy – it’s a traveling trophy that goes from class to class.
“First thing Monday morning when they’re walking by – we have a little paper cup we put by the thermometer – so they know who is going to get the trophy,” she added.
Students are so eager to win the cup each week, some have started encouraging fellow classmates to attend and try to make sure everyone is at school.
Jordan said she has had to assure students many times that excused absences – such as doctor’s appointments – do not count against them in the competition.
In addition to the weekly class trophy competition, there are also other activities to recognize improvement and the school’s overall attendance.
“For instance, yesterday, we had six grade levels that were all here,” Jordan said. “We only had five students in the whole school absent which is probably a tie for our lowest number in a day. I

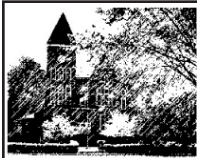
recognized all the grade levels that had a hundred percent attendance. We give shout outs to individual students – and have an announcement for behavior and attendance.”
There are also short breaks mixed in when a big attendance goal has been met. Since attendance is at-tendance, Jordan will get on the loudspeaker and announce a dance break at 10 a.m.
“We also want to recognize growth and improvement,” Jordan said. “Our eighth grade was down in the upper 80s, which was really low and every week since we really started focusing on this, they first went to 93 and now they have been 96 or higher every week.”
The attendance programs are working and the school not only improved but had the highest attendance percentage for the first nine weeks in the entire county – a fact made obvious by the sign planted right outside the main entrance at the school.
Adding to the competition and recognition, Jordan and Schaffner are working on communication about attendance – with students, staff and parents.
“We reached out to our kids with the most absences who are chronically absent,” Jordan said. “We’re working on the fly – we want it to be more parent friendly and offer suggestions and reminders of those things instead of it being punitive and automatically talking about truancy.”
Getting everyone on board has made a difference, and the incentives have really helped, too.
The school has now connected the Positive Behavior Individual Support System – PBIS – to attendance and are rolling out a new incentive that is individual based.
“The last piece that we’ve just added is we have our PBIS program set to roll out after Christmas break,” Jordan said. “It’s three-fold – academics, attendance and behavior. We decided to do a little trial run this week and next week and have a movie and popcorn the last day before Christmas break.”
Students who have improved their academics, attendance and behavior during those two weeks will enjoy a movie and popcorn that day.
The students are also getting involved with promoting attendance incentives through the school newsletter which is sent home to all parents and families.
“It’s a student-driven newsletter and they have asked if they could do an article about our change,” Jordan said.
“We have dedicated a page or two strictly for attendance,” Schaffner added.
The attendance incentives have grown so much that they are now including friendly competition with other schools in the county.
“I saw an idea that two other counties did during football season,” Schaffner said. “One of our biggest events of the year for our middle school is the county basketball tournament. We talked to Nebraska Scotchie

at [Marlinton Middle School] and we’re having an attendance competition between Marlinton Middle basketball and Green Bank basketball.”
The tournament already has an athletic trophy and academic trophy, so this year, it will also include an attendance trophy. The team with the highest attendance rate will win.
The losing school’s principal will have to wear the opposing team’s school colors at the tournament.
“I told them, ‘orange is not my color, guys, so you better be getting this figured out,’” Jordan said.
The best part is – the plan is working, and it gives Jordan and Schaffner encouragement to think of new programs to continue the upswing in attendance.
“To know that ours was the highest in the county for the first nine weeks – that was exciting for us to find out because we didn’t really start this until the end of the first nine weeks,” Jordan said. “Now we’re seven weeks into doing this. It kind of energizes me to continue to think of different things.”
“I went to the attendance conference with Julie Shiflet and Phillip Anderson was there [from Marlinton Elementary School], Missy Hill from Marlinton Middle and Lois Wilfong from the high school,” Schaffner said.
“It gave me a lot of ideas to try to implement.
“Little, simple things that can make a big difference.”

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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Preserving Pocahontas ~ Pearl Ward Collection

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

2016 interview with BJ Gudmundsson, Historic Preservation Officer

“Pearl Carter Ward was a schoolteacher here in Pocahontas County” BJ said. “She was one of the first class of three to graduate from Edray District High School –which went on to become Marlinton High School. Pearl went to college, got her teaching degree and came back to Pocahontas County to teach, and taught at a lot of the schools around the county.”

Pearl’s mother was Levia Gibson, originally from the Elk community near Elk Mountain. Pearl’s father, Marvin Carter, who was originally from Onoto near Edray, was a businessman who founded the Valley Hotel in Marlinton around 1900. The hotel was near where the 4th Avenue Mason Jar now stands. The Carters later built a huge house off Route 39, now known as the Pearl Carter Ward house. Pearl ended up living alone in the house after both her

parents and her husband died until she died in the late 1990s.

