



Compass

**Discover something Wild and Wonderful
in every direction in Pocahontas County**

**Bring Your Appetite
to Rustic Roots Bar and Grill, Page 8**

**Lookout for this Trail
Overlook Trail in Marlinton, Page 14**



TRADE HOT SUMMER DAYS

FOR FIERY FOLIAGE.

As summer slows, trade hot summer days for crisp mountain air, cozy cabins, and a ride through peak fall color at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park.

Whether you're chasing foliage, planning a peaceful retreat, or bringing the whole family for leaf-peeping fun, now's the time to book your fall getaway to Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

Nature's 
**MOUNTAIN
PLAYGROUND**
POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WV®

PocahontasCountyWV.com
304.799.INFO (4636)

VISIT GREEN BANK OBSERVATORY

COMING THIS FALL
Family Science Day is back!

Featuring
Educational Opportunities,
Special Tours, Star Parties
and more!



Enjoy the Exhibit Hall and Galaxy Gift Shop, catch a Bus Tour of the site, then grab your lunch at the Starlight Café.

We're only 15 minutes from Cass, 25 minutes from Snowshoe!

Open Thursday to Monday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. -- Closed Tuesday & Wednesday

Visit us on the Web for updated event & tour schedule: greenbankobservatory.org



Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/GreenBankScienceCenter/



GREEN BANK
OBSERVATORY

Opera House presents great entertainment

'Deera's Country Funeral'
September 12
and 13 – 7 p.m.
September 14 – 3 p.m.

Pocahontas County Drama Workshop returns to the stage with its upcoming production of "Deera's Country Funeral," a heartfelt and humorous play by acclaimed playwright and educator Ned Dougherty.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, September 12, and Saturday, September 13, both at 7 p.m., with a special matinee on Sunday, September 14, at 3 p.m.

Directed by writer, actor and director Eric Fritzius, the play is filled with humor, poignancy and themes of destiny, community and the true measure of a life well-lived.

Recently featured at the Appalachian Plays and Playwrights Festival at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, "Deera's Country Funeral" is expected to both delight and engage local audiences.

The cast brings this community-centered story to life.

Craig Goheen stars as Ray Sally, while Jeff Marcum plays John, the local



undertaker tasked with arranging Deera's unconventional send-off. Rachel Comacho portrays Mary, John's wife — an opinionated hairdresser and town gossip with an unexpected connection to the spirit world. Jack Herold plays Cole, their son, a teenager torn between his love for Gauley County and his desire to leave. Maggie Abbott performs as Carolina, a traveling storyteller brought in to deliver Deera's eulogy. Vivian Helmick rounds out the cast as Corva, the Guardian Angel of Gauley County, who must ensure the funeral goes smoothly or risk demotion in heaven.

"Deera's Country Funeral" is presented with support from Dramas, Fairs and Festivals and the Pocahontas Opera House Foundation.

The Hackensaw Boys
Friday
September 20
7 p.m.

The Pocahontas County Opera House will host roots music group Hackensaw Boys at 7 p.m. Friday, September 20, as the



The Hackensaw Boys

band continues its celebration of the 20th anniversary of the album "Love What You Do."

Since forming in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1999, Hackensaw Boys has built an international following through high-energy performances and an innovative blend of traditional and contemporary

sounds. Now based in Lynchburg, Virginia, the six-piece ensemble has earned critical acclaim for merging an old-time sonic palette with a folk-punk sensibility — creating what many describe as "a rock and roll show played on banjo and fiddle with all the spirit of a hoedown."

See **HOUSE**, page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

Pocahontas County Opera House.....	4
Rustic Roots Bar and Grill	8
Mingo Saloon and Lodge	10
Overlook Trail in Marlinton	14
Counting Crows.....	16
The Poolroom	20
The Road of Churches.....	24

Cover: A view of downtown Marlinton from the observation deck of the Overlook Trail, accessed at Fourth Avenue. Photo courtesy of Mon Forest Towns



Come play in our backyard this fall!

We're right on the river!

- Dine indoors or out and enjoy new menu items and daily specials
- Wine and beer served with meals
- Clean, affordable lodging with Wi-Fi and cable TV.

Just minutes away from canoeing or kayaking, fishing, mountain biking and hiking. Buses welcome!

Greenbrier Grille & Lodge

Open daily at 7 a.m.

At the bridge in Marlinton 304.799.7233 greenbriergrille.com



**"THINGS YOU
NEED,
CLOSE TO
HOME"**

TRENT'S GENERAL STORES

Gas and Diesel,
Groceries, Snacks,
USDA Fresh Meats,
Hardware,
Plumbing Supplies,
Hunting and
Fishing
Licenses
and Supplies

Two locations
serving the
northern end
of the county:

ARBOVALE

304-456-9906

BARTOW

304-456-3228

Cristina Vane
October 18
7 p.m.

The band's sound features its signature charisma, a handmade percussion instrument crafted from cans and metal objects. Their music draws equally from bluegrass legends such as Del McCoury Band and indie rock acts including Pavement, the Avett Brothers and Mountain Goats.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Cristina Vane will take the storied stage of the Pocahontas County Opera House on Friday, October 18, at 7 p.m.

Vane, widely regarded as one of the most compelling young artists on the American roots music scene, will bring her dy-



Cristina Vane

namical sound and extraordinary musicianship to what promises to be an unforgettable evening in the heart of Pocahontas County.

