

Welcome to Durbin Days Heritage Festival



The Pocahontas Times

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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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Pioneer Days ~ maintaining traditions

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The weekend included music, food, art and parades – and it was all fun.

Marlinton became a festival town again last week with the return of Pioneer Days, a tradition that has been carried on since 1967.

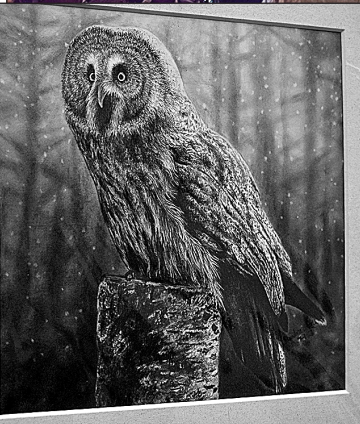
Vendors lined the streets and old friends and classmates reminisced as they enjoyed the displays and entertainment.

Thursday evening was for the children and pets as they paraded down Main Street. From there, the fun continued at the Discovery Junction with bubbles, balloons and street fun.

The evening culminated with a performance by Ben Hersman and The Sons of The Mountain.

On Friday, the displays opened to the public, with the Art Council show at McClintic Library; food, flower, 4-H, photography and youth art show at the Wellness Center; and the quilt show at the Pocahontas County Opera House.

Artists and crafters sold their wares in the Opera House, while food vendors



TALENT WAS ON display during the Pioneer Days celebration. Above, colorful quilts of various sizes were showcased in the Pocahontas County Opera House along with crafters sharing the work of their hands. At left, a pencil drawing by Diondra North was named the Best in Show by the Pocahontas County Art Council at its annual art show at McClintic Library. S. Stewart photos

rade, followed by the square dance in the Southern States parking lot with music by Mud Hole Control.

For those who weren't up for dancing in a square – or who can't follow directions – there was music at Discovery Junction by Back in the Day.

and organizations made sure everyone was well fed.

Friday evening saw youngsters and adults alike on the street to enjoy the siren-filled Fireman's Pa

A whistle from the past

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

When Howes Leather Company, Inc., closed its operation in Frank in 1994, it marked the end of 90 years of tanning leather in that town.

Just a few days prior to closing, employees were told if there was anything they wanted, they could take it. Maintenance man Mike Douglas saw that as an opportunity, so he took home the company whistle.

Douglas used a torch to remove the whistle, and it has been in his possession ever since.

A few weeks ago, that whistle was brought back out to be used once again – this time on one of the train engines at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park.

Ray Landis, a volunteer with Mountain Rail West Virginia, which operates the Cass trains, is friends with Douglas and asked if the whistle could be used on one of the trains.



THE HOWES TANNERY whistle was a little tarnished and needed a good cleaning, but it is now ready for its trek on the Greenbrier Express this week for Durbin Days.

"I took it down to Cass and they put it on the one steam engine that was sitting there as a spare and tested it, and it worked," Landis said.

see Whistle pg 9

'The End of Quiet' highlights life in the Quiet Zone

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

It was just happenstance that Kasper Bisgaard came across a photograph of the Green Bank Telescope in a photography book. It was 2018, and he was in a bookstore in his home country of Denmark.

"I like to look at photography books and all of a sudden there was this gigantic radio telescope and people walking underneath it," he said. "I thought, 'wow, this looks interesting.'"

As a documentary filmmaker, Bisgaard is naturally inquisitive and he began to research the telescope, the town and the Quiet Zone.

"I pitched it to my friend – an old colleague – Mikael Lypinski, and he immediately said, 'we are going to make a film about this place; about the Quiet Zone.'"

The filmmakers were both intrigued by the lifestyle of those who live in the Quiet Zone and have limited access to WiFi and no cellphone towers.

"We were intrigued by the basic framework – a colossal

radio telescope surrounded by mountains and dense forest; a complex, almost mysterious 'quiet zone;' a community living without cellphones – it all seemed to be a very fascinating mix between cutting-edge, high-tech technology and a down-to-Earth, disconnected lifestyle," Lypinski said.

Bisgaard, of Denmark, and Lypinski, of Sweden, are both from areas that are always connected and so they wanted to learn more about life without that constant technological connection.

The two have known each other for more than 30 years and attended film school in Poland together. They have wanted to work together for a long time and "The End of Quiet" was the project that finally saw them collaborating.

They were joined by a film crew and came to Green Bank in May 2019. They stayed for a month. The film was initially going to be a short piece, but once they got here and met some of the locals, it soon dawned on them that this story was meant to be feature length.

That first month wasn't enough, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the film crew was unable to return to Green Bank until three years later in 2022, which actually made the story even better in Bisgaard's mind.

"We had a feeling that we wanted to come back to Green Bank and do a bit of reshoots, just a couple of scenes," he said. "We were anxious to get back. We thought we were almost done, but when we came back and we realized that during the three years we had not been in Green Bank, the lives of some of our participants had changed.

"All of a sudden, we could see that our film expanded and became a bigger film that we thought," he added.

Although they only spent a total of two months in Green Bank, in the span of three years, Bisgaard said they were able to make great connections with locals and enjoyed getting to know everyone they met.

see Quiet pg 9

Ready to 'reign' on parade



WINNERS IN THE Durbin Days Heritage Festival pageant, from left: Little Miss, Willow Davis; Teen Miss, Moriah Thompson; Miss Durbin Days, Johnna Bennett; and Junior Miss, Avery Smith. In the Baby pageant, winners were: Baby Miss, Delana Sharp; Toddler Miss, Eleanor McClure; and Tiny Miss, Paisley Smith.

Welcome to

Durbin Days Heritage Festival

July 16-19

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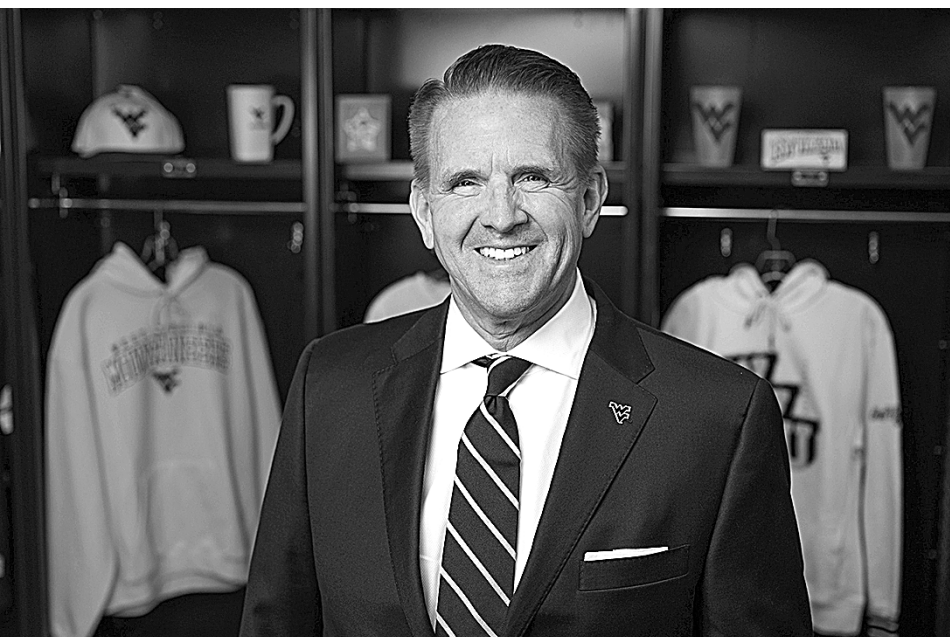
Progress in the ARC Pocahontas Broadband Project

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

The wheels of government have a reputation for moving slowly, and a perfect example is the Pocahontas County Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC's) Broadband grant project. It was approved in September of 2021, but is just now to a point where a contractor is about to be selected for the construction. The project will install about 49 miles of arial broadband fiber bringing high-speed internet access to an estimated 1,011 households and several dozen businesses in Pocahontas County, with Citynet being the Internet service provider. The project will begin at Fourth Avenue in Marlinton; run east along Route 39 through Huntersville to Minnehaha Springs, where it will go north on Route 92 to Dunmore. Another leg of fiber will run north from Route 39 onto Route 28 near Huntersville and terminate somewhere near Seneca State Park. The ARC had originally

projected a completion date of December 2023, however required studies, red tape, negotiations with First Energy and Frontier over using their poles and other bureaucratic requirements made that a very unrealistic estimate. At a special County Commission meeting July 8, Luke Van Blaricom of the Thompson and Litton Company (T&L), which is the engineering company for the project, opened and presented two construction bids to the commission. Those were: 1. Quanta Telecommunication Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$1,800,000. 2. New River Electrical Company's bid of \$2,307,597.76 Van Blaricom said the New River Electrical price was more than T&L's engineering construction estimate, while the Quanta estimate came in under T&L's construction estimate. He also said that he needed to take the bid documents back to his office to determine if they met all the bid requirements. The commission is expected to announce the win-

ning bid at its July 15 meeting. At the July 10 Pocahontas County Broadband Council meeting, Brian Tew, also of T&L, said that both bids met all the bid requirements, but the Quanta bid was about \$90,000 below the T&L construction cost estimate, while the New River bid was higher. Tew said that once the bid is awarded by the commission, they will sign the contract, which will trigger the ARC's mandatory 60-to-90-day bid hold, and that will be followed by the start of the construction. Tew said T&L will be doing on-site progress visits during the construction to ensure that everything is going well. He added that having worked with Quanta before, the council can expect the project to be finished earlier than T&L had originally estimated. Mike Holstine concurred that things will likely happen quickly once the commission approves the construction contract, and that the ARC's bid hold might even be shortened. **see Project pg 5**



Michael T. Benson

‘Work hard. Play hard ~ and continue to be Mountaineers’ ~ Benson

WVU Today

Michael T. Benson never planned on trading beach breezes for the hills of Morgantown. But life—and leadership—has a way of pulling people toward places where they're most needed. Diving into his new role as the 27th president of West Virginia University, Benson stands at the helm of an institution full of promise. His path to the Mountain State spanned four university presidencies stretching from Utah to Kentucky to South Carolina, where he most recently led Coastal Carolina University, a 15-mile drive from Myrtle Beach. The only thing better than beach life might be becoming a Mountaineer. When Gordon Gee announced he was retiring from WVU, a few trusted voices planted a gold-and-blue bug into Benson's ear.