Preserving Pocahontas recently received permission to recover boxes and boxes of important historical documents and photos from the Pearl Carter Ward house.

“In that collection of stuff were ledgers – the old big heavy ledger books” BJ said. “One of the first ledger books that I opened was the guest registry for the Valley Hotel in its first year of operation. It was absolutely fascinating, there were all sorts of names that we all recognize; people that nobody recognizes; parties of people that would come and they would sign the book and they were there just to sit down and have dinner together; people that were coming here to do business in Marlinton – coming in on the train – politicians, all sorts of people and, of course, they stayed at the Valley hotel because it was right there.”

BJ points out that finding the Valley Hotel records settled a debate about the existence of the hotel.

“(It was) absolutely fascinating to find this record of the Valley Hotel – this place

that nobody remembered; this place that everyone said ‘oh, it wasn’t here’” BJ said.

Pearl’s father also shipped items and even opened a store. Records from these shipping transactions and store merchandise were also found in the house.

BJ talks about a local person whose name appears often as a guest at the hotel.

“One that sticks out in my mind – and there are a lot of people in Pocahontas County who still remember him – and that was Doctor Jim Price,” BJ said. “They called him Doc Jim. He was a brother to Calvin W. Price, who was the editor down at *The Pocahontas Times*.

“Doc Jim lived on a farm up at Edray, and his medical office was upstairs in the old Bank of Marlinton Building – the building that burned. It’s very interesting that Doc Jim’s name pops up a lot in the book. Maybe he was there for dinner, but he popped up a lot as an overnight guest, and it was always in the winter.

“And, I would guarantee you that if you had access to old weather records you would find out it was because the weather was bad and he couldn’t get home.”

promptly, and the building was saved.

Not a little damage was done to the house and contents by fire, smoke and water. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

TANNERY HOUSE BURNED

About noon Sunday, the home of Henry Knapper, who lives in a tannery house, got on fire. It burned so rapidly that Aunt Susan Graves, an aged colored woman, had to jump from an upstairs window. She was painfully burned about the head and on her hands, and is in bed from the shock.

The contents of the home were destroyed, the family saving only the clothes on their backs. There was no insurance.

ANOTHER FIRE

The third fire alarm for the week sounded Tuesday morning. Smoke was coming from the second story windows of the Temporary Courthouse building. A bed in apartments occupied by Mrs. E. W. Cochran was found to be on fire. An electric iron with the current turned on had been left in the bed. The damage was not great.

WEDDING

At the residence of the bride’s parent, on the 22nd day of December 1924, Miss Margaret Randolph Price, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Price, was married to Prof. R. L. Hoke, principal of the West Monongalia High School in Marion County.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Boone, at Buckeye, a daughter.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers, of Minnehaha Spring, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Warwick Scott, of Seebert, a daughter.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
December 29, 1949

TO CHICAGO

For the National 4-H Club Congress

By Moffett McNeel, Jr., Friday, November 25, I left Hillsboro, riding with Mr. McKenzie, of Princeton, who was taking his daughter, Peggy, to Morgantown, where we were to meet for the trip to Chicago.

We rode from Morgantown to Connellsville, Pennsylvania, in cars, catching the train there at 11: 05 p.m.

We rode all night and the next morning I had my first new experience – eating a meal on a train. We arrived in Chicago about 9 a.m. on Saturday. ...On Sunday we were free to go to the church of our choice. All West Virginians went to the Chicago Temple (1st Methodist), the world’s tallest and Chicago’s oldest church...

Our Club Congress was held in the Stevens Hotel, one of America’s finest. It has 3,000 rooms and is 25 stories high. There were around 1,500 4-Hers besides 300 guests and leaders in attendance...

We were provided with some of the best entertainment of the world, among which were Jimmy Dorsey’s Band, Gene Autry; James Melton with Julia Galbreath; Coleman Clark, world table tennis champ... We also saw some great people of the sports world, such as Ted Williams, Johnnie Lujac and Babe Didrickson Zaharias. Some of the interesting places we saw and visited were the Art Institute; Museum of Science and Industry; Marshall Field Department Store; Trianon Room; Shedd Aquarium; First Na-

tional Bank; the world’s largest grain market; the Chicago Board of Trade; International Livestock Show; Chicago Tribune...

We arrived back home December 3, convinced that the National 4-H Club Congress should be a real challenge to every 4-H youngster. It was a real experience for me, and I’m sure that no one could attend and participate in such a program without being convinced more than ever of the real value of our 4-H program. I feel indebted to those people that made it possible for me to attend.