Born at the base of the Alps in Italy and raised across Italy, England and France, Vane's artistry is a product of far-reaching life experiences and her rich half-American, half-Guatemalan heritage.

Her music draws on diverse influences, from classic rock and '90s indie to prewar blues, bluegrass, old-time fiddle and country.

"Rolling Stone" describes her as "evocative of a young Bonnie Raitt and early PJ Harvey... entrancing stuff."

A virtuosic guitarist and captivating vocalist, Vane started writing songs and playing guitar as a teenager in London. After refining her slide guitar

and clawhammer banjo on the Venice Beach boardwalk in Los Angeles, she earned her degree from Princeton and further honed her craft at the legendary McCabe's Guitar Shop.

Vane's artistic journey has since brought her across America, from living out of a car and tent for her "Show Me Your Hometown Tour" to establishing herself in Nashville's vibrant music scene.

Vane has supported legendary acts including Molly Tuttle, Bob Weir, Wynonna Judd, Jerry Douglas and Town Mountain, and her critically celebrated work has been featured by Rolling Stone Country, NPR and in the Bank of America ad for Ken Burns' "Country Music" documentary.

Driftwood
October 24
7 p.m.

There's an unmistakable energy in Marlinton when the Pocahontas County Opera House prepares to welcome celebrated artists to its historic stage.

With autumn in full swing and anticipation high, the Opera House is set to host acclaimed Upstate New York folk-rockers Driftwood October 24 at 7 p.m., inviting community members and visitors alike to experience one of the region's most dynamic live acts.

See **HOUSE**, page 6

DINE WITH US!

Serving burgers, pizza and American comfort food, plus milkshakes, coffee, and soda fountain. Daily and weekend specials posted on Facebook.

Tuesday 1 - 8 p.m. Wed. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

WINTER HOURS BEGIN IN NOVEMBER -

CALL OR VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

*Located inside the
 Cass Company Store*

304-456-7429

Dine in or carry out



GLADES
Building Supply
 Inc.

*Complete
 Building Center*

- ✓Lumber & Hardware
- ✓Kitchen Cabinets ✓Appliances
- ✓Plumbing & Electrical Supplies

WE DELIVER!

Official UPS Pickup/Drop-off Service Provider,
 Mon. - Fri. (No QR Codes)

304-799-4912



19456 Seneca Trail, Marlinton, WV

THE BEAR'S DEN



10811 Potomac Highlands Trail
 (Rt. 28/92) Boyer

CONVENIENCE STORE • GAS

LOTTERY • KENO • COLD BEER

FAMILY-STYLE RESTAURANT

Call for restaurant reservations and take-out

681-206-7973

Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Liberty.

Store and gas pumps open seven days a week



**Make us your home
 base when you
 vacation in
 Pocahontas County!**

- 80 full hook-up sites with 50, 30, and 20 amp service
- Upper and lower campgrounds; primitive camping
 - Picnic tables, Fire pits/firewood • Playground
 - Hot showers with private dressing rooms
 - Flush toilets (with privacy) • Dump station
- Hiking/biking trails • Pet friendly • Groceries and gas nearby

**Rustic, deluxe "tiny home"
 log cabins now available for rental!**

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

**Contact us at 304-456-4667, online at
 boyerstation.com or on Facebook.**

HANDMADE WV MARKET
 ART CRAFTS FOOD

216 Ninth St., Marlinton
 Across from
 Discovery Junction
304-646-2491

WV Made Art, Crafts,
 Grab-And-Go Meals,
 Local Produce,
 Meats and More.
 OPEN DAILY.
 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

24-Hour Wrecker & Rollback Service

F&F Service Center LLC
 Justin & Chase Fisher, owners

Rt. 39 at Beaver Creek Road, Huntersville

ARI Certified • Complete Auto Repair • New Tires • State and Modified Inspections
 Transmission Flushes • Brakes • Exhausts • 2 & 4 Wheel Computer Alignments

304-799-6431 Night 304-799-6079
 or 304-799-7148

All major
 credit cards
 accepted

Driftwood's rise from humble basement beginnings to respected music stages across America tells a story familiar to many music lovers – of passion, perseverance and the relentless pursuit of creative truth. Founding members Joe Kollar and Dan Forsyth, alongside violinist Claire Byrne, bassist Joey Arcuri, and drummer Sam Fishman, have cultivated a sound that is at once grounded in bluegrass tradition and unafraid to push boundaries.

Miramar
November 8
7 p.m.

The soulful sounds of Latin America will echo in Marlinton this fall as Miramar, a genre-defying ensemble celebrated for their innovative approach to classic bolero music, takes the stage at the Pocahontas County Opera House on Saturday, November 8, at 7 p.m.

In a world where place names evoke emotion, there's something about "Miramar" — Spanish for "look to the sea" — that beckons with a breezy promise of romance and nostalgia. Miramar, the band, channels that poetic essence, crafting music

that nods to the golden age of boleros while pushing the genre into contemporary territory.

Formed by Puerto Rican singer and songwriter Rei Álvarez, Miramar is a study in old-meets-new. Álvarez, together with vocalist Laura Ann Singh and pianist Marlysse Simmons-Argandoña, blends the lush harmonies and cinematic arrangements of the 1950s with nods to Mexican pop ballads, Cuban cabaret and the eclectic haze of "Bolero Beat" — where boleros flirt fear-

lessly with bossa nova, rock, and funk.