“People were very persistent and said, ‘You really need to look at this opportunity,’” Benson recalled. He reflected on his career trajectory. Despite a storied, two decades-plus in higher education, WVU had the elements Benson had never yet experienced all at once: an R1 (very high research activity) university with powerhouse athletics and a renowned academic medical center. WVU checked those boxes. The chance to lead a flagship, land-grant institution, uniquely West Virginian, felt rare and right. **First Steps** Since arriving in Morgantown, Benson has made it a priority to immerse himself in campus life. Before his official start date of July 15, 2025, Benson made a few trips to Morgantown. On those days,

he'd walk from his hotel to campus as early as 5:30 a.m. to soak in sights like Woodburn Circle and the historical downtown buildings. It's a sharp contrast to the flat landscapes of South Carolina, but one he finds invigorating. “In South Carolina, I can look at one end of campus to the other,” Benson said. “That's not the case here.” He plans to hit the ground running and meet as many members of the WVU community and residents of West Virginia as possible. Before the fall 2025 semester, Benson will spend a week traveling throughout the Mountain State. “We're West Virginia's only flagship, land-grant, R1 institution,” he said. “So, I want people to think of this as their university. Yes, I'm the president, and, in many **see Hard pg 10**

Conservation Easement applications now being accepted

The Pocahontas County Farmland Protection Board is accepting applications for its Conservation Easement program which provides funding to farmers to help them permanently conserve their farms for future generations. The Farmland Protection Board is accepting applications for the FY26 funding cycle. Selections will be based on ranking criteria and funding availability. Applications are reviewed

on a first come first served basis and are available at the NRCS office and via email: WVbaselines@gmail.com Please mail the completed application and supporting documents to Farmland Protection, PO Box 186 Lewisburg, WV 24901. You may also return your application via email to WVbaselines@gmail.com. If you would like an application mailed to you or if you would like to schedule a



meeting to review the application and learn more about the program, please contact Evan Blumenstein, Executive Director at 304-404-3273.

Free Amateur Radio License test session

Testing for Amateur Radio licenses including upgrades will be held Tuesday, August 12, 7 p.m. at the Cass Firehouse. All test levels will be offered (Technician, General and Extra) and will be provided free of charge. Sponsored by Laurel Volunteer Examiner Coordinators and facilitated by 8 Rivers Amateur Radio Club. Attendees may take more than one exam during this testing session. You must bring the following to sit for the exam(s): 1. A photo ID such as a driver's license or passport.

Children without a photo ID may take the exam provided they can prove their identity to the satisfaction of the Laurel VEC Team Leader. 2. If currently licensed, an official copy of your current, signed amateur radio operator's license. To take an exam, you are required to have an FRN (FCC Registration Number) which is available at the following website: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>

Various practice tests are available online. Contact Rudy Marrojo at 304-456-3057 with questions and to reserve your space. Note: while this testing session is provided free of charge, once you pass the test the FCC will charge a fee of \$35 to issue your license. This license will be valid for a period of 10 years.



Senior Legal Aid

Deb Miller, JD Volunteer

John didn't realize it, but when he added his son's name to his stock account, he made Tommy a joint owner. John didn't work well with computers and needed help with keeping all his records straight because of vision problems. He added his son for the sake of convenience. John decided not to make his son his financial Power of Attorney. He wanted to handle his own money matters. His will included a provision that his stocks would be donated to his favorite nonprofit organization. After John passed away, his stocks did not go to the nonprofit, but instead Tommy got them. Why didn't John's will work? The names on the stock account determined ownership before and after John's death. The will had no legal

impact in that situation. John didn't understand that. Plus, as co-owner, Tommy could have sold any of the stocks at any time. Some types of accounts have a way to list a co-owner or an after-death beneficiary, such as bank accounts, life insurance, stocks, savings bonds and retirement accounts, which controls no

matter what the person's will says. That makes the account beneficiary form, account signature card, or co-owner form very important documents. It's basically the equivalent of a will for those specific accounts. Another risk of adding a child's name to a parent's account is that it becomes subject to the child's creditors. For example, Mary added her daughter Anna's name to her checking account for the sake of convenience. Not too **see Senior pg 6**

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Durbin Days Heritage Festival

Thursday, July 17
5-10 p.m. – Carnival R&D Amusements.
5-10 p.m. – Food and other vendors.
5-10 p.m. – Mechanical Bull on Carnival Grounds.
6-10 p.m. – Bingo in picnic pavilion.
6-10 p.m. – Entertainment by The Crooked Roots on Main Stage.
6-10 p.m. – Blacksmithing demonstration on Carnival Grounds.
6-10 p.m. – Dunking Booth.
6 p.m. – Line-up for Children’s and Pet Parade at Town Hall.
7 p.m. – Children’s and Pet Parade sponsored by Boyer Station Campground.

Friday, July 18
5-11 p.m. – Carnival R&D Amusements.
5-11 p.m. – Food and other vendors.
5-11 p.m. – Mechanical Bull on Carnival Grounds.
6-7 p.m. – Art, Photography, Quilting and Silly Potato Contest displays open.
6-10 p.m. – Bingo in picnic pavilion.
6-10 p.m. – Dunking Booth.
6-10 p.m. – Blacksmithing demonstration on Carnival Grounds.
6:30 p.m. – Line-up for Fireman’s Parade at Widney Park.
7 p.m. – Fireman’s Parade.
7:30-8:30 p.m. – Entertainment by Evie Shaffer on Main Stage.
9-11 p.m. – Entertainment by Tupelo Drive.

Saturday, July 19
8:30 a.m. – 5k Run/Walk – registration 8 a.m. at Bartow Intersection of 28/250. \$25 entry fee.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Craft Vendors at Old Kinder’s Market.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Art, Photography, Quilting and Silly Potato Contest open.
1-11 p.m. – Carnival R&D Amusements.
1-11 p.m. – Food and other vendors.
1 p.m. – Line-up for Grand Feature Parade near Durbin Firehouse.
1:30 p.m. – Parade Judging.
2 p.m. – Antique Car Cruise-Thru with line-up at Durbin Library.
2 p.m. – Grand Feature Parade sponsored by Bennett’s Logging.
3:30 p.m. – Tug-of-War.
4-11 p.m. – Mechanical Bull on Carnival Grounds.
4:30 p.m. – Greased Pig Finals, with Turtle Man and Swamp Man.
6-10 p.m. – Dunking Booth.
6-10 p.m. – Bingo in picnic pavilion.
6-10 p.m. – Blacksmithing Demonstration on Carnival Grounds.
6-7 p.m. – Little Switzerland Cloggers on Main Stage.
7-9 p.m. – Mechanical Bull Contest. \$10 entry fee. Children’s and Adult Division. Cash prizes.
9-11 p.m. – Entertainment by Non-Friction.
10 p.m. – Fireworks.

Project, from page 2

Ruthanna Beezley said that the commission had set aside American Rescue Plan funding for overages but those funds must be expended by December 2026. Tew suggested that the commission hold on to that money as long as possible because typically there are last minute overrun expenses added on to these projects because some utility poles

may require extra work on them to make them ready to receive the fiber installation. Regarding the BEAD Project, Citynet is refining its application, with the applications opening now and closing on July 20. Holstine said there will be a public comment period in August. Melissa O’Brien of Citynet said that they are starting to build their backbone fiber line down US Route 219 and expect to have it completed by June 2026.

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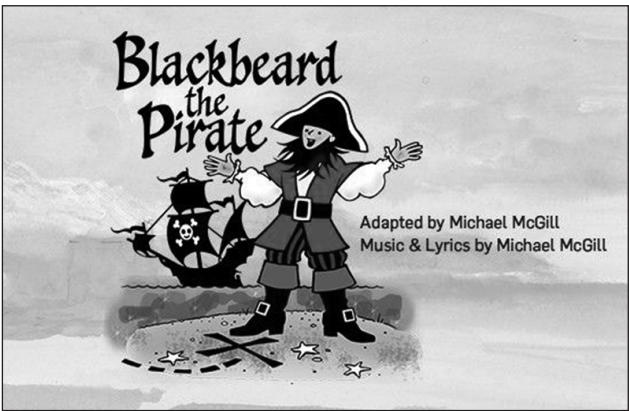
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‘Blackbeard the Pirate’ on stage at the Opera House

The Pocahontas County Opera House is excited to announce two special performances of *Blackbeard the Pirate*, brought to life by the Missoula Children’s Theater’s Touring Program. As the nation’s largest touring children’s theater, Missoula Children’s Theater has been delighting audiences for more than 40 years and will visit nearly 1,200 communities this year.

The play, *Blackbeard the Pirate*, will be performed on the Pocahontas County Opera House stage Friday, July 25, at 5 p.m. and Saturday, July 26, at 2 p.m. These performances will be the culmination of a week-long summer theater camp, where



local children work together in a fun, safe and supportive atmosphere to bring you an unforgettable theatrical experience.

A suggested donation of \$10 per person is encouraged for admission at the door, with all proceeds going toward supporting future arts

programs at the opera house. The community’s support has been instrumental in making this event possible. Financial and logistical contributions from the West Virginia Neighborhood Investment Program, Pocahontas County Parks and Recreations, Pocahontas Schools,

and various civic organizations have helped bring this project to life. Scholarships for children in need were provided in memory of late board member Shenda Smith, whose passion for ensuring all children experience the arts continues to inspire this initiative.

Don’t miss this opportunity to witness the talent and creativity of our young local performers. For more information, please visit the Pocahontas County Opera House website or contact us directly.

We look forward to seeing you at the theater!

Grab your seat and join us for an enchanting journey on the high seas with *Blackbeard the Pirate*.

Cranberry Celebration

Cranberry Glades is a favorite stop for visitors to the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center area. In 2024, it celebrated 50 years as a designated National Natural Landmark.

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center is marking that milestone by offering several guided tours of Cranberry Glades on Friday, July 25.

Meet at Cranberry Mountain Nature Center for tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

On the same day, we will celebrate Smokey Bear’s 81st birthday with birthday cake and some Smokey swag. The party will be held at noon and visitors can meet Smokey and get their photo taken with him.

For more information, contact Cranberry Mountain Nature Center at 304-653-4826. The center is located at the intersection of Rt. 39/55 and 150.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday – Monday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

GRWA nature walk

Louanne Fatora

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association will sponsor a guided nature walk Saturday, July 19, beginning at 9 a.m. at Caldwell on the Greenbrier River Trail.

Park at the second larger parking area at the Trail, and we will walk north to the big rocks. Come a little early for coffee and muffins.

This is a great event for adults and kids alike. Bring binoculars, water shoes and a towel.

The walk will be led by Adrienne Thackery, an Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area AmeriCorps

member serving with Monongahela National Forest’s Watershed team in Marlinton. Since completing her bachelor’s in environmental studies, Adrienne has also served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Georgia and a county soil and water conservation district in New York. As a naturalist, Adrienne is always looking for opportunities to learn more about nature and participate in citizen science.

Check our Facebook page for inclement weather cancellation or delay, facebook.com/greenbrier.watershed or call 970-389-5451.