WEDDINGS

Invitation is extended by Rev. and Mrs. T. G. Alderman to the marriage of their daughter, Lucille Alderman and Staff Sergeant Billie L. Bryant, January 1, 1950, at the Marlinton Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Baxter announce the marriage of their daughter, Betty Elizabeth, to Austin Barlow, August 30, 1949, at the Lewisburg parsonage.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie J. Taylor, of Dunmore, announce the marriage of their daughter, Zula Gay, to Marvin Lee Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andy W. Taylor, also of Dunmore.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ledford McCarty, a daughter, Ellen Marilyn.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brock, a daughter, Brenda Lee.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Lee McLaughlin, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nottingham, a son, Kenneth Carl.

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Andrew Price, Editor

Thursday,
December 28, 1899

Father Abraham’s Talk

This talk is found in Poor Richard’s Almanac and is represented as having occurred at a merchant’s vendue.

“But dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of, as Poor Richard says.”

Then Father Abraham enlarges as follows: “How much more than necessary do we spend in sleep forgetting that the sleeping fox catches no poultry, and that there will be sleeping enough in the grave.

If time be of all things the most precious, wasting of time must be, as Poor Richard says, the greatest prodigality; since, as he elsewhere tells us, lost time is never found again; and what we call time enough always proves little enough. Let us then be up and doing, and doing to the purpose; so, by diligence shall we do more with less perplexity.

“Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all things easy, as Poor Richard says; and He that rises late must trot all day and shall

scarce overtake his business at night, while laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him.

“Drive that business, let not that drive thee.

“Early to bed and early to rise

Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.”

A BOYHOOD REMINISCENCE

By W. T. Price

During the winter of 1841, the writer was an eleven year old pupil of the Pocahontas Academy founded by Rev. Joseph Brown, and for the winter session temporarily the Old Brick Church was used. My boarding place was at Mr. Davis Poage’s, the nearest house. The group that gathered nightly around the fireside was Margaret Poage, verging ninety years, Mr. and Mrs. Davis Poage, both well up in sixty; and myself.

I need not say that in the kitchen I found more congenial company with the Fagans, Aaron and Lewis, both grown young men, Lewis Fagan proposed that we should form a debating society with Aaron for President. This was done and Lewis and I had some animated de-

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Malcomb, a daughter, Paula Ann.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Joyce, of Bluefield, Virginia, a son, Charles Edward. Mrs. Joyce is the former Miss Ressie Hill.

DEATHS

Mrs. Mary Linda Plyler Moore, aged 41 years, of Cass, died Friday, December 23, 1949. The funeral was held from the Brethren church near Durbin with burial in the Hosterman cemetery. She is survived by her husband and six children, William, Eugene, Jack, Douglas, Ernestine and Maxine.

Moses Underwood, aged about 72 years, died in his sleep at his home on Beaver Creek Sunday night, December 25, 1949. The deceased is survived by his eight children. He was a son of the late Wesley and Catherine Moore Underwood. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Jack N. Fleshman, aged 29 years, and his wife, Retha Roxana Fleshman, aged 28 years, of Anjean, were fatally injured in an automobile wreck at Cedar Grove December 18, 1949. They were on their way to visit and take Christmas presents to their nine year old daughter, Joan. The little girl is a polio patient at Marmet Hospital. Mr. Fleshman was born at Clover Lick, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fleshman. He attended Marlinton High School...

Alva Brant Carpenter passed away Friday, December 9, 1949. On December 5, 1936, he was united in marriage to Ruby Carpenter. To this union three children were born: Roy, Caroline and Tommy. Funeral service was held in the Methodist church with burial in the Dunmore Cemetery.

bates over such questions: Who deserves the most honor, Columbus for discovering America or Washington for defending it? Which is most conducive to human happiness, marriage or single life? etc.

Mr. Poage, however, felt that the kitchen was not the proper place for his boarder to spend the evenings, and so he took down a copy of Rollin’s Ancient History and proposed that I should read for the people from supper to bedtime. Mr. and Mrs. Poage occupied their cozy chairs amply cushioned with sheep skins in the east corner. The aged mother retired to bed, leaving the door open so she could hear, and the reader was placed at the west corner near the churn which served as a candlestand for the tallow dip that afforded the needed light for reading...

EDWARD ERVINE

Ancestor of the Irvine Relationship

Among the citizens of prominence in the organization of our county was Edward Ervine, late of Green Bank District. His residence was at the head of Trimble’s Run. This homestead is now occupied by his son, Preston, and David Gragg, a son-in-law.