Critics have hailed Miramar's recordings as "an elegant invocation of heri-

tage" (NPR), "lush and lyrical" (NBC Latino), and "timelessly crafted" (World Music Central).

See **HOUSE**, page 7



Driftwood



Miramar

*Live music, great food and delicious drinks
right in the heart of Main Street!*

OLD MOUNTAIN



TAVERN
MARLINTON, WV

A Zach Bryan Great American Bar!



Monday - Thursday 4 - 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday Noon - 1 a.m.

Sunday 1 - 9 p.m.

NOW OFFERING LODGING

with suites above the tavern!
Call 304-799-4788 or email
oldmountaintavern@gmail.com for
accommodations. View at
airbnb.com/slink/LyG8LjAu



221 Eighth Street • 304-799-4788



**HIGHLAND
COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL**

Become a member

www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org

All events to take place at the Highland Center in Monterey, VA

September 14,
3 p.m.

**HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA**



Directed by Gretta Sandberg, musicians come together from Highland, Bath, Pendleton and Pocahontas counties.

**FURNACE
MOUNTAIN
BAND**

October 11,
3 p.m.



Furnace Mountain Band plays music from the American Appalachian traditions, original compositions, and songs penned by their favorite song writing friends.

November 8,
7 p.m.

**MEMBER
MEETING**

Join us for our annual member meeting and performance by pianist Francesca Hurst.

**ORCHESTRA
CONCERT**

December 7,
3 p.m.

The Highlands Community Orchestra will perform holiday music.



The Highland County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization supported by contributions from members, friends, community foundations, and government organizations. Thank you to The Virginia Commission for the Arts, The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge, The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation, The Little Swiss Fund and of course, our loyal membership!



Huntersville Traditions Days October 3 - 4

*Spend a weekend back in time and
enjoy demonstrations of traditional
cultural skills of bygone days!*

**October 3:
Friday Evening
at Huntersville
Schoolhouse**

**Free Old-fashioned Supper
Pie Auction • Old-Time Cakewalk
Musical entertainment by
The Bing Brothers with Jake Krack**

Saturday, October 4:

**Live entertainment throughout the town
Salt Risin' Bread and Cornbread Contests
Tours of the reconstructed Clerk's Office;
Schoolhouse, Jail and Re-enactors' Camps
Huntersville Museum**

**Traditional arts demos • Quilt Show
Old-fashioned Bean Pot Meal
Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches
Cloggers**

**Shuttle wagon and horse-drawn
wagon rides**

NEW THIS YEAR:

**Historic Sporting & Angling
Display**

**Banjo Maker
Pennsylvania Dutch Barn Stars**



**Nature's
MOUNTAIN
PLAYGROUND**
POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WV

Check for updates on our Facebook page
or website:

huntersvillehistorical.com



Charlie Chaplin in 'The Gold Rush'

HOUSE from pg 6

**Charlie Chaplin Silent
Film Night
~ featuring Tom Roberts
November 22
7 p.m.**

It's not every day that Oscar-nominated films and ragtime jazz come together beneath the grand, historic lights of the Pocahontas County Opera House. This November, the Opera House will do just that, ushering in a night of cinematic nostalgia when internationally celebrated pianist, composer and arranger Tom Roberts takes the stage for the Charlie Chaplin Silent Film Night.

Set for Saturday, November 22, at 7 p.m., this unique event promises an unforgettable enchantment—not only for film buffs and music lovers, but for families and commu-

nity members eager to experience culture at its most vibrant and accessible.

Roberts, acknowledged globally as a pioneer of early jazz piano, will perform his original score live to a curated selection of Chaplin's classic silent films. With a career marked by performances from New Orleans to New York's Harlem, and notable credits including Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," NPR's "Riverwalk Jazz," and collaborations with jazz luminary Wynton Marsalis, Roberts brings unmatched artistry to every performance.

The Pocahontas County Opera House remains steadfast in its commitment to accessible, family-friendly programming. Seating is informal and welcoming, with accom-

modations available for visitors with disabilities.

Admission is set at \$10 for adults, while children 17 and younger are welcome free of charge.

Tickets are available at 4th Avenue Gallery in Marlinton, online at pocahontasoperahouse.org and at the door the night of the event.

The Opera House extends gratitude for the support of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, endorsed by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, as well as Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals, Mid-Atlantic Arts, and the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau. With the continued support of its community, the Opera House remains a beacon of art, history and togetherness.



SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • SHUTTLES

916 THIRD AVE., MARLINTON | 304-591-7021 |

Shop@GreenbrierBikes.com | GreenbrierBikes.com

**L. Jay Kniceley
Insurance Agency**

818A Tenth Ave., Marlinton, WV 24954

Office: 304.799.6243

Fax: 304.799.2433

L. Jay Kniceley, Owner

ljaykniceley@hotmail.com

Patience Garretson, Agent

patiencep1234@myyahoo.com

Serving WV and VA

All lines of Insurance

Bonding Services

License Services

Notary



Rustic Roots ~ bring your appetite

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

When Marka Kane and her husband, Travis Taylor, opened the Simply Sweet Café in Durbin, it quickly became a success and locals were wondering what could be next for the young entrepreneurs.