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FACE - TO - FACE AND WEB ENHANCED COURSES FOR FALL 2025

COURSE	SUBJECT	DAY	TIME				
Acct 201	Principles of Accounting I	T	4 - 5:15 p.m.	Math 109	Algebra	M,W	12:30 - 1:45 p.m.
Acct 202	Principles of Accounting II	TH	4 - 5:15 p.m.	Math 109E	College Algebra Enhanced	M, W	12:30 - 2:45 p.m.
Acct 215	Managerial Acct	WEB	WEB	Mgmt 210	Principles of Management	TH	5:30 - 6:45 p.m.
Biol 105	Intro to Anat./Physiology	T, TH	5:30-6:45 p.m.	Posc 200	American Gov & Economy	WEB	WEB
Biol 231	Human Anat./Physiology I	WEB	WEB	Psyc 103	General Psychology	T,TH	11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Biol 232	Human Anat./Physiology II	WEB	WEB	Psyc 103	General Psychology	WEB	WEB
Comm 208	Fund of Public Speaking	M, W	2 - 3:15 p.m.	Soci 210	Principles of Sociology	WEB	WEB
Comm 208	Fund of Public Speaking	WEB	WEB	Socs 161	Intro to Social Work	WEB	WEB
Comm 212	Interpersonal Comm	WEB	WEB				
Crmj 151	Intro to Crim Justice	M	5:30 - 6:45 p.m.				
Crmj 212	Legal Research & Methodolgy	WEB	WEB				
Econ 211	Principles of Economics I	WEB	WEB				
Econ 212	Principles of Economics II	WEB	WEB				
Engl 101	Composition I	M, W	12:30 - 1:45 p.m.				
Engl 102	Research	W	7 - 8:15 p.m.				
Engl 102	Research	WEB	WEB				
Hist 101	World Civilization	WEB	WEB				
Hist 105	American History	M	9:30 - 10:45 a.m.				
Mast 105	Medical Terminology	T	5:30 - 7:45 p.m.				
Math 101	Quantitative Reasoning	T, TH	11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.				
Math 101E	QR Enhanced	M, W	9:30 - 11:45 a.m.				

o Method of delivery for these classes listed will be ZOOM (from personal location) and the ORU.

o Additional web, traditional (in - seat) and web - enhanced courses are available at <http://www.newriver.edu/schedules>.

o Courses listed here are subject to change depending on student needs.

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Have questions? Come see us!

Alicia Tallman

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Last day to register for classes and pay tuition is August 22, 2025.
FIRST DAY OF CLASS IS AUGUST 18, 2025

City NATIONAL BANK Pocahontas County Commission

New River CTC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (www.hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. New River CTC is an equal opportunity institution.

Obituaries



Sterl Shinaberry
Sterl F. Shinaberry, 87 of Vero Beach, Florida, formerly of Charleston, died December 12, 2024.

A celebration of life will be held Thursday, July 17, 2025.

The reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Edgewood Country Club in Charleston with a special time for reflection and remembrance at 5 p.m., where friends and family will share their memories and stories.

Jane Sharp Memorial

Jane Rutledge Jessee Sharp passed away Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the age of 83. On Saturday, August 16, 2025, we will remember and celebrate a life full of love, creativity and adventure, according to her specific wishes.

Jane asked that there be no formal service. Rather, she asked that family and friends be given the opportunity to quietly remember their time with her while her favorite music plays.

From 1 to 3 p.m., the urn containing her ashes will lie in front of the altar at Marlinton Presbyterian Church as the music of Bach,

Pachelbel, Handel, Brahms and Mendelssohn plays. All are welcome to visit at any time during the two hours and stay as long as you would like. Refreshments will be available.

Following the time of remembrance at the church, we will visit several locations around Marlinton of particular importance to Jane. All are welcome to join us for this trek, as well.

Michelle Underwood

Michelle Lynn Underwood, of Summersville, peacefully passed away in the early morning hours of Monday, June 16, 2025.

Born April 28, 1967, in Marlinton, she was the daughter of Eugene Underwood and the late Hazel Landis Underwood.

Michelle was a member of the Summersville Baptist Church and her faith remained an important part of her life. She was also a proud member of the Royal Leprechauns, an organization dedicated to providing community services and scholarships in Nicholas County.

Michelle earned her Registered Nursing degree from Alderson Broaddus and devoted her life to caring for others with compassion and strength for more than 30 years. She also served as president of the Nicholas County Fair and was a dedicated member of the park board, giving her time and talents to improve her community.

A spirited soul, Michelle was WVU's #1 fan, rarely missing a game and cheering on the Mountaineers with

unmatched pride. She also had a love for Harley-Davidson motorcycles, finding joy in the freedom of the open road and the camaraderie of the riding community.

Above all, Michelle's most treasured role was being "Mimi" to her two precious grandchildren, Sullivan and Eloise Hamrick, whom she adored beyond measure.

She was known for her loyalty, warmth and incredible sense of humor. She had a natural gift for making others feel loved, valued and seen. Whether it was her heartfelt advice, sharp wit or comforting spirit, Michelle left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her grandparents, Duffie Moore and Damon and Lucille Landis.

In addition to her father, she is survived by her daughter, Brittnee Hamrick; grandchildren, Sullivan (Sully), and Eloise (Ellie) Hamrick; brother, Michael Underwood; niece, Mattisson Underwood; and many extended family members and dear friends.

Funeral service was held Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Summersville Baptist Church with Dana Gatewood officiating. Interment was in Walker Memorial Park.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Grand Order of the Royal Leprechauns. Checks made payable to the "Mt. Nebo St. Patrick's Day Parade," 546 Wilderness Hwy., Mt. Nebo, WV 26679.

Condolences may be shared with the family at whitefuneralhomewv.com

Through

by Dawn Reed

When the Bible says the word of God is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12), it's not just a churchy saying. It's legit. To me, that means though it was written thousands of years ago, God's Word is relevant, applying to right here and now.

It is good for daily application, no matter our age. It comforts, directs, convicts, encourages. Ephesians 6:17 calls it our weapon: the sword of the Spirit. Read it, memorize it, carry it, share it.

For the past few weeks, I have been obsessed with Psalm 23:4. Smack in the middle of the most famous Psalm, it speaks and speaks loudly.

While some people not familiar with the Bible think Psalm 23 is only a poem most often found on funeral announcements, those who know it understand it to be a comforting, loving personal reflection written by a former shepherd who deeply loved God.

Psalm 23:4 (NIRV) begins, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley..." Some translations say, "valley of the shadow of death," "valley as dark as death," "dark valley of death," and "valley of deep darkness." We get it.

This verse has often reminded me lately that God is a THROUGH God. He's not a leaving God, but a walking you through God. He takes us THROUGH the valley, THROUGH the hard time.

Think of stories in the Bible where God took people THROUGH hard things. Joseph was sold by his brothers, went to a pagan land, falsely accused by his new boss' wife, and put in prison for years. But God was with him. And brought him THROUGH it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went THROUGH the fiery furnace.

Daniel was in the lion's den. God brought him THROUGH that scary time.

Noah saw the whole earth destroyed. God brought him THROUGH it.

David faced an undefeatable giant. God brought him THROUGH it.

Now think of times God got you THROUGH some things. Oh, there have been some things - times that if it had not been for God, you wouldn't be here. Let's not get so busy these days doing life that we forget what He has already brought us THROUGH.

Life can often be hard. Just plain hard. Headlines rush to tell us heartache after heartache, near and fear. We see flooding, death, wildfires and violence. How do we deal? How do we sleep? How do we endure? The writer of Psalm 23



Dawn Reed

knew the secret: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid because You [God] are with me..." There is only one way we can face any day without fear. There is only one way we can get out of bed in the morning with purpose and hope. It's with Him.

We can't do life on our own. Well, actually, we can, but it's not a good idea.

Valleys come in all shapes and sizes: storms, marital problems, financial trouble, sickness, loss of a loved one, difficulty at work, neighbor issues, loneliness, disappointment, discouragement.

Whatever valley you are in, God wants to walk you THROUGH it.

Hard times come in our lives. They can sometimes feel like they will last forever. But. But God will walk us THROUGH one at a time, one day at a time.

Getting more and more of the good stuff

by R.A. Mathews

He's a prominent man. I found myself at an event with him and was surprised when he smiled and spoke. I scarcely know him and hadn't seen him in years.

"I didn't think you would remember me," I said.

"I read your newspaper articles. My grandfather was a minister, but I don't know very much about the Bible."

He's a man in a demanding field, but he wants to understand his faith. He wants Jesus.

It's a great thing!

Jesus said to His disciples, "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance." (Matthew 13:12, NASB)

But, in that same breath, Jesus also told His disciples about the crowds around Him. "I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." (Matthew 13:13, NASB)

Parables were stories, like the one about a man who planted seed on rocky ground and another man who built his house on sand. Stories you could remember and ponder. Ones that would stay with you.

After telling the disciples that the crowds weren't listening to Him, Jesus then immediately quoted the prophet Isaiah to His disciples:

"You shall keep on listening, but shall not understand;

And you shall keep on looking, but shall not perceive;

For the heart of this people has become dull,

With their ears they scarcely hear,

And they have closed their eyes,

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

Hear with their ears,

Understand with their heart, and return,

And I would heal them." (Matthew 13:14-15, NASB)

I always found this passage difficult to understand. Why had the crowds come and gathered around Jesus if not to see Him, if not to hear Him? Clearly, Jesus wasn't being mean to them, but what was He saying? "Otherwise, they might see and I would heal them."

The answer stood right in front of me.

I grew up with Jerry, who doesn't attend church, doesn't own a Bible, isn't interested when I share Jesus, doesn't care to know anything about the Lord.

But Jerry (not his real name) prays every day.

Every, single day. How does that make sense?

Moreover, Jerry is for every ungodly thing that has taken root in this nation. He's a heathen from top to bottom. But Jerry prays.

He prays faithfully.

Every day.

He is who Isaiah meant: "For the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes."

Jerry prays for one reason. He lives in the Bible Belt, surrounded by those of great faith. They tell Jerry what God has done for them. More importantly, Jerry has seen this—friends, relatives, and those he hardly knows receiving huge gifts from God. It definitely happens, and Jerry's certain it can happen for him, too.

So, Jerry prays.

To him, the Lord is nothing more than a lottery or an all-year-round Santa Claus. That's why Jerry prays. There's something in it for



R.A. Mathews

him.

Jesus told His disciples that day that those around Him had not come to listen, not to learn. The crowds had come to Jesus, as Jerry does, for themselves. They wanted the miracles. They wanted to be healed.

They didn't want Jesus.

see More pg 11

WORSHIP WITH US! Sunday 8:45 a.m. Offering the Light of New Hope, by serving God and our neighbors. new hope Lutheran Church "God's work, our hands." Minnehaha Springs

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Senior, from page 2

long after, Anna was at fault in a catastrophic car accident. Anna's assets, including Mary's checking account, can be used to pay the damages from the accident if the insurance coverage isn't enough.

That wasn't Mary's intention. She needs that money for her own living expenses, but the car accident could change all that.