Mr. Ervine was born April 2, 1790, near Miller’s Iron

see History pg 10

ARRESTS

One day last week, Sheriff B. B. Beard, J. F. Ashford and J. R. Simmons got a couple of stills on North Fork of Deer Creek, about five miles above Greenbank. Cleve Jackson and Jim Stuart were arrested and are now in jail on charges of moonshining.

Upon the alarm being given, the firefighters and the neighbors responded



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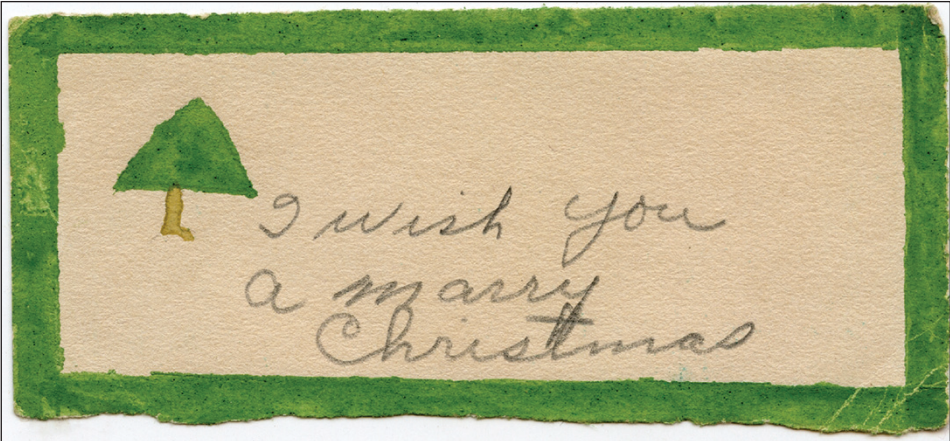


Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

THIS YEAR’S CHRISTMAS wish comes from Grover (last name unknown) who was a student at Cass Grade School in 1931. It is a hand-made card measuring 4 1/2 x 2 inches with a green water color tree and border. Grover’s card was for his teacher, Miss Pearl Carter. Preserving Pocahontas wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. (Preserving Pocahontas Archives, Pearl Carter Ward Collection; ID: PHP007580)



Photographs in the “Preserving Pocahontas” Digital Library may be found at www.pocahontaspreservation.org or www.preservingpocahontas.org

If you have photographs or documents 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 from the archives are available.

School Menus

January 2-3 milk.
Thursday, 2: Breakfast muffin and fruit. Chicken tenders with dipping sauce, sweet potato fries, California vegetables, whole grain soft pretzel rod, fruit cup and milk.
Friday, 3: Pretzel with cheese sauce and fruit. Chicken and broccoli vegetable stir-fry, seasoned brown rice, whole grain breadstick, fresh carrots, fruit cup and milk.

Time, from page 5

that can damage DNA or chromosomes], cardioprotective [protective of heart and arteries], vasorelaxant [increases blood flow], gastroprotective [protect the stomach from gastric mucosa damage], antispasmodic [relax muscles], immunomodulating [regulating immune system], antioedematogenic [prevent or reduce swelling in tissue], analgesic [pain relief], and antidiabetic properties [help with diabetes].”

Mixing white horehound with marshmallow root makes a wonderful homemade cough drop that we have been using for years. There are thousands of other remedies for using resources at hand; far too many to cover in one article. I encourage everyone to do their own research, REAL research. Do not rely on social platforms and blogs. Read old books along with the new ones, look up medical research papers from around the world, read historical documents while they are still available, and join local real people groups for sharing knowledge.

Advertising Deadline
3 p.m. Friday for the
January 2 edition

POCAHONTAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Rural Health Clinic

Now Accepting Appointments!

Madeline Nelson, FNP-BC

Madeline, or Maddy as many know her, is now seeing patients in the Rural Health Clinic. She is accepting patients of all ages, with a special interest and focus on women's health and preventative health management.

Maddy received her Master of Science in Nursing, with a specialization as Family Nurse Practitioner from Walden University in May 2024. Maddy has worked at PMH since 2015 as a Registered Nurse in both Acute Care and the ER. Since 2019 she has been the Outpatient Infusion Nurse.

Maddy is a Pocahontas County native, served with Security Forces in the Air Force, and resides in the county with her husband and children.

“ I have provided care for many of our county residents in the ER and OPI settings. I will be a familiar face to many, and look forward to meeting the healthcare needs of my patients in a new way to improve the health of Pocahontas County. ”

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS,
DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at P. O. Box 209, 900 Tenth Avenue, Suite C, Marlinton, WV 24954-0209. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later.

If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any claims against an estate must be filed within 60 days of the first publication of this notice in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 and 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.