Well, it turned out another restaurant was on the horizon. While Marka was busy with the café, Travis was remodeling the former bar located next door.

Conjecture in town was that he was opening a restaurant that would serve food that wouldn't compete with the café, but would instead offer a different menu for the supper crowd.



The dining room at Rustic Roots Bar and Grill is spacious and welcoming, offering seating for small parties of two or four, as well as for larger groups.

Photo by Suzanne Stewart

In the northern end of Pocahontas County, everyone was asking when the restaurant would open and what it would be like. The anticipation was palpable and, luckily, in March, the wait was over.

Rustic Roots Bar and Grill opened to the public and it was finally time to see what was cooking.

Before you get to the menu, it's impossible not to notice the upgrades Travis made to the space. Two of the walls are exposed brick that have been sealed so they shine under the lights, which brightens the whole space.

To the left is the bar, made of locally sourced lumber, and to the right is the dining area.

The back wall is the focal point with a large

map of Durbin and surrounding counties drawn onto the sage green background. Hanging on the walls are black and white photographs of the lumber towns that once lined the East Fork of the Greenbrier River.

There are also items that pay tribute to the history of Durbin, including a mounted moose head –

See **ROOTS**, page 9

THE
LEVELS
DEPOT
and
Cafe

Family owned
and operated
one stop shop
located in
Hillsboro, WV

**Non-Ethanol
Gas**

Diesel

Local Foods

**Specialty
Groceries**

WV Gifts

8905 Seneca Trail
Route 219
Hillsboro, WV 24946
304-653-4689
304-653-4111 Cafe

Country Mountain Homes



Antique Log and Farmhouse Restoration

Tim Beasley, owner/contractor

Cell: 540-290-6402 • Office: 540-468-2246 • countrymountainhomes@yahoo.com

437 Myers-Moon Road, Monterey, Virginia 24465

www.countrymountainhomes.com



ROOTS from pg 8

the restaurant is located in the former Moose Lodge – and a photo of Red Kane – business owner and great-grandfather of Marka.

The welcoming atmosphere has a family feel to it – conversations usually bleed out from table to table – and it feels like a homecoming every time you take a seat at one of the tables there.

The menu has the same feel. There are staples that

are served in most West Virginia kitchens – recipes passed down from generation to generation.

Be sure to bring your appetite because these plates are stacked high like your grandma used to do it. The open faced roast beef sandwich and hamburger steak come smothered in gravy that you'll want to bottle.

That's just two of the seven dinners on the menu. There's also a large selection of sandwiches which are all served with

house chips, which are a must. They are the best homemade chips and are served hot.

The focal point of Rustic Roots' dining room is the back wall which features a painted map of Durbin and surrounding areas. Five photos of the old lumber towns of the area are on display, alongside a photo of the late Red Kane, who was a businessman in Durbin and the great-grandfather of co-owner Marka Kane.

The menu is rounded out with pizza, appetizers, salads and sides.

There is also a weekly dinner special and cocktail special.

For more information visit Rustic Roots Bar & Grill on Facebook.

There is also a weekly and weekly special up-

There's Still Time to Register!

The annual 2k/5k race is
Sept. 27 in Davis, WV.

Registration is now open at
tuckerfoundationwv.org/run-for-it

TUCKER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

304-478-2930 • edirector@TuckerFoundationWV.org

Local, handmade fine arts and crafts

Pocahontas County Artisan Co-op

Home décor, gifts and more!

Two Gallery Locations!

4th Avenue Gallery

in the historic Marlinton Depot on the Greenbrier River Trail
Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Monday holidays
304-799-2550

Shops at Leatherbark Ford

at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
Open weekends when the trains are running • 304-456-5440

Join us at pocahontasartistry.com
Special events on Facebook at Pocahontas County Artisans Co-op

4 UNIQUE TRAIN RIDES!

WHITTAKER
Climb The Switchbacks To A Restored Logging Camp!

BALD KNOB
Journey To The Second Highest Point In WV!

GREENBRIER EXPRESS
Greenbrier River Wilderness Trips!

NEW TYGART FLYER
See The High Falls Of Cheat!

Mingo Saloon and Lodge ~ find respite after a road trip

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Sometimes a wrong turn can take you down the right path. That was the case for Mingo Saloon and Lodge owners Joe Sells and Jami Hissim.

Three years ago, they were looking for a cabin in the area that they could fix up and rent as an Airbnb, but instead of a small cabin, they found themselves in the parking lot at the Brazenhead Inn in Mingo.

Sells told Hissim to write down the phone number on the for-sale sign and after meeting with the owner, they made a plan, bought the place and named it Mingo Saloon and Lodge.

"I was like, 'that's not the kind of log cabin I was thinking,'" Hissim said, laughing. "But we came up with an idea and we've been here ever since."

The Saloon and Lodge has 20 rooms, a restaurant, bar, outdoor stage and more. It's much more than a simple cabin, but it works for the couple, who wanted to turn the place into a destination for motorcyclists who love the windy roads of West Virginia.

"When we met with the



Photo by Suzanne Stewart

Just across the Pocahontas County line into Randolph County is the small town of Mingo and the Mingo Saloon and Lodge, where visitors can find comfy rooms, a restaurant featuring some of the best food in West Virginia, a bar and an outdoor stage for live entertainment.

previous owner, he said snow season was ultimately his money-making season and from the inception of this and pulling out of the driveway on our first trip down here, I said, 'snow season should be slow season,' because this has every element of a motor-

cycle destination," Sells said.