If Anna got a divorce or had to declare bankruptcy, that would likely mean that Mary's checking account could be part of the asset division. That wasn't Mary's intention either.

How can Mary avoid these complications?

Rather than adding a co-owner to an account, switch-

ing to an auto-pay plan for utility, credit card, insurance and other bills can work well. Once it's set up, the customer receives information about the billing amount to be deducted from the account before the payment date.

Another simple option is to have Anna added to Mary's checking account but only as an authorized signer. With that kind of account Anna could sign checks or endorse them for deposit without becoming a co-owner. Also, Anna would not be liable for any overdrafts since she would not be an owner.

If circumstances change, Mary can revoke Anna's authorized signer status.

Another option is to have a separate account that Anna could use for ongoing expenses. Mary could arrange

for monthly transfers into that second account for the amount needed. Anna would not have access to Mary's main account.

Changing the ownership of an account can also mean one child may receive more from the estate than others will.

As we need more help with our daily tasks, being aware of these types of financial remedies can avoid unexpected problems.

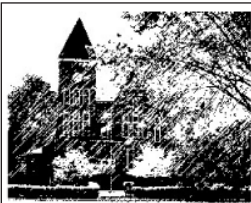
For free legal assistance with a non-criminal matter, West Virginia residents age 60 or older may contact West Virginia Senior Legal Aid at 800-229-5068 or info@seniorlegallaid.org

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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Sawmill at Boyer – circa 1908



A SAWMILL OPERATION in Boyer, West Virginia, about 1908. The photograph was taken by C. E. Flynn who was teaching at the Pine Grove School near Arbovale. (Preserving Pocahontas Archives; ID: PHP000683)

Access the “Preserving Pocahontas” Digital Library at pocahontaspreservation.org/omeka or preservingpocahontas.org

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

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, July 20, 1950

FIELD NOTES

Damon Landis brought in several mussels from Hughes River. This is over about Smithburg, where the big flood killed so many people and generally tore things up so terribly. The raging waters had washed out whole beds of mussels. The ones Mr. Landis had were considerably larger than the average found in Greenbrier River.

Years ago, L. O. Simmons saw in a nursery catalog description of an ornamental tree, advertised as a honey tree. He kept bees and he figured the southeast corner of the Presbyterian church lot was a proper place for it. This is just across an alley

from this printing office, which it now overhangs. The tree thrived from the start. It was supposed to be a kind of white linn. I checked the book and as near as I could make out the new tree was an English linn tree.

The tree is now big and high. Competing trees are to be cut out to give the room it requires. Last week the limbs actually bent with a white tent of bloom, the air was heavy with a rich harvest scent perfume, its whole top buzzed loud with busy bees.

OUR ARMY AND NAVY BOYS

Sergeant Charles H. Sharp, U. S. Army, now stationed in Utah, writes as follows to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Sharp:

July 4, 1950
Dear Mom:

I sort of hit the jackpot yesterday with four letters and the Pocahontas Times.

I am getting a little more accustomed to the base, job and climate. Yesterday the mercury read 101 degrees but it is quite a bit cooler today, at least by 10 degrees, anyway.

This whole wing is training now, learning how to set up a Material Depot. It is rather obvious that it means foreign duty somewhere. From the world situation now, they are starting to caution us about security of information. I guess that means that censorship will begin soon.

I was over at the flight operations yesterday watching some jets perform. It is too bad I can't maneuver one of them. I also talked to some of the pilots about them. Maybe I will get to ride one of them piggyback some day.

About everything is on the alert here. If you cross the street someone else has to know where you are.

I would like to be with that Battalion of the 24th Infantry Division that is in Korea now. I think it would be better than waiting for something to happen.

Guess I had better get out in the sun for a while.

Had steak for dinner.

About all for now.

Love, “Hub”

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Zimmerman, of Marlinton, a daughter, Mary Margaret.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shaver, of Slaty Fork, a daughter, Karen Louise.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ellwood Defibaugh, of Marlinton, a son, Larry Carson.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Cain, a daughter, Donna Mae.

see 75 pg 12

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, July 16, 1925

The Birth of a Nation. That is the picture I saw the other day. It has been riding up and down the land for years, giving cause of offense to a great many citizens. Years ago, it was carried along the mainline and people went down the branches and paid two dollars a throne to see the blamed thing. Twice before this had I walked up to the box office with the price of a ticket in my pocket I would be met face to face with an injunction. Civic authorities had closed it up as against public policy. It is not to be wondered at that I began to wonder whether I would ever see the drama. Some men of high attainments told me that they considered it the greatest play ever produced and other eminent authorities renounced it absolutely rotten...

It outrages my knowledge of the history of the days of the reconstruction of the South after the Civil War. And I am tired of the political propaganda that is still made of the mistakes and unfortunate circumstance of those times. The South has been justified, and the people of the South have given evidence of their high breeding, courage and industry, but they are ridden with spurs by petty tyrants in office...

Lincoln must have taken the view that the common

people of the southern states had suffered from the mistakes of their leaders. It is not possible to say now what would have resulted if Lincoln's policy had been carried out, but it is a fact that nowhere is the name of Lincoln more revered than in the South.

In our own time, Wilson took the view that the common people of Germany had been forced into a war by their representatives. He brought that home to the people of Germany and that war came to an end.

Editor Times;

The Huntersville District Sunday School Convention at Westminster church last Saturday was largely attended... all seemed to take a great interest in the work. Many thanks to all.

After the program was over, I went to Thomas Creek by way of Frost and Dunmore. There had gathered about one hundred people for a Sunday School supper. A happier bunch of people I have yet to find. Folks might be much more friendly in other places and there might be closer cooperation and finer harmony if everybody got together oftener. Like this happy bunch of one hundred people.

It would help everyone to think of another's welfare and get better acquainted. The best way to help a home and make it happy is to visit

there, talk upon the Bible and the lesson questions and keep the Sunday School going at its best, both winter and summer. Let us hear from others – J. H. B.

OLD TIME EXHIBIT

The exhibits of the old pioneer things at the Pocahontas County Fair have become as much of the Fair as the exhibits of cattle, sheep and hogs. It is just as interesting, and much more so to some people than the exhibit of livestock. The Fair is a Pocahontas County institution and practically every man, woman and child is interested in the success of the Fair. The exhibit depends on the interest that the people of the county take in it. There are no premiums and no prizes, but we are interested in showing the young people what the old-time people used. Now, if you have anything at your home or around your farm or in the attic, send it or bring it in. Everything will be taken care of and returned to the owner, when the Fair is over. Take a little time and hunt something and send it in and let us make this the best Old Time Exhibit that we have ever had.

T. S. McNeel, Superintendent

MARRIED

June 25, 1925, at the Methodist Parsonage at Edray, Sherman Moore and Miss Glenna Eubank.

June 11, 1925, at the Methodist Parsonage at Edray, Robert Ryder and Miss Ricky Ray.

July 15, 1925, at the Methodist Parsonage at Edray, John Barney Showalter and Miss Minnie Gertrude Gibson.

YOUNG-MAUPIN

A wedding of considerable interest took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Clendenen on Upper Third Avenue last Wednesday afternoon. Allen Clark Young was united in marriage with Miss Nell Harvey Maupin. The wedding was a quiet one with only Miss Fleeta Lang, Mrs. Frank Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Clendenen in attendance...

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Truman Mace, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore May, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brill, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Robertson, of Edray, a son.

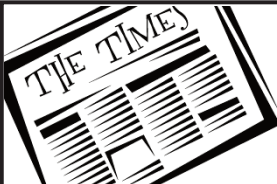
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Austin Galford, a daughter.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Snyder, a son.

DIED

Asa J. Ryder aged 76 years, died at the home of Frank Ryder on Cochran's Creek July 4, 1925... He was on a visit at the home of his son at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife and 13 children by a former marriage. His first wife was a sister of Samuel Gibson, of Elk. His sons are Henry, George, Horace, Summers, John, Cameron, Bias, Raymond, Hubert and Frank. The three daughters are Mary, Lilly and Myrtle.

see 100 pg 12



Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday, July 17, 1975

PIONEER DAYS

Just about everybody and his brother made it to town for Pioneer Days, and a good time was had by all. Everything went along fine. The crowd on Saturday has been estimated by various people at figures from 10,000 to 15,000. The State Police, Town Police and the Sheriff's Department did a good job of handling the flow of traffic.

An affair like this takes the effort of many people to make it successful. Thanks are hereby given to everyone who had a part in it.

It is a nice reflection on our County that everyone gives of time and effort so unselfishly to make a good time for all.

The Rodeo drew over 4,000 people and made the grounds look like the old county Fair.

The Friday night program, Mementoes of the Past, was outstandingly good and won many favorable comments.

The Miss Pocahontas Pageant had for its theme, “The Fabulous Fifties,” and Harley “Elvis Presley” Carpenter brought down the house. The contestants wore long skirts, bobby socks and saddle oxfords and were jitterbugging.

The Mountain Music Show on Wednesday was well attended and the Music Festival Saturday was very good and carried over through Sunday afternoon. All dances had capacity crowds, and the square dance was the best so far, it is reported.

The Parade was excellent – in fact, everything was good, and the Hymn Sing was a fitting climax!

Miss Pocahontas 1975

Miss Susan Viers will reign as Miss Pocahontas during the coming year. Susan is the daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Robert G. Viers, of Buckeye, and was sponsored by Swago Homemakers Extension Club. She is studying for a degree in nursing at Alderson Broaddus College.

WINNERS

History Contest: First place, Sam Hill, Hillsboro; second, Mark Newkirk, Marlinton; third, Wilda Chappell, Hillsboro.

Spelling Contest, youth: First, Matthew Davis, Moline, Illinois; second, Jill Young, Enfield, Connecticut; third, Thomas Daugherty, Charleston.

Spelling Contest, adult: First, Wilda Chappell, Hillsboro; second, Darlene Sharp VanMeter; third, Marcella Price, Elkview.

Music Contest: Old Time Fiddle: First, Lloyd Stevens, Charleston; second, Ira Mullens, Webster Springs; third John Morris, Ivydale.

Old Time Banjo: First, Mike Burns, Morgantown; second, Woody Simmons, Mill Creek; third, David Holbrook, Huntington.

Old Time Band: First, Stompin Crick, Marlinton; second, Walnut String Band Morgantown; third, Kentucky Foothill Ramblers, Huntington.

Bluegrass Band: First, W. Va. Gentlemen, Hurricane; second, The Skyline Pals, Staunton, Virginia; third, Woody Simmons and the Mountain Boys, Mill Creek. Singing: First, Diana Shaw, Camp Minnehaha; second, John Greene, Hurricane.

Miscellaneous: First, Jerry Vance, Hurricane; second, Butch Perry, Marlinton; third, John Mustonen and Billy Hefner, Marlinton; fourth, Woody Simmons, Mill Creek; fifth, George Daugherty, Elkview.