First Publication Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024
Claim Deadline: Monday, February 17, 2025

ESTATE NUMBER: **14696**
ESTATE OF: **SAMUEL SHERMAN GIBSON II**
EXECUTOR: Gregory Hamons
818 Callison Road
Hillsboro, WV 24946-8542

ESTATE NUMBER: **14712**
ESTATE OF: **PEGGY ANN MCCARTY**
CO-EXECUTRIX: Christine S. Puffenbarger
P. O. Box 442
Marlinton, WV 24954-0442
CO-EXECUTOR: Ricky Lee McCarty
87 Old Route 39 Road
Marlinton, WV 24954-5855

ESTATE NUMBER: **14713**
ESTATE OF: **ZONA LEE HOOVER**
EXECUTOR: Roger Ober
324 Beaver Creek Road
Marlinton, WV 24954-5918

ESTATE NUMBER: **14714**
ESTATE OF: **RICKY EUGENE MILLER**
EXECUTRIX: Donna Solldiday Miller
1428 Seebert Wilfong Road
Marlinton, WV 24954-9735

ESTATE NUMBER **14715**
ESTATE OF: **LANCE AUSTIN EADS**
ADMINISTRATRIX: Jasmine Shearer
1423 Stamping Creek Road
Hillsboro, WV 24946-8785

Subscribed and sworn to before me on December 13, 2024.
Melissa L. Bennett
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
12/19/2c

**NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING
WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION
TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES**

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at 900 Tenth Avenue Suite C; P. O. Box 209, Marlinton, WV 24954-0209.

An interested person(s) objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must file a statement with the Pocahontas County Commission through the County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of first publication or 30 days of service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not timely filed, the objection is forever barred. The Pocahontas County Commission, upon receiving any timely objection thereto, shall schedule a hearing or hearings thereon and order relief, if any, it considers proper including, but not limited to, an order directing that full and complete ancillary administration of the estate of the nonresident decedent be made in this state.

ESTATE NAME: **FRANKLIN JAY WIDNEY II**
P. O. Box 511
Huddleston, VA 24104-0511
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR:
Doreen Widney
P. O. Box 511
Huddleston, VA 24104-0511

Subscribed and sworn to before me on December 16, 2024.
Melissa L. Bennett
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
12/19/2c

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Pocahontas County Commission is accepting applications for the following part-time and full-time positions for Pocahontas County Ambulance:

**West Virginia Certified EMTs
West Virginia Certified Medics**

Please contact Commissioner John Rebinski at 304-456-3244 or the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at 304-799-4549 for an application.

The deadline to receive applications will be December 31, 2024.
EOE
12/12/3c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

IN THE FAMILY COURT
OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

24-D-34

IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR
FROM: N. T. W.
TO: N. T. F.

CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDING

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of February 2025, at 1:00 o'clock p.m. at Family Court, 818 C 10th Avenue, Marlinton, WV, on said day or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard before the Honorable Joyce H. Carpenter, the Petitioner, Dwana Fitzgerald, will apply by petition to the Family Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said court, changing her child's name from N. T. W. to N. T. F. at which time and place any interested party may appear and be heard if they so desire.

You are hereby notified that this matter may be rescheduled without further notice or publication.

A copy of said petition can be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit/Family Court, Connie M. Carr, at her office at 900 D 10th Avenue, Marlinton, West Virginia, 24954.

Dated this 10th day of December 2024.

Connie M. Carr
Pocahontas County Circuit Clerk
By Cindy D. Beverage, Deputy
12/19/2c

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, MICHAEL C. DOSS, Trustee, by virtue of that certain Deed of Trust executed by New AA & R, LLC dba Lucy's Grocery, for the benefit of John D. Moore, said Deed of Trust bearing date the 3rd day of August, 2022, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 409, at page 573, the makers, having defaulted in payment of the note secured by said Deed of Trust as provided by the terms thereof, and the beneficial holder of the said note, John D. Moore, having declared the whole of the indebtedness thereunder to be due and payable; and having demanded the undersigned in writing to make sale of the real estate described in said Deed of Trust, the undersigned **Trustee will offer for sale and sell at public auction to the highest responsible bidder on the 6th day of January, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at the front steps of the Pocahontas County Courthouse in the City of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, the premises, being and consisting of the following:**

All of those certain tracts or parcels of real estate, including the improvements, appurtenances and easements thereunto belonging, situate in the Town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, known as Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Block 44.

And being the same lots, tracts or parcels of real estate that were acquired by New AA & R, LLC, a West Virginia Limited Liability Company, by the provisions of a Deed of Conveyance from John D. Moore, said Deed bearing date the 3rd day of August, 2022, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 403, at page 95.

The above-described real estate shall be sold subject to any claims, liens, assessments, taxes, restrictions, covenants, conditions, and encumbrances against the same.