Motorcyclists themselves, Sells and Hissim knew they had all the ele-

ments needed. They tore down an old cabin that was between the inn and the river, opening up the outdoor area for stargazing

and drinks around the fire pit. They also added an outdoor stage for live entertainment during the warmer months.

"There are plans to close in the pavilion to the point that we can open it and close it, make it four seasons and that way, we can utilize it all year," Sells said.

There is also a conference room for groups to meet separate from other customers dining in the main restaurant.

See *MINGO*, page 11



ELECTRIC MOON INN

812 THIRD AVE., MARLINTON, WV 24954

SHORT OR LONG TERM RENTALS. SEE AIRBNB OR VRBO FOR SHORT TERM. TEXT JAY FOR LONG TERM RENTAL OR SALE: 813-777-6364. FACEBOOK: ELECTRICMOONINN

Provisions x Riverside Retreat
Eat, stay, play, and discover one of West Virginia's hidden gems

Restaurant
All you can eat breakfast buffet Saturday and Sunday

Lodging
Eight well-appointed rooms

Convenience Store
Ice • Beer • Ice Cream
• Milkshakes • Local Arts & Crafts

**Camping/Fishing/
Hiking Supplies**

Cass Trading Company

304-456-4288 • casstradingcompany.com • casstradingcompany@gmail.com

For those who don't want to stay in one of the inn's rooms, there are four camper hookups with electric and water, as well as room for primitive camping.

"We have people who come in with their tents," Hissim said. "Some motorcyclists have these trailers that they pull behind that have a pop-up tent in them. We've had people utilize our property for that. There's a lot of ground, so they can do

what they want with it in the primitive sense."

While the saloon and inn are motorcyclist friendly – evidenced by the Americana motorcycle parked on top of the entrance sign – that doesn't exclude other travelers looking for a nice place to stay that has entertainment and great food.

"We have steak; a roast that will fall apart while you're looking at it; we have a rib eye steak sandwich; we have burgers," Sells said.

"We get our meats from

a Mennonite butcher up in Pennsylvania," Hissim added. "He hand cuts everything."

Sells swears by the menu and has the reviews to back it up.

"I walk around constantly, and I ask, 'how is everything?' and they're like, 'awesome,'" he said.

When he asks on a scale of one to 10, he usually gets a 10, except for one customer who never rates anything higher than a nine.

Sells joked that he asked the customer what he



Photo by Suzanne Stewart

Much like the famous mullet hair style, the Mingo Saloon and Lodge is business in the front and party in the back, with the outdoor stage located behind the main lodge, just off the back porch. The pavilion has room for dining – and dancing when musicians come to play. Beyond the stage is a relaxing area near the river, complete with fire pits for those late night hangouts.

would rate Bo Derek – famous for her role in the movie "10" – and he said a 9.5.

"I've been told we need to call [the roast dinner]

The Bo Derek," he said, laughing.

"I think some people might not know who she was," Hissim added.

Rounding out the menu

are staples such as wings with a variety of sauces, including peanut butter and jelly wings.

See *MINGO*, page 12

CARNEGIE HALL

CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT 7 P.M.
STAYIN' ALIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 7 P.M.
BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, at 3 P.M.
THE FRENCH CONNECTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, AT 7 P.M.
BIG SHOTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, AT 2 P.M.
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, AT 7 P.M.
WV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER
TRY SOMETHING NEW!



611 CHURCH STREET, LEWISBURG, WV
(304) 645-7917 • www.carnegiehallwv.org

Country River Cabins, LLC

Three cabins nestled along the Greenbrier River and Trail, just 1.5 miles south of downtown Marlinton, between Marlinton and Buckeye. The River Trail runs through the property, and we offer very easy access to the trail and river. *Perfect location for hikers, bikers, birders, fishermen and hunters. Pet and horse friendly!*



Call **304-799-6948** for information and reservations

view online at countryrivercabins.com • [countryrivercabins/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/countryrivercabins)



We make your life easier.

**Buckeye Home, Farm,
Lawn and Garden**

- Hardware • Plumbing • Electrical
- Fencing • Storage Solutions
- Heaters • Pet Supplies / Pet Food
- Livestock and animal health products

OPEN MON. - FRI. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., SATURDAY 8:30 a.m - 2 p.m.

SUNDAY Noon - 2 p.m.

Rt. 219, Buckeye • 304-799-0860



AN
AUTHORIZED
STIHL
DEALER!



Photo courtesy of Mingo Saloon and Lodge
There are 20 rooms at the Mingo Saloon and Lodge which are all pet friendly. The rooms have new memory foam mattresses and some of them include a loft with a bed.

MINGO from pg 11

"It's like a dessert and dinner all in one," Sells said.

Hissim, who is a vegetarian, says there are options that exclude meat, includ-

ing one of her favorites, the tomato basil bisque and grilled cheese.

Mingo Saloon and Lodge is located just over the Pocahontas County line in Randolph County, less than 10 miles from the

entrance to Snowshoe. Information about lodging, the menu and upcoming events may be found on the website themingosaloonandlodge.com or on its Facebook page.