Oldest Contestant: Lee Hammons, Marlinton, 91 years old.

see 50 pg 12

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Price Brothers

Thursday, July 19, 1900

From an interesting letter written by Mrs. Caroline Tallman, of Boone, Iowa, we learn that she is a native of our county, a daughter of the late Jacob and Elizabeth Warwick, born and reared near Green Bank, and upon her marriage, September 12, 1844, to Geo. Poage Tallman, son of Boone Tallman, migrated to Indiana and afterwards to Iowa.

WATER WORKS

No town or community ever needed water works more than the town of Marlinton. And no town could secure a supply of the purest and best of water at a cheaper rate. There are several springs at a distance of from one to four miles, which could be piped into town solely by the force of specific gravity, at a cost not exceeding what many a private citizen of moderate means has expended to bring a supply of water to his home. In less than a mile of the courthouse, there are rapids in Knapps Creek which would furnish water as pure and sweet as could be desired in sufficient quantity to supply a city of 10,000 people.

It has been the expressed intention of Col. McGraw, who is by far the largest property owner of his town, to forward a movement to supply the town with good water, so we feel sure that he as a taxpayer will approve of any practicable means to accomplish this object.

It is at present impracticable to furnish this water by private subscription or direct taxation, but it could be very easily done by issuing bonds.

Let the council pass an ordinance submitting the question to the voters of the town. ... Every property

owner knows that his property will be greatly enhanced by water works, and we apprehend no serious objection on their part to bonding the town for the sake of health, cleanliness and convenience.

CAMP BURNED

Marvin Grove Camp, Monroe County, was burned a few days ago; the entire camp with the exception of a few tents was destroyed. A new circular tabernacle, with a seating capacity of 2,000 was erected last year and many improvements made. These all were burned. This is the second burning of Marvin Grove within a few years. The fire was incendiary, but we are not informed as to any suspicions. Of course, this renders any meeting impossible this year and it is possible the camp will never be rebuilt. – Roncerverte News

ARMSTRONG AND CUMBERLAND PARDONED

After years of perseverance, Alex Armstrong and Frank Cumberland, sent to the penitentiary for 18 and 15 years, have secured their pardons.

The crime of which they were convicted was the robbing of Capt. A. M. Edgar in January 1894. They were able to prove an alibi by witnesses from Marietta. The whole case hung on the question of whether Armstrong was in West Virginia January 4, 1894. A number of men, both white and colored, swore that he was here and fixed the date by the robbery of Captain Edgar.

Soon after the robbery, Armstrong was suspected and as there had been a series of robberies all bearing the same general marks, it was thought that he would return.

see History pg 11

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: July 17, 2025
 Claim Deadline: Monday, September 15, 2025

ESTATE NUMBER 14791
 ESTATE OF LARKEN D. DEAN
 ADMINISTRATOR: Timothy Dean
 142 North Church Street
 Craigs ville, VA 24430-2152

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 11, 2025.
 Melissa L. Bennett
 Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
 7/17/2c

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.

First Publication Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025

ESTATE NAME: CAROL WASHBURN DALTON
 1826 Cherokee Road
 Waynesboro, VA 22980-2229
 ADMINISTRATOR CTA: William W. Dalton
 1826 Cherokee Road
 Waynesboro, VA 22980-2229

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 9, 2025
 Melissa L. Bennett
 Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
 7/17/2c

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WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION
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First Publication Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025

ESTATE NAME: ROSE MARIE JAUREGUI
 113 PINE TREE ROAD
 OCEAN CITY, MD 21842-4645
 ADMINISTRATOR CTA: Christopher S. Robins
 128 East Main Street
 Salisbury, MD 21801-5043

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 2, 2025.
 Melissa L. Bennett
 Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
 7/10/2c

Advertising
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 Monday at noon.
 Call 304-799-4973



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 ACROSS FROM TUDOR'S BISCUIT WORLD
 Lewisburg, WV

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

2024-C-000017-POCAHONTAS COUNTY- WVTB LLC

To: TIMOTHY HOOVER, CASSANDRA HOOVER, BETHANY HOOVER, DAN KENNEDY, TRUSTEE, TODD TAYLOR, TRUSTEE, BETTY HOOVER, CITY NATIONAL BANK OF WEST VIRGINIA, MARLINTON BRANCH, CITY NATIONAL BANK OF WEST VIRGINIA, MARLINTON BRANCH, CITY NATIONAL BANK RETAIL PRODUCTION, TIMOTHY HOOVER, TIMOTHY HOOVER, MEGAN RENEE HOOVER, ELAINA MAE FAITH HOOVER, AT-TALYNNE BREANNA PAIGE HOOVER, ROBERT MARSHALL ALLEN HOOVER, OCCUPANT, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE C/O ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, IRS ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT: EDRAY MAP: 34 PARCEL 0013 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTB LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, CERT NO. 2024-C-000017, located in Edray District, School Lot .50 AC 171x182 IRR, which was returned delinquent or non-entered in the name of HOOVER TIMOTHY (LIFE) CASSANDRA; BE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Pocahontas County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 23, 2025.

WVTB LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after January 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before December 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2023 -2687. \$ 244.10
 Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number. \$ 0.00
 Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest for tax year 2024-2708. \$ 151.64
 Additional taxes with interest. \$ 0.00

Attention Town of Marlinton Water Customers

The Town of Marlinton Water Department will be conducting routine fire hydrant testing throughout the community beginning May 17 and continuing through July 17, 2025.

The purpose of this testing is to ensure that all hydrants are functioning properly and to maintain the safety and reliability of our water system.

During this period, you may notice temporary discoloration or cloudiness in your tap water. This is a normal result of harmless sediment being stirred up in the water lines.

If you experience discolored water, we recommend that you run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water runs clear. Avoid using hot water during this time, as discolored water may enter your hot water tank.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we carry out this important maintenance work.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Marlinton Water Plant at 304-799-7442.

5/22/9c

NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
POCAHONTAS COUNTY
ENHANCED 911 DIRECTOR

POCAHONTAS COUNTY OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Pocahontas County Commission is seeking to fill a 911/Office of Emergency Services Director position to perform such duties as may be necessary for the oversight and management of the Pocahontas County 911 Center, and the planning, organizing and directing of activities of the Pocahontas County Office of Emergency Services.

Interested applicants should submit résumé and letter of interest, including desired starting salary, to the Pocahontas County Commission, c/o Melissa L. Bennett, County Clerk, P.O. Box 209, Marlinton, West Virginia 24954.

All résumés must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 25, 2025.

This position includes full benefits, i.e. health insurance, participation in the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, accrued vacation and sick leave and paid holidays.

Successful candidate is required to be a full-time resident of Pocahontas County.

Job descriptions or other information for this position, may be obtained by contacting the County Clerk's Office at 304-799-4549, or by email: pocack@clerk.state.wv.us

John Rebinski, President
 Pocahontas County Commission
 7/10/2c

2025 ASSESSMENT

July 1, 2025 is the beginning of the new assessment year.
 This assessment will make up the 2026 taxes (tax ticket).

Real estate – Real estate is valued by three methods; farmland, managed timberland and market value.

Farmland – Farm land value is based on the income it produces. In order to have your land valued as farm, you or someone else, must qualify it as a farm or part of a farm operation. If claimed by someone else, you need to ensure that they have your property listed on their farm application. We must have a completed form signed and on file before we can qualify your real estate as a farm. This form must be completed on a yearly basis and is due no later than September 1, 2025. Any applications received after this date will be denied in accordance with West Virginia Legislative Rule 110 C.S.R. 1A. In an effort to expedite the return of the farm form, we will mail an advance copy to those who qualified last year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call or stop by the office and someone here will assist you. Failure to meet the September 1, 2025 deadline will cause your property to be valued at market value which is a drastic increase over farm value. If you are a new applicant, please contact us prior to this date. If you purchased new land or rented new farm property, make sure it is added to your farm form. If you have been approved/qualified for the farm rate and plan to timber/log your property, please contact our office. Land that is timbered/ logged and is part of a qualified farm, can result in your property being appraised at market value and increasing your taxes on the property. If you contact this office, we can provide information and other options that may save you money.

Managed Timberland – The initial contract for Managed Timberland property must be applied for by July 1. Once approved, you must submit an application annually, between March 1st and September 1st every year in order to remain in the program. The Assessor does not approve or deny any Managed Timberland applications. All approvals or denials are done by the West Virginia Division of Forestry. If you have any questions, please call (304) 558-2788 option 2, or write the West Virginia Division of Forestry, 7 Players Club Dr. Charleston, WV 25311. To ensure your application was received, I recommend you call the West Virginia Division of Forestry prior to the deadlines shown above. Applications for this program are available at the West Virginia Division of Forestry at www.wvforestry.com Applications can also be obtained at the Assessor's office.

Market Value - Market Value of real estate is the value your property would expect to bring, if sold. Homestead Exemption - If you are 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled and have been a resident of West Virginia for two full calendar years, you can qualify. This exemption will give you \$20,000 assessed value exemption on your real estate. This exemption will save you at least \$135.00 or as much as \$185.00 for those who live within corporations. In order to receive this exemption, you must complete the application not later than December 1, 2025. This exemption once approved, will remain in effect. To qualify for disability exemption, you must provide proof of disability in addition to completing the application. This office has the application and will assist you in completing the required form.

Personal Property – The assessment of personal property, will be the same as last year. Vehicles will be assessed at 60% of NADA loan value. The value is based on vehicle identification numbers. Big trucks with non-apportioned license are to be reported on your assessment form. Trucks with apportioned license plates will still be reported to the Public Service Commission. All other property will be assessed at 60% of market value. We charge a \$25.00 fee on all supplemental tax tickets. These supplemental tax tickets are changes made because of incorrect information or lack thereof. To avoid the additional charge, please help us make sure you are assessed correctly. This can be done by contacting our office if you have not already been contacted by the Assessor, or a Deputy Assessor.

Dogs – State law requires that a tax be collected on all dogs in the county, which are at least six months old on July 1, or within ten days of the dog becoming six months of age during the assessment year. The dog tax is \$3.00 per dog for those who reside outside of corporations. If you reside within the corporations of Marlinton, Hillsboro or Durbin the dog tax is \$6.00 per dog. Dog tags can also be paid/purchased on-line at our website pocahontascountyassessor.com

Sheep & Goats – There is also a \$1.00 per head assessment on all sheep and goats of breeding age, for those electing to participate in this program. This assessment is to be collected by the Assessor or deputies and submitted to the Department of Agriculture for the Coyote Control Program.

If you have any questions, need assistance, or just feel more comfortable in person, please call or stop by our office. We are here to assist you. We want your assessment to be as easy and as convenient as possible for you to complete. The assessor and/or the deputy assessors, will attempt to contact everyone at their residence, please understand that this is not always possible. We appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring we have a fair and accurate assessment of our county. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call or stop by our office.