The Trustee shall convey title with covenants of Special Warranty. The purchaser shall pay all taxes due and payable against the said property, the cost of the preparation of the Deed of Conveyance from the Trustee, the cost of any transfer tax and recording fees due upon the recordation of the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: 10% of bid payable to the Trustee on the day of sale and the balance within thirty (30) days.

CONDITION OF SALE: Said property shall be sold to the highest responsible bidder, with the right reserved to the said John D. Moore, to bid at said sale and to continue the said sale by declaration from time to time, as they may choose.

Given unto my hand this the 9th day of December, 2024.

Michael C. Doss, Trustee
12/19/3c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

BYRON GEIGER, PLAINTIFF,

**v. DONNA K. MULLENAX,
DUSTIN MICHAEL MCCRAY,
WILLIAM ("WAYNE") GILLEY,
JACKIE L. GILLEY,
TAMMIE L. GILLEY,
DIANE MARKET,
GARY MARKET,
JOHN GARDNER,
WILLIAM GARDNER,
SUSAN RAY,
HUBERT ("HUGH") D. GEIGER II,**

Civil Action No.: 23-C-2

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Pocahontas County Commission intends to file an application with the West Virginia Department of Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant funds to demolish the **Howes Tannery**.

A public meeting will be held on January 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Pocahontas County Commission chambers to discuss the application.

The grant application will be submitted to the West Virginia Development Office by January 31, 2025.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting or submit written comments to the Pocahontas County Commission by the above date.

The Pocahontas County Commission is an equal opportunity employer and promotes fair housing. Provisions for individuals with disabilities can be arranged by contacting the County Commission in advance of the meeting date.

For any questions, please contact the County Commission at 304-799-4549 or via email at pocackl@clerk.state.wv.us.

By Walt Helmick, President
Pocahontas County Commission
12/26/1c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

**MARILOU GEIGER,
MARIE POWERS, fka MARIE GEIGER,
CAROLYN ROBINSON,
KAREN LYNN OLDS, fka KAREN LYNN KOHLMANN,
ROBIN KOLHMANN LEE, aka ROBIN ANN LEE
CYNTHIA ("CINDY") KOLHMANN RUPERT,
JOHN HAMMOND aka RUSTY HAMMOND,
LINDA HAMMOND GILLET,
JAMES DOUG HAMMOND,
KRISTEN LYN MORAN GORRELL,
SCOTT OWEN MORAN,
JUDITH ANN MORAN RUDDY,
DARCY TRAVIS MORAN GARAY,
JOHN HAYES,**

DEFENDANTS.

This action seeks the partition or sale of real estate, which involves the above-named Defendants, the unknown estate of the Defendants, the unknown heirs at law, beneficiaries or devisees of the Defendants. It appears from the Complaint and affidavit filed in the above matter that there are Defendants who are unknown to the Plaintiff and that Plaintiff is unaware of the whereabouts of Defendants, their estates, heirs at law, beneficiaries or devisees, if any and whom may be non-residents of the State of West Virginia.

Therefore, the above-named Defendants, their estates, heirs at law, beneficiaries, devisees or other interested parties shall serve their Answer to the Complaint within Thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, upon the Plaintiff's attorney, Michael C. Doss, at his address of 921 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954. Otherwise, judgment may be granted against you.

Connie M. Carr, Circuit Clerk
Pocahontas County, West Virginia
12/26/3c

NOTICE OF THIRD AND FINAL READING

The Marlinton Town Council will hold the third and final reading of Revisions to an Ordinance to Implement a **Municipal Sales and Service Tax and Municipal Use Tax** Monday, December 30, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. at the Marlinton Municipal Building Auditorium.

The proposed revised ordinance is available to the public at the Town Hall Office, Marlinton Municipal Building, 709 Second Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting to be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance revisions.

Mary K. Clendenen
Recorder, Town of Marlinton
12/19/2c

NOTICE OF THIRD AND FINAL READING

The Marlinton Town Council will hold the third and final reading of an Ordinance to Establish Minimum Setback Requirements on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marlinton Municipal Building Auditorium. The proposed ordinance is available to the public at the Town Hall Office, Marlinton Municipal Building, 709 Second Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested parties may appear at the meeting to be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

Mary K. Clendenen
Recorder, Town of Marlinton
12/26/1c

NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Defender Corporation, 11th Judicial Circuit at Food and Friends located at 878 Washington Street Lewisburg, WV on January 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. All interested parties may attend.