WE BUY AND SELL



**Antiques,
Vintage
Furniture,
Collectibles
and Unusual
Finds**

OPEN DAILY 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. *Closed Tuesday*
Rt. 219, Next to Buckeye Hardware • 610-931-4374



Your Community Connection Just the Way You Like It

Home Delivery In Pocahontas County **\$35** /year

Home Delivery In West Virginia **\$45** /year

Home Delivery Out-of-State **\$45** /year

Six month subscriptions available.
"Snow Bird" subscriptions available.
Call for pricing.



eEdition Only

\$29 /year

eEdition Plus

Print edition

\$59 /year

**The
Pocahontas Times**

In Print and Online
Subscribe Today!

304-799-4973

www.pocahontastimes.com

SHOP WITH US AT THE AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 27!
WE WILL HAVE YARN ON-SITE!

GET COZY THIS FALL WITH LUXURIOUS, BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED, LOCALLY SOURCED ALPACA PRODUCTS!

- APPAREL • RUGS • SHAWLS
- HATS AND MITTENS
- MEN'S/WOMEN'S SOCKS
- FINGERLESS GLOVES
- PAJAMAS • ORNAMENTS
- TEDDY BEARS
- CAT TOYS AND MORE!



YARN:

(100% alpaca or blended with wool, silk, bamboo or cotton), sold directly from Orchard Hill. Please contact me.

Don't see your size? Need more information?
CALL OR EMAIL ME: bhammerr@protonmail.com

304-621-3399



Orchard Hill Alpacas has a herd of 40+ animals, about equally divided between the two breeds: Suri and Huacaya. Our business travels have taken us around the US. We've been truly blessed with great stock, winning championships at major shows in Harrisburg, PA and Columbus, OH. Orchard Hill offers all types of fleece and yarn; for spinners we have a variety of batts and rovings. Finished products include blankets, caps, shawls, ruanas, socks, sweaters and rugs.



In operation since 2002 on Chenoweth Creek Road in Elkins.
Owned and operated by Becky Hammer and Dan Tice.

Look over there ~ it's the Overlook Trail

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

In the past few years, Pocahontas County has become somewhat famous for its many trails. They've always been here, in some form and shape, but thanks to lots of effort by local organizations, they have grown to include a series of mountain biking, hiking and walking trails for everyone – from beginner to expert.

One of the newest trails on the map is the Overlook Trail, a short 3/4-mile trail that begins on Fourth Avenue in Marlinton, and winds up and around to the hill across from Mitchell Chevrolet.

The land is owned by the Town of Marlinton and after several discussions about what could be done there, it was decided to turn the natural deer trails into something more substantial for locals and visitors to enjoy.

“There was so much trail building in the county – discussions and otherwise – some being worked on, some in planning stages,” Marlinton Mayor Sam Felton said.

“With some of my trips to the Greenbrier Hill water tank and discovering that it was all town property, I just thought, ‘hey, here’s a possibility.’”

Once the town received grant funding for the project, Felton said Ethan Burgess was contracted to build the trail and the observation deck and a bench at the top of the hill.



After a 3/4 mile hike up the Overlook Trail in Marlinton, there is an observation deck where visitors can rest and take in the beauty of the town around them. Right photo: A view from the observation deck of the Pocahontas County Courthouse.



“He does a lot of that type of work for the forest service and was very familiar with trail building,” Felton said. “This is more than just a bike trail. It’s a fairly decent walking trail. There are some steep sections to it, but it accommodates walkers, maybe better than it does bikers, actually.”

The crown jewel of the trail is the overlook itself. From the observation deck, visitors can see nearly all of downtown Marlinton. All the way to the left is the Pocahontas County Courthouse, and to the right, down Main Street, across the bridge to the Little General and on up Rt. 219 to Burns Motor Freight.

The trail is open to all visitors and is ready to be part of your exploration of Marlinton. All it needs is some signage, so if you’re not familiar with the area, it might be best to stop by the town office on Second Avenue to get directions.

“We’re just lacking some signage,” Felton said.

To access the trail, turn onto Fourth Avenue from Main Street/Rt. 39 and continue driving until you come to a dirt road off the right side of the road.

Near the road is a sign designating the Overlook Trail. No vehicles are allowed on the road.



2025 AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL AND WV ROADKILL COOK-OFF
September 26 and 27 • Marlinton, WV

- FRIDAY NIGHT**
- Rockin’ Square Dance and beginner square dance lessons - Opera House
- SATURDAY**
- Craft and Food Vendors
 - Hudson Cream Flour Biscuit Bake-off
 - Mountain Heritage Music - all day
 - Possum Trot 5K Walk/Run
 - Hammons Fiddle & Banjo Contest and, of course,

THE WV ROADKILL COOK-OFF!

Enjoy a wild game cooking competition like no other!

ROAD KILL COOK-OFF
COUNTRY ROAD VICTIMS

Open 7 days a week.
Check us out on Facebook for updated hours and events

Nature's MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

Pocahontas County

Chamber of Commerce

THE LOCKER ROOM
SPORTS BAR
Located in the Silver Creek Lodge Lobby
Snowshoe WV
304-572-6720

“Our Wings Are So Good, Even the Pug Begs for More!”

Wednesday Wing Night
Taco Tuesdays

Open 7 days a week.
Check us out on Facebook for updated hours and events

Counting Crows

Laura Dean Bennett
Staff Writer

Out here in the country, crows are a regular part of the scenery.