Sincerely,
 Johnny A. Pritt
 Pocahontas County Assessor
 7/17/2c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest. \$ 179.95
 Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State, with interest. \$ 1,114.99
 Additional Statutory Fees with Interest. \$ 0.00
 Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor – cashier check, money order, certified or personal check. \$ 1,690.68

see Legal Advertisements pg 9

POCAHONTAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION
 A. Notice to Bidders: Qualified bidders may submit bids for project as described in this Document. Submit bids according to the Instructions to Bidders.

B. Project Identification: Pocahontas Memorial Hospital – Emergency Department Expansion.

1. Project Location: 150 Duncan Road, Buckeye, West Virginia 24924.

C. Owner: Pocahontas Memorial Hospital.

1. Owner's Representative: Rebecca Hammer – rhammer@pmhvw.org : 304-799-1024

D. Architect: Becker Morgan Group, Inc.

1. Architect's Representative: Kelsey S. Fields, AIA, kfields@beckermorgan.com : 410-546-9100

E. Project Description: Project consists of renovations and addition to the emergency departments, and associated sitework to the existing Pocahontas Memorial Hospital.

F. Construction Contract: Bids will be received for the following Work:

1. General Contract (all trades).

1.2 BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING

A. Owner will receive sealed lump sum bids until the bid time and date at the location given below. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by Owner, and delivered as follows:

1. Bid Date: August 12, 2025

2. Bid Time: 10:00 a.m., local time.

3. Location: Pocahontas Memorial Hospital

a. 150 Duncan Road, Buckeye, West Virginia 24924.

b. Bids shall be addressed to attention of Rebecca Hammer.

B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

1.3 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of 5 percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

1.4 PREBID MEETING

A. Prebid Meeting: A Prebid meeting for all bidders will be held at Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, 150 Duncan Road, Buckeye, West Virginia 24924 – Board Room on July 22, 2025 at 10 a.m., local time.

Prospective prime bidders are required to attend.

1.5 DOCUMENTS

A. Online Procurement and Contracting Documents: Obtain access on or after July 9, 2025, by contacting Architect, Becker Morgan Group, Inc. – Kelsey S. Fields, AIA by email, kfields@beckermorgan.com.

Online access will be provided to prime bidders only.

B. Requests for clarification or interpretation (RFI) shall be submitted by email with an attached pdf of the RFI with the company name and address, the project name and project number, cross reference to pertinent Drawings and/or Specification. And shall be submitted to Kelsey S. Fields (kfields@beckermorgan.com) and Brenden D. Frederick (bfrederick@beckermorgan.com).

1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

A. Successful bidder shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time. Work is subject to liquidated damages.

1.7 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder.

Pocahontas Memorial Hospital
 Rebecca Hammer
 7/10/2c

PUBLIC NOTICE

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Water and Waste Management

601 57th Street SE Charleston, WV 25304

Telephone: (304) 926-0495 Fax: (304) 926-0463

Public Notice No.: PH-25-03

Public Notice Date: July 14-18, 2025

GENERAL WV/NPDES

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT
 WASTEWATER DISCHARGES FROM SEWAGE
 TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS OF
 DOMESTIC SEWAGE ONLY

(50,000 GPD or Less, except mine bathhouses)

WV/NPDES PERMIT NO. WV0103110

The Division of Water and Waste Management is proposing to issue a General WV/NPDES Water Pollution Control Permit to regulate the discharge of wastewater from Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems of Domestic Sewage Only (50,000 GPD or Less, except mine bathhouses). The General Permit will authorize the operation and maintenance of establishments engaged in Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems of Domestic Sewage Only (50,000 GPD or Less, except mine bathhouses) and to cover the discharge of treated sewage to waters of the State.

It is proposed that this General Permit be issued for a five (5) year term. The majority of the facilities to be permitted under this General Permit are already in existence, with approximately 3-5 new facilities every year.

In accordance with 60 CSR 5.6.c., Tier 2 antidegradation reviews are not required for these facilities. Coverage under this general permit will require the utilization of minimum treatment technologies that should result in an overall benefit to public health and the welfare of the environment from an improvement in water quality.

All facilities wishing to be covered under this General permit will be required to submit a facility registration application form. Upon receipt of the registration application form, the Division of Water & Waste Management will review it for completeness. The Division of Water & Waste Management then will advise the applicant of its coverage under this permit.

There are approximately 678 treatment facilities currently registered under the present general permit. If those facilities wish to continue discharging, they will be required to register for coverage under the new general permit.

The Director of the Division of Water and Waste Management retains authority to require any owner/operator to apply for and obtain an individual WV/NPDES Permit. This authority will be exercised when the Director determines that such individual permit will better protect the receiving water.

The Draft Permit and Fact Sheet may be inspected by appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management, Public Information Office, 601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

Copies of the documents may be obtained from the Division at a nominal cost.

Any interested persons may submit written comments on the Draft Permit.

Comments will be accepted until August 18, 2025.

They should be addressed to:

Director, WV Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Water and Waste Management

601 57th Street SE

Charleston, WV 25304

Attention: Pamela Houston

Phone: (304) 926-0499, Extension 43864

Fax: (304) 926-0463

E-mail: pamela.s.houston@wv.gov

All comments received within this period will be considered prior to acting on the Draft Permit.

Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues being raised.

The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever a finding is made, based on requests, that there is a significant degree of public interest on issues relevant to the draft General Permit. Interested persons may contact the Public Information Office to obtain further information.

7/17/1c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

You may redeem at any time before December 31, 2025 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand July 9, 2025.

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of Pocahontas County,
State of West Virginia.

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office
County Collections Division
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1 Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Question, please call 1-888-509-6568

7/17/3c

Whistle, from page 1

It was the first time since 1994 the whistle had steam to make it sing, but it won't be the last.

Landis said once they knew it was possible for the whistle to be used on the train; it was decided it would be used on the Greenbrier Express this week for Durbin Days Heritage Festival.

The whistle will be used July 17 through 20 on the excursion from Cass into Durbin.

"I have spent hours polishing it, cleaning it," Landis said. "It was completely grungy from probably thirty, forty years up on the pole. I talked to Noah [Barkley] — he has a collection of whistles. I asked him what the best way was to clean it and he said WD-40 and 400 grit wet sanding emery cloth, so that's what we did."

When the whistle was tested, it was obvious it was much louder than what they use on the train. Landis said he was told that when the tannery was in operation, the whistle could be heard in Green Bank.

Landis plans to take the

whistle to Cass Thursday morning and ride the train back to Durbin so he can hear it blow from inside the engine.

"It's definitely loud and it sounds good," he said. "I'm going to hear it from the engine."

After Durbin Days concludes, the whistle will return to Douglas. Landis said he would like to see the whistle used on the Bald Knob run at some point but hasn't made plans with Mountain Rail yet.

He's just happy to see it back in operation after all these years.

"It will be fun," he said.

Quiet, from page 1

"We got to know people really fast, and people were open and friendly," he said. "The adjustment was fast in terms of filmmaking. It was fantastic. It was really a wonderful experience to film in Pocahontas [County], Green Bank and West Virginia.

"Obviously, the nature, the quiet, the clean air, the people, the lifestyle, everything," he continued. "It was really, really a pleasant experience. In that way, we soon forgot about our phones. We adjusted fine. To us, it became almost like a detox."

For Lypinski, it was like traveling back in time when they came to Green Bank.

"When we were teenagers in the late 80s and early 90s, we had no cellphones, no internet, no Facebook, no online hotel bookings available to us," he said. "In many ways, traveling to the Quiet Zone in West Virginia was like traveling back in time, to an era before we had constant access to the world on a device in our pocket. We really enjoyed this time travel."

The intent of "The End of Quiet" is to show the world this little part of the globe that seems disconnected due to its restrictions on cellphone towers, but for Bis-

gaard, it also became a look at how more access to cellphones can be a disconnect, as well.

"It's really a mirror from my world where everybody is connected and we feel like we're so connected to each other, but to some extent it almost feels like we are getting more and more disconnected," he said. "The aim is to show this wonderful place of Green Bank and how it is to live [in the Quiet Zone]. Hopefully they can give insight into what the rest of the world is missing."

The film made its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in Buffalo, New York, June 7, and was well received by critics and crowds.

Attending the premiere alongside Bisgaard and Lypinski were several of the individuals featured in the documentary including astronomer and scientist Jay Lockman, Dave Warner and Kirstin Wolfe and her son, Leo.

Bisgaard said the film will be shown at other film festivals around the world before it is distributed either online or on broadcast. There is already a European release

no collar. Looking to reunite this dog with its family. Please call, 304-668-3523. 7/3/nc

FOUND - Crocheted baby's hat and booties from the craft show were found in the parking lot at the opera house. The items were returned to the seller. Call 304-653-4331 to claim. 7/17/2nc

Pioneer, from page 1

appearing ladder truck — Shavers Fork Fire and Rescue; Best appearing mini pumper — West Virginia State Forestry; Best appearing rescue — Anthony Creek Volunteer Fire Department; Best appearing tanker — Cowen Volunteer Fire Department; Judges choice — Pocahontas County Search and Rescue; and longest distance traveled — Webster Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

By Saturday, Marlinton was full of festival goers, excited to see the antique car show, grand parade and listen to more music.

It was very hot, but that didn't keep people from lining up on Main Street to get a good spot for the parade — and all the candy, popsicles and swag thrown from the floats.

Grand Parade

Richard Barlow Award: Beni Kedem Shriners Clowns

Jane Price Sharp Award: Kenny Woods State Farm

Queen's Award: Nicholas County Majorette Corps

Douglas Dunbrack Award: Pony drawn cart

McLaughlin Family Award: F&F Service

Director's Choice Award: PCHS Volleyball team

Carlos Schoolcraft Award: John Knotts — 1940 John Deere tractor

The old-time Spelling Bee and History Contest were moved to McClintic Library this year and took place after the parade.

Youth winners in the Spelling Bee: first place, Victor Dean; second place, Konrad Lowe; and third place, Annabel Swan. Adult winners: first place, Trevor Swan; second place, Brian Smith; and third place, Cathy Mosesso.

Youth winners in the History Contest: first place, Victor Dean; second place, Carter Smith; third place, Konrad Lowe.

Adult winners: first place, Steve Bully; second place, Cathy Mosesso; and third place, Silas Dean.

Those who stayed in town after the parade enjoyed a magic show by Chet Shiflett,

as well as music from the Bing Brothers with Jack Krack, Mud Hole Control, and Jilt.

Quilt Show winners: first place, Annette Graham; second place, Diane Beverage; and third place, Sandy Irvine.

Photography

Best of Show — Adult: Eddie White. Youth: Sarah Barkley.

Black and White — Adult: first place, Kristi Dinkins; second place, Joseph Van Meter; and third place, Kristi Dinkins.