12/26/1c

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS**

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until **JANUARY 14, 2025 10:00 A.M.** (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project (s):

CALL: 008; CONTRACT: 2021000722; STATE PROJECT: S388-STRIP-25 00; FEDERAL PROJECT: STP-2025(013)D; DESCRIPTION: PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING, DISTRICT WIDE; COUNTY: PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS, RANDOLPH, TUCKER.

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

West Virginia Department of Transportation
12/19/2c

**NOW HIRING CARPENTERS AND
EXPERIENCED HANDYMEN AT SNOWSHOE**

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., non-negotiable. Must have dependable vehicle. We are a new, small husband-and-wife company managing properties and doing full condo remodels at Snowshoe. Attention to detail is a must. Must be willing to shovel snow. Starting pay is \$18/hour. Pay raises will be given based on experience, competency and reliability. Performance evaluations at 30 and 60 days. *Please do not apply if you don't have all-weather year-round transportation or are not interested in a five-day work week.*

Call Carlton Guffey, 304-642-5039, for more information if interested.



**GUFFEY
CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
FOR CAREGIVERS
PERSONAL ATTENDANTS
(CAREGIVERS) NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY**

Newly revised salary schedule, \$15 - \$17 per hour, based on experience and certifications, weekend differential of \$2 more per hour; 32 hours of paid holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas), \$2 more per hour on other minor holidays worked (July 4th and New Year's Day); sub bonuses of \$300 per quarter, paid training, and free CPR. Pre-employment Drug Screening and CIB required. Call today, 304-472-0395, for an application, stop by at our Buckhannon Office, 8 North Spring Street, or apply online at www.centralwvaging.org

We have one of the most competitive salaries/benefit plans in the in-home industry. EOE/EAA Employer.

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Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent • Hire

FOR RENT
APARTMENT FOR RENT - On the River next to Red Oak Realty. One bedroom, one bath, free WiFi. \$495/month. Tenant pays all other utilities, security deposit and first and last month rent required. Call, text or email Todd at 904-234-8585 or tgrove1028@yahoo.com
12/26/tfnc

HELP WANTED
HELP WANTED - Full-time, live-in caregiver. Room and board and salary (negotiable). Located in Frost. Call 304-992-8075. 12/26/2c

HELP WANTED - Looking for a Correctional Officer job? Testing will be offered at the Denmar Correctional Center, Hillsboro, WV, on a daily basis. Interested parties should contact Human Resources at the facility at 304-653-4201 to schedule an appointment.
1/19/tfnc

FREE
FREE - Old newspapers to start your fireplace or woodstove. The Pocahontas Times office. 9/26/tfn

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ACROSS FROM TUDOR'S BISCUIT WORLD
Lewisburg, WV

Advertising deadline for the January 2 edition of *The Pocahontas Times* is Friday, December 27, at 3 p.m.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
NOW'S THE TIME FOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON CHAIN-SAWS, LOG SPLITTERS AND OTHER COLD WEATHER POWER EQUIPMENT.

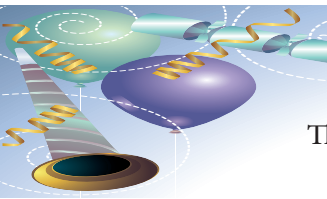


POPES Pocahontas Outdoor Power Equipment Service
1/4 mile east of Rt. 218 on Denmar Road, Hillsboro
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday by appointment **304-653-4988**

Super Crossword

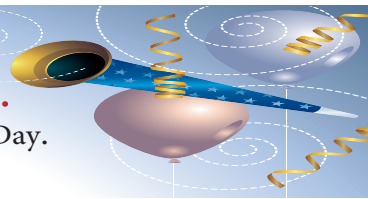
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Early deadline for the January 2 edition of *The Pocahontas Times* is Friday, December 27, at 3 p.m.

The Times office will close at 11 a.m. on Tues., Dec. 31, and be closed Wed., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. *The January 2 edition will be available at vendors on Tuesday, December 31*



Wassail, from page 3

In Colonial America, many of those who had orchards continued to anoint their apple trees with wassail to ensure a good apple harvest. It many homes, it was usually incorporated in Christmas celebrations.

Today, some Americans still enjoy a variation of the wassail tradition by sharing a cup of wassail with family and friends.

Wassail Recipe

Wassail is cider punch, usually, but not necessarily, containing “hard” cider and brandy, and always served piping hot.

Ingredients:
4 cored apples
Brown sugar, to fill the cored apples
1/2 cup water
2 oranges, halved
20 whole cloves
5 cups apple cider (or 11 total cups of apple cider for non-alcoholic wassail)
48 oz. hard cider (omit for non-alcoholic wassail)
1 cup brandy (substitute

with orange juice for non-alcoholic wassail)

1 tbsp. ground ginger (or 1-inch piece, fresh)
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
2 cinnamon sticks more for garnish, optional
Toast, for serving (optional)

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Using a melon-baller, gently core apples.