We're used to hearing the raucous "caw, caw," as crows gather in groups to glean corn fields or fly in to feed on carrion.

We see them occasionally – soaring across farms and striding along the roads; sometimes seeming to stare at us as they perch on fence posts.

But as summer gives way to fall, we seem to see them more often, in larger numbers, and their calls seem louder and more insistent.

It's not your imagination. We really do see more crows in the fall.

Crows are part of the group of birds called Corvids, which include crows, ravens, jays and magpies.

There are more than 40 varieties of crows. They're native in many parts of the world.

The crow we most often see here is the American Crow.

Like our American Crow, most crows' plumage is a shiny black (or shades of black), but a few may have some white or another color.

There are rare instances of genetic abnormalities which produce all white crows.

The American Crow, like it's fellow Corvids, has remarkable intelligence – comparable to that of primates – or a seven-year-old

child.

The expression "a murder of crows" is the proper way of referring to a group of crows.

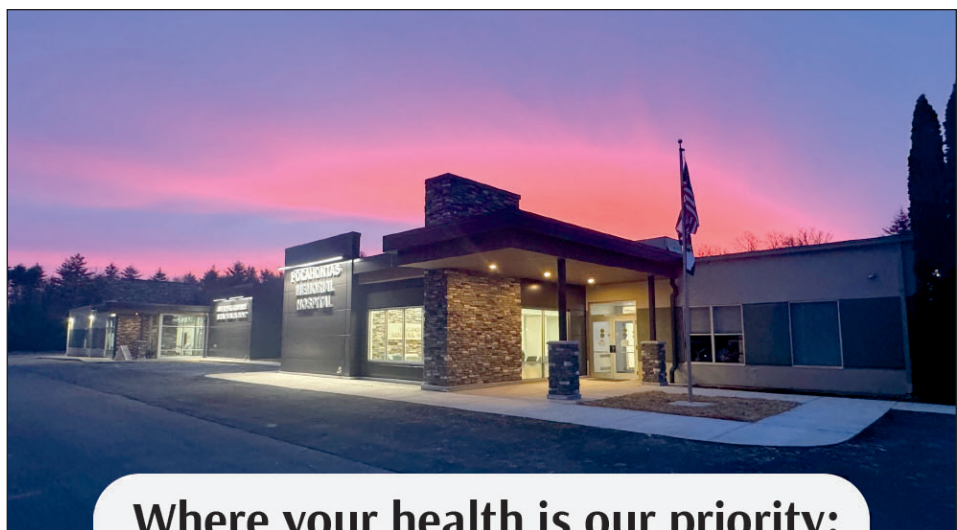
The interesting expression may come about because crows have historically been associated with danger and death in so many cultures.

Besides feeding on dead animals, since ancient times, crows have gathered on battlefields after gruesome human combat.

It may also refer to another age-old observation of crow behavior.

Crows are known to attend the death of a member of their group. But rather than being there to dispassionately observe death, their behavior

See **CROWS**, page 17



Where your health is our priority:

- 24 hour Emergency Care and Ambulance Service
- Rural Health Clinic offering total family care
- Comprehensive Radiologic imaging including mammograms, MRIs, dexa bone density
- Medical clinical lab with same-day test results
- Pulmonology Clinic
- Wound Care Clinic
- Cardiopulmonary services including Cardiac Rehab
- Skilled Rehabilitation services (Swing Bed)
- Outpatient Nursing and Infusion
- Outpatient Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapies
- Retail Pharmacy and Coffee Shop

 **POCAHONTAS
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

US 219 North, 2 miles south of Marlinton
ph. 304-799-7400 • 150 Duncan Road, Buckeye, WV
www.pmhww.org



**Happy
Campers,
Hikers, Bikers
and Hunters
shop here!**



- Quality meats
- Deli/Bakery
- Groceries
- Specialty Trays
- Pizzas, Hot Subs
- Frozen Treats

**POCAHONTAS IGA HOMETOWN
PRUD**

Rt. 219 • Marlinton

304-799-6667 pocahontas.iga.com

Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Sunday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

View our weekly specials, download coupons, recipes and more online.

SEPTEMBER 12-14
DEERA'S COUNTRY FUNERAL
PRESENTED BY POCAHONTAS COUNTY DRAMA WORKSHOP
*MATINEE ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 14 AT 3 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 20
THE HACKENSAW BOYS
(AMERICANA/FOLK)

OCTOBER 18
CRISTINA VANE
(COUNTRY BLUES)

OCTOBER 24
DRIFTWOOD
(AMERICANA/FOLK-ROCK)

NOVEMBER 8
MIRAMAR
(CUBAN BOLEROS)

NOVEMBER 22
CHARLIE CHAPLIN SILENT FILM NIGHT
WITH LIVE MUSICAL SCORE BY TOM ROBERTS

FEBRUARY 28
OPRY NIGHT: EMILY MILLER & VAL MINDEL;
BECKY HILL & RACHEL EDDY
(TRADITIONAL OLD-TIME)

MARCH 14
MINOR SWING
(ROMA JAZZ)

MARCH 28
THE JOE STAMM BAND
(COUNTRY/ROCK)

APRIL 11
THE BING BROTHERS FEAT. JAKE KRACK
(OLD-TIME)

APRIL 25
BEN SOLLEE
(FOLK CELLO)

MAY 9
VANDALIA
(OLD-TIME)

\$10 TICKET DONATION • FREE FOR AGES 17 & YOUNGER
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
ADVANCED TICKETS ONLINE AT POCAHONTASOPERAHOUSE.ORG
OR AT THE 4TH AVE GALLERY IN MARLINTON, WV
SHOWS AT 7 P.M. DOORS AT 6 P.M.