Youth: first place, Sarah Barkley.

Animal — Adult: first and second place, Charity Morrison; and third place, Chuck Beverage.

Youth: first place, Liberty Barkley; and second place, Grayson Barlow.

Wild Animals — Adult: first place, Eddie White; second place, Susan Gauntt; and third place, Paul Carmichael.

People — Adult: first place, Chuck Beverage; second place, Joy Mullen; and third place, Kristi Dinkins.

Youth: first place, Liberty Barkley.

Nature — Adult: first place, Susan Gauntt; and second and third place, Charity Morrison.

Youth: first place, Sarah Barkley; and second place, Liberty Barkley.

Still Life — Adult: first place, Kristi Dinkins.

Scenic — Adult: first place, Joey Van Meter; second place, Chuck Beverage; and third place, Kristi Dinkins.

Youth: first and second place, Liberty Barkley; and third place, Sarah Barkley.

33rd Pocahontas County Art Council's Annual Art Show

Best in Show — Diondra North, "On a Winter's Night."

Oil — second place, Diana Nelson, "Ocean's Edge."

Acrylic — first place, Melissa Totten, "Snow Fun;" second place, Julia Williams, "Buttercups in the Field;" and third place, Diana Nelson, "Spirit of Winter."

Watercolor — first place, Patricia Stine, "Northbound;" second place, Patricia Stine, "Botox Beak;" and third place, Patricia Stine."

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 818B 10th Avenue, Marlinton. Nice building with two rooms. Jay Kniceley, 304-799-6243. 7/10/4c

HOUSES AND REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE - Eight acres, Town of Marlinton. Scenic views. Borders National Forest and hike/bike trail. Call 304-799-6312 after 6 p.m. 7/10/2p

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

POSITIONS AVAILABLE - Part-time and Full-time Cook and Dietary aide at Pocahontas Center, 15

Everett Tibbs Road, Marlinton. No experience required. Offers benefits. Background check required. Contact Robert at 304-992-6124. 7/10/3p

FOUND

FOUND - A Doodle dog near Cass on June 28. He's a brown male with

date, but they are still working on the American distribution.

The connections made in Green Bank will remain with Bisgaard and Lypinski, who both say they hope to return to visit. In fact, they have been invited to a wedding coming up this September, which shocked them.

They never expected to make that strong of a connection with those who were featured in the documentary.

"I think that says a lot about the people in Green Bank, West Virginia," Bisgaard said. "It has really been a pleasure to be in contact. I'd love to come back, and I know Mikael would, too."

"It's such a beautiful, beautiful place."

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Super Crossword

Answers

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HILLSBORO AUTOMOTIVE

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

LABORERS AND CARPENTERS NEEDED

Location: Snowshoe, WV. Starting pay is \$18/hour. MUST have dependable transportation and be able to get up and down Snowshoe Mountain year-round, regardless of weather. Opportunity for pay raise depending on experience and work ethic. 40-hour work week with opportunities for overtime. There is a 60-day probationary period.

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



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A transmission line in Randolph and Pocahontas counties originating at the Pickens substation. It begins in a southerly direction crossing County Route 47 and continuing in a southeasterly direction crossing County Route 45. It continues in a southeasterly direction crossing County Route 47 two more times heading towards Monteverville. After crossing State Route 15, the line continues in a southerly direction crossing County Route 49. From there, it crosses from Randolph County into Pocahontas County crossing County Route 219-2. It continues in a southeasterly direction, crossing U.S. Route 219 and ending at the Linwood substation.

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Warren Burns and Mya Workman

Workman and Burns compete at world’s largest rodeo

Mya Workman and Warren Burns, of Hillsboro, earned a position on the West Virginia High School rodeo team and traveled with fellow teammates to Rock Springs, Wyoming, the week of July 13 – 19 to compete in Breakaway and Team Roping competitions at the 77th Annual National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR).

Burns is as upcoming senior at Pocahontas County High School. Workman graduated with the Class of 2025 and will begin her college career in the fall at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Featuring more than 1,800 contestants from 44 states, five Canadian Provinces, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and Guatemala, the NHSFR is the world’s largest rodeo. In addition to competing for more than \$150,000 in prizes and over \$200,000 in added money, NHSFR contestants will also compete for more than \$375,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named an NHSFR World Champion. To earn this title, contestants must finish in the top 20 – based on their combined times/scores in the first two rounds – to advance to Saturday evening’s final round. World champions will then be determined based on their three-round combined times/scores.

Again, this year, the Saturday championship performance will be televised nationally as a part of the Cinch Highschool Rodeo Tour telecast series. LIVE broadcasts of each NHSFR performance will air online at www.thecowboychannel.com. Performance times begin at 7 p.m. and competition continues daily at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. through July 19.

To follow your local favorites at the NHSFR, visit NHSRA.com daily for complete results.

Hard, from page 2

ways, the face of the university. But this is their university. It belongs to the people.”

Goals, Grit and Grand Vision

Benson is not one to tiptoe into his new role. His vision for WVU is anchored in three foundational goals:

Be Visible and Accessible

“I want to be out and about. I want people to know I’m all in.” He hopes to visit all 55 counties of West Virginia within his first year.

Chart a Bold, Proactive Path

With an eye toward enrollment, workforce alignment and resource development, Benson is keen to pivot from reaction to innovation. “We’ve got to be aggressive. Set the tone, not follow it.”

Embrace and Learn WVU’s Rich History

As a trained historian, Benson treasures the past. A recent visit to the WVU Library left him in awe of the University’s founding document from 1867. “Now look at us – a nearly \$2 billion budget and a \$7.5 billion health system.”

Leading with a Shovel

Benson’s leadership style is hands-on – sometimes

while wielding a snow shovel. One now-legendary viral moment from his presidency at Eastern Kentucky University involved him responding to a student’s tweet during a massive snowstorm. The student jokingly said he’d come to class if the president helped shovel his driveway. Benson did just that.

The story went viral. Radio shows called. “The Today Show” took an interest. Tire companies sent snow shovels.

But for Benson, it wasn’t

a PR stunt. It was a moment of connection.

“I did it because I wanted to see what the student would do,” he said.

Benson drove 10 miles to the student’s house and started shoveling. The student’s mother came out and “just about fell off the porch when she realized the university president had been summoned by her son.”

Read more about Michael T. Benson WVU Today “From Golden Sands to Gold and Blue”

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More, from page 6

On Palm Sunday, they roared forth praise, shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David;

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:19, NASB)

The son of the warrior David would free them from the despicable Romans!

When Jesus died on the cross, they were gone. He meant nothing now, couldn’t do anything for them.

Why do you come to the Lord? To get from Him—eyes to see and see not, ears to hear and hear not? Or do you come to the Lord to be with Him?

I remember the day I talked with that prominent man. He just wanted to learn more about the Bible. God rewards those who seek Him.

“And without faith it is

impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:16)

I began this message by telling you what Jesus said to His disciples, “For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance.”

In that same breath, Jesus also said, “I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

Seek God. Talk to Him. Read His words. “For whoever has, to him more shall be given.”

If you truly want God, if you pray from a heart filled with love for Jesus, you’ll be blessed. You’ll get more and more of God’s good stuff.

The Rev. Mathews (J.D., M.Div., B.A.) is the author of the Reaching to God series which you can see at RA-Mathews.com

Nevertheless, you don’t actually know Chinese. You are formally manipulating Chinese symbols. But you don’t understand what any of the symbols mean.

Large language models are stuck inside Searle’s Chinese room.

They do not understand the meaning of the symbols you input, nor do they understand the meaning of the symbols they output in response. They don’t know if their answer is true because they don’t know what true means any more than they know what any other word they produce means.

As a result, you end up with things like the strawberry bug. Multiple LLMs can spell the word correctly but will insist that there are but two r’s in the word. The models don’t know what words mean and therefore cannot make simple inferences about them.

As LLM training sets get bigger, hallucinations will grow less frequent. But these models won’t get you all the way to thinking any more than adding more books to the Chinese room will turn you into a Chinese speaker.

Joe Miller
joe.miller@fountaindigitalconsulting.com

History, from page 7

return. In about a year, Armstrong was seen coming back to his native county and word was sent on ahead. That day, he was questioned and denied his identity. He and Cumberland were arrested and found to be heavily armed, and had a bottle of gunpowder and Vaseline, supposed to be for the purpose of disguising their faces. The explanation they gave was that they had come to Pocahontas to play cards with the lumbermen, an excuse so flimsy that it does not need to be exposed.

It is a significant fact that since then, there has not been a single robbery in Pocahontas County. We fear there has been a serious miscarriage of justice in granting this pardon...

SNAKE BITTEN

Irvine Wilfong was bitten by some poisonous reptile or insect, presumable a copperhead, under very peculiar circumstances last Thursday night. He had been stacking wheat at Moff Waugh’s on the river and went to bed about 9 o’clock. His slumber was disturbed by fleas, which, he says, were numerous and ferocious. About 11 o’clock, he awoke with a fiery pain in his leg, which rapidly mounted to his body and head. Upon examination, two pinpoint wounds were found in his leg below the knee, such as would be made by a snake. The leg was by this time much swollen and giving great pain. It was hard to believe that a snake could have been

in the bed, and none was found, neither spider or other insect, but this seems to be the only explanation of the case.

In spite of all that could be done, Mr. Wilfong grew worse during the night and in the morning started for his home a few miles distant. Before he reached his own home and when near his father’s house, the Rev. Ben Wilfong, he was quite overcome and became delirious. Dr. Price was called in, and while suffering a great deal of pain for several days, he is now thought to be out of danger.

DIED

Near Green Hill, Monday evening, July 16, 1900, Mrs. Sally Sharp, wife of John Sharp, aged about 74 years. The deceased was the eldest daughter of the late William Johnson of Verdant Valley, Pocahontas County. She was a peaceable, industrious woman and was devoted to her home, and though aged as she was, she will be missed by her family and neighbors.

Calendar, from page 4

Tuesdays at Hillsboro, Wednesdays at Green Bank, Thursdays at Linwood, Fridays at Durbin. Contact your branch to register.

Linwood Little Librarians Playgroup Fridays at Linwood Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Budding Bookworms Playgroup at McClintic Public Library Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Story time and play for children five and younger.

PARKS AND REC Adult Pickup Basketball Thursdays 5:30 p.m.

Jiggle Wiggle Giggle – Fridays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Wellness Center

Taekwondo, for ages 13 and older, Wednesdays 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Wellness Center.

Zumba Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Your, from page 3

part of Nevada. A North Carolina man was killed in 2022 when his GPS sent him across an abandoned bridge, and it collapsed. The takeaway from these “GPS routes gone wrong” is that we should carry a map in the vehicle and use common sense, turning around when you are being directed in the general direction of danger.