Fill apples with brown sugar, keeping it loose and filling it to the top. Place apples upright in a baking dish and pour the water into the bottom of the dish. Bake 40-45 minutes until the apples can be pierced with a fork, but not so soft that they are mushy and falling apart.

In the meantime, pierce the peels of the orange halves with cloves, 5 cloves to each half.

Pour the apple cider, hard cider and brandy (or non-alcoholic substitutes) into a large non-reactive pot (eg. stainless steel, enamel or pyrex). Stir to combine. Choose a vessel suitable for serving the wassail, to retain the heat.

Over low-medium heat,

gently stir in spices and cinnamon sticks. Add the orange halves, cloves side down. Simmer gently for an hour. Do not let the contents boil, which will cause evaporation and create a syrupy consistency.

Using a slotted spoon to remove the cinnamon sticks and oranges and set them aside for later.

Strain the wassail to remove the particles of cloves and spices. If planning to serve in the cooking vessel, strain the wassail into another pot for a moment and immediately pour back into the cooking vessel to keep warm.

Gently add the baked apples and stir gently. Add back the cinnamon sticks and the orange halves.

Serve in a mug or heat tolerant punch glasses. Garnish with a cinnamon stick, if desired.

Your home will be filled with the irresistible aroma of wassail.

Toast the apple trees that provided the cider and don't forget to enjoy the delicious baked apples soaked in wassail.

History, from page 7

Works on Mossy Creek, Augusta County and lived there until manhood.

He married Mary Curry, who was born June 1794. Upon leaving Augusta county soon after his marriage, he settled on Back Creek near the Brick House at the mouth of Long Draft. They were the parents of ten children, seven sons and three daughters. ...

In the leadings of an all-wise Providence, Edward Ervine's lot fell to him in a

sparsely populated country. The type of the religion he inherited in Scotland and the north of Ireland tended to blend in personal character, indomitable industry, wise provision and satisfying comfort, and the ideal of his endeavors was to have a home of his own amid fields and meadows. Of such homes an eloquent writer says: “The homes of our lands are its havens of peace; its sanctuaries of strength

and happiness. Hence come those principles of probity and integrity that are the safeguards of our nation. Hence emerge those devoted sons of the soil, the true citizenship of our loved country...

TRIVIA ANSWERS:
(1). Schindler's List (2). Hungary
(3). Hun-dred and One Dalmatians (4). Beloved

pocahontastimes.com

Mayor's, from page 4

entities will have to agree the project makes sense, is doable, and has a grant opportunity that fits, before funds will be available.

Here is where the MFTP grant-writer shines. Trust

her. She is very deliberate and specific in her approach to fulfilling an application. That is why she has been so successful. She understands the process and will not risk her own credibility by being hurried through the process without all the information. It is not just about filling out paperwork – it is actually about receiving the award.

The goal will be to leverage each dollar to the maximum amount.

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“Rising tides raise all ships.”
Happy New Year ~ Help is on the way.

Sam

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PMH Rural Health Clinic

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Closing at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve; closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day!

Call 304-799-6200 to make an appointment.

- Pediatrics and Well Child Care
- Sport/School Physicals
- Family and Internal Medicine
- Sick Visits - Adult and Children
- Women's Health Services
- Chronic Disease Management
- Immunizations
- CDL/DOT Physicals
- Child Psychiatry
- Behavioral Health Services
- Podiatry - monthly specialty clinic

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Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8: a.m. - 3 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Accepting new patients - Call 304-799-1072.

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Happy New Year!

Thanks for your loyal support and friendship. Best wishes to all our friends and customers!



STEVEN VANREENEN
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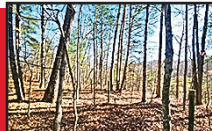
RED OAK REALTY

Oak Hall, Broker

Sales Associates:
Kathy Owens, Lisa Circle,
Kathryn Stauffer

Agents Wanted.
Call Oak Hall to apply.

NEW LISTING



6736 - Lewisburg. 1.5-acre private wooded lot. End of the lane location waiting for your dream home. Just 11 minutes from the charming town of Lewisburg with its top notch dining and shopping. - **\$54,000**

MORE LISTINGS



6715 - Dunmore. 3BR cozy cabin with one full and two half baths on 9.72 acres located in a quiet wooded area. Steps from state forest and near Greenbrier River and Trail. - **\$495,000**



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



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**



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**



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



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**



6716 - Rainelle. 1BR/1BA newer, tiny, elevated home. - **\$19,500**

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