Butterflies, bats and birds possess sophisticated navigation systems compared to humans. Bats use echolocation to map their surroundings through high-frequency sounds. (There is a growing number of sightless people developing the use of echolocation to navigate safely in most surroundings.) Birds use a combination of skills and neural systems to navigate, including the Earth’s magnetic field, stars and the sun. Likewise, Monarch butterflies utilize the sun and their internal clock as a compass.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School recently identified an internal compass in the human brain, albeit not as extensive as those previously identified in birds, bats and butterflies. Very specialized brain cells, known as “head-direction” cells, monitor body movement, resulting in enhanced spatial awareness and a more accurate sense of direction.

Yes, we’ve an internal compass, but I wouldn’t recommend attempting to migrate with the Monarch butterflies to Mexico or Southern California each winter based on it. And that is a good segue to the topic of maps. When the GPS fails, or you feel you need to reconnect to the wonderful world of maps, they’re still

CHURCH NOTICES
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church near Beartown – Worship Sunday 9 a.m.

Grace and Truth Home Fellowship – Sunday, Worship 11 a.m. Tuesday, Prayer 7 p.m. Located in Arbovale. Call Jim at 304-456-3255 for directions.

Marlinton United Methodist Church – Worship at 11 a.m. Parking lot service on 90.3 FM radio or join us on Facebook. Office hours, Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

around.

The oldest map of the then-known world is a clay tablet known as the Imago Mundi. It dates back to 600 BC and shows Babylon as the center of the Mesopotamian world. As exploration increased and more of the world was explored, parchment and animal hide maps became increasingly popular. Modern maps, by and large, are made of paper and remain ubiquitous, although often ignored and relegated to the glove compartment.

The Polynesians navigated throughout the Polynesian Triangle without the aid of physical maps. They sailed for thousands of miles across the open Pacific Ocean, establishing settlements in the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, and Easter Island, without so much as a nautical chart. The Polynesian maps were in their brains; that is, for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years, it was songs and oral traditions handed down by their ancestors that made them such skilled navigators.

The Polynesians were also astute observers of the natural world, using stars and observing wind patterns, ocean swells, and birds to successfully navigate the vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean.

I love maps, and I know many others who share my fondness for them. I love the sound of unfolding a map and trying, often in vain, to refold it. I enjoy just looking at a map, and on many travels, I have crawled into my tent at night perusing a map for hours before deciding the next day’s route.

Maps offer detailed representations of everything that surrounds us and, by using maps, we quickly learn, for example, here in West Virginia, if we want to travel to

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 Methodist Church – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Marlinton Church of Christ, Lakeview – Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m. and 6 pm. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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.

Frank Church of the Nazarene – Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening service 6 p.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible Study; Thursday 7 p.m. Visitation.

Colorado, we must head in a westerly direction.

But maps offer so much more than just getting from point A to point B. Maps stimulate our imagination; a map can provide the potential for learning and adventure, whether on the road or a backcountry hike.

Some years ago, I was driving back from Alaska and stayed in a National Forest Service campground in Northern Arizona. Going over my atlas that evening before turning in, I found a town in New Mexico called Pie Town. I was traveling back to Ohio, and Pie Town would only be a short detour from my easterly route home.

Without a map, I would have never known there was such a place. And, true to its name, I had a gustatory adventure of epic proportions in this quaint town, three pieces of pie for breakfast and a whole pie for the road.

Maps can take you to towns you may have never heard of. If you really want to “go to Hell,” Michigan can accommodate you because Hell is just a few miles northwest of Ann Arbor. I’ll pass on that one.

Then, there’s Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, named after a once-popular TV game show, and you don’t want to miss Lizard Lick, North Carolina. Georgia welcomes you to visit Hopeulikit, and they do hope you like it.

GPS can cause our sense

of direction and spatial awareness to atrophy, like an unused muscle. Perhaps we should leave the GPS off occasionally and use the map instead. Technology can reduce skills that we once possessed. For example, when I was in grade school, my cursive was considered excellent. However, now my handwriting is illegible. The keyboards on my cell phone and laptop have reduced my former longhand skills to meaningless scribble.

I hope that our ability to read maps, our sense of direction, and our spatial awareness do not become extinct. I hope future generations can glance up at the night sky and point out the North Star to their children. I hope that technology does not rob us of knowing the four cardinal points, North, South, East and West. I hope that a person walking on a sunny morning knows that if the sun is in their eyes, they are heading east.

As I write this article, my brother, Dave, is setting sail in the South China Sea on a solo adventure, navigating through the Philippine archipelago and visiting islands along the way. Although he has equipped his boat with state-of-the-art navigation technology, you can bet that Captain Dave has the capabilities to navigate safely using dead reckoning. Here’s to fair winds and following seas, brother.

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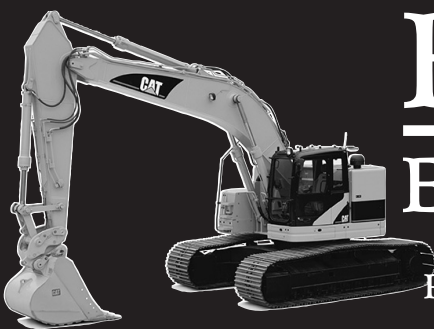
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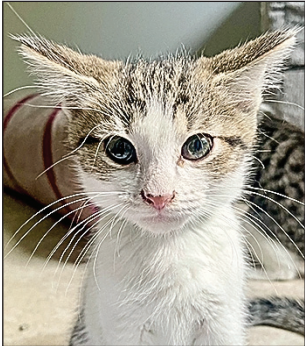
News from the Cat House

This week, the Cat House has several adorable kittens seeking forever homes.

One playful bunch – six females and one male – full of energy, curiosity and cuddles are about 10 weeks old. When they're not chasing toys, and practicing their pounces and play fighting, they are curling up together for cozy naps.

These little angels are ready for adoption – ideally in pairs – or to homes which already have a friendly cat in residence.

The \$70 adoption fee includes spay/neuter, rabies vaccine and first combo vaccine, microchip, SNAP test, dewormer and flea and tick



HSPC, please get in touch. The HSPC can always use:

- Cat litter
- Cat food, canned and dry
- Cat beds
- KMR (kitten formula)
- Bleach
- White vinegar
- Paper towels
- Hand soap
- Laundry soap pods

The HSPC is most grateful for the support of the community in helping to support animals in need in our county.

treatment.

*July Adoption Special: For approved applicants, a donation of cat food or cat litter may be accepted in place of the adoption fee.

The Humane Society of Pocahontas County is located in Marlinton at 410 Second Avenue. Please call

to make an appointment to meet these darling kittens.

As always, the Humane Society of Pocahontas County continues its “trap, neuter and release” program to keep the feral cat population down throughout the county.

This requires not only

hours of volunteer time but also supplies. The colonies are currently in need of 375 pounds of Kitty Kibble (which does not include the

food used in the Cat House nursery).

If anyone would like to help in this effort or would like to join in the work of the

100, from page 7

another child who died in infancy.

Mrs. Della Weiford Dilley, 40, of Huntersville, died at the home May 21, 1925. Her death was due to heart failure... She was married to Willey A. Dilley. To this

union 10 children were born. The funeral service was held from the home. Friends of Mrs. Dilley came from many sections of the county to pay tribute to one who had lived among them and loved them.

75, from page 7

DEATHS

Forrest King Moore, aged 83, died July 11, 1950, at his home near Durbin on Back Alleghany Mountain. The funeral was held from the Bethel Church with burial in the church cemetery. The deceased was a son of the late Andrew Jackson Moore. ...

1950. Funeral service was conducted from the Mt. Zion Methodist church on Droop with burial in the McCarty Cemetery. Among her survivors are two brothers, Arthur Hollandsworth and Saul Hollandsworth...

Burial in the Stony Bottom Cemetery, the service being held from the Union Church. The deceased was a son of the late J. J. and Ellen McCarty Noonon. He was married to Miss Lottie E. McComb. To this union 11 children were born...

Mrs. Rebecca Virginia McCarty, 84, of Droop Mountain, died July 14,

Mrs. Lottie M. Stone, age 79, of Boyer, burial in the Boyer cemetery. The deceased was a daughter of the late James and Polly Spencer.

Benjamin Franklin Taylor, aged 69 years, a retired mail carrier, died at his home at Dunmore. The funeral service was held from the Dunmore Methodist Church with burial in the Dunmore Cemetery.

Cleveland Heren Noonan, aged 65 years, of Clover Lick, died July 12, 1950.

50, from page 7

SEARS STORE

Sears will soon open a catalog store in Marlinton in the old Sportsman's building on Beard Heights.

To: The Pocahontas Times

Please allow me to use your newspaper to express my thanks to all the many people in Marlinton and Hillsboro who were so very kind to me on the day I spent there during the search for my son, Peter Hauer.

Even though they were strangers, each one with

whom I came in contact practiced the golden rule by sincerely offering to help me during my greatest sorrow. Many of them did help me.

I can understand now why my son told me so many times how much he loved the people and the beautiful mountains of West Virginia.

Words cannot express my thanks and appreciation to all those brave people who gave of their time and toiled so much in the search for Peter Hauer

I shall never forget all those good people of Hillsboro and Marlinton. May God send his blessings on

you and your land.

Very sincerely yours,
Mrs. Carmelita Hauer

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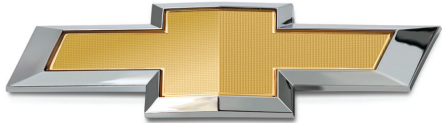
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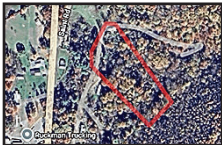
NEW LISTINGS



6803 – 151 acres of mountain property with Greenbrier River Valley views. Close to Watoga State Park – \$499,999



6804 – 1.2 acres near Watoga State Park, Calvin Price State Forest and Monongahela National Forest – \$115,000



6807 – Nettie, Nicholas County. 2.109 acres. Located at end of road. Nice building site. Public water available. – \$19,900



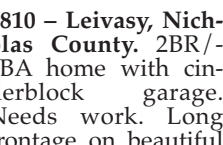
6809 – Nettie, Nicholas County. 2BR/1BA in need of repair. Nice location on one lane paved road. – \$29,900



6812 – Crawley, Greenbrier County. Approximately 0.63 acre level lot with beautiful creek. – \$18,900



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6810 – Leivasy, Nicholas County. 2BR/-1BA home with cinderblock garage. Needs work. Long frontage on beautiful



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6721 – Hillsboro. 3BR/1BA A-frame cabin on 2 acres. End of lane location. Wrap around deck and private back porch. Close to Greenbrier River and Trail and national forest. – \$155,000



6721 – Hillsboro. 3BR/1BA A-frame cabin on 2 acres. End of lane location. Wrap around deck and private back porch. Close to Greenbrier River and Trail and national forest. – \$155,000