THESE PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING:



CROWS from pg 16

seems to suggest that they are grieving.

They often appear to examine, and, sometimes, try to bury the body of the departed.

It's likely they are just gathering clues as to the cause of death – especially if a predator was involved. They alert others to the situation – and they may avoid the area for several days.

They are expert communicators.

They not only have sophisticated conversations with members of their family and their local flock, but they can also convey exact locations of food sources, safe roosting sites and potential danger with crows who are strangers to them.

A crow can recognize every crow of their acquaintance and differentiate between the faces of humans.

Crows, like ravens, are said to make loyal and entertaining friends. They can be taught to speak much like a parrot and



seem to evince a keen sense of humor, reveling in mischievous antics.

The famous 18th century English poet and playwright, Lord Byron, had a pet crow as did the 20th Century American artist, Jackson Pollock.

Nicholas Cage has a crow named Huginn. The name was the name of one of Odin's crows. The Norse god was often depicted with his two favorite crows.

Crows have a lot in common with their larger cousins, ravens.

They can imitate human speech, are known to bring their human acquaintances little gifts and have long memories.

Their problem-solving skills are formidable. Crows are shrewd planners and even capable of deceit. They're known to use, and even make, tools.

Ornithologists tell us that although some crows

live alone, most mate for life and live in tight-knit families.

In spring, mated pairs work together, defending their territory and raising their chicks.

During the rest of the year, they continue to take care of each other and their offspring, which are often allowed to remain with the family indefinitely.

There are reports of young crows staying with their parents for years, helping to raise subsequent generations of chicks.

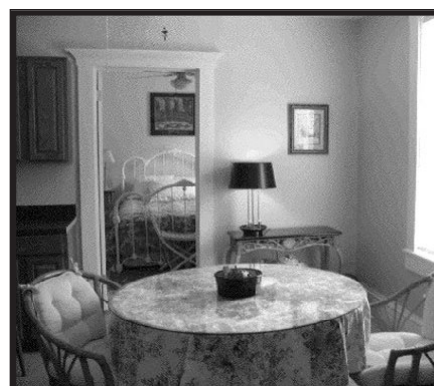
As winter approaches, a family flock will often join a larger group for feeding, roosting and social interaction, especially from late September to November when some crows migrate southward.

See **CROWS**, page 18

Open
Thursday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
7847 Seneca Trail
Hillsboro
304-653-2646

**HILLSBORO
PUBLIC HOUSE**
EST. 2023

**Stop in and check
out our
NEW MENU!**
Visit us on Facebook.
Breakfast served
Thurs. ~ Sat. 9-11 a.m.
Sun. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
~Dine in or carry out~
Specials and menu posted on Facebook/HillsboroPublicHouse • Event schedule: hillsboropub.com



Greenbrier Suites

A bed and breakfast in historic Durbin, West Virginia.

Comfortable suites with kitchenette, private bath, dining room and parlor. Bedrooms are furnished with queen-sized or full-sized antique beds and ceiling fans. A non-smoking, no pets facility. COVID-19 precautions used in cleaning. Complimentary breakfast is available down the street at Station 2 Restaurant.

Book online at www.gbsuitesdurbin.com

For information call 304-456-3298 • gbsuites@yahoo.com

These large murders sometimes number in the hundreds.

The fall gatherings are a great way for crow families to communicate with each other.

They also give young crows an opportunity to learn survival and social skills. And they're an excellent chance to meet potential mates.

Crows will sound the alarm with loud, urgent caws to warn each other of a potential threat.

They are known to go to great lengths to protect themselves and their family from a predator. They will often gather to take on the interloper in a behavior called "mobbing."

Crows prefer roosting in extended family groups rather than alone or in pairs.

But in the fall, they often gather in much larger groups – sometimes numbering in the hundreds – to roost together.

There are many theories about their raucousness as they gather for roosting.

It may represent excited, friendly greetings, an exchange of information or arguments.

Crows prefer open farmland and fields, but they also live in suburban and urban settings.

In many parts of the world, crows were considered nuisances and faced eradication. But in 1972, crows – together with hawks, owls and eagles – were protected by an amendment to the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Crows are omnivores who were once considered destructive by some farmers, but they can be a beneficial predator of harmful insects and small rodents.

They scavenge dead animals and are often seen feeding on roadkill.

Like a lot of wildlife,



they're attracted to trash and compost.

If you want to discourage crows, secure any outdoor food sources, such as bird seed, pet food, refuse or compost. Gardeners and farmers famously use scarecrows to protect their crops.

The raven is a close relative of the crow and is often mistaken for a crow, but if you look closely, it's easy to tell the difference.

A raven is much larger than a crow – typically up to 27 inches long with a wingspan of 46-60 inches. The American Crow is 17-

21 inches long with a wingspan ranging from 33 to 39 inches.

Crows' throat feathers are smooth while ravens' are shaggy. And crows' tails have a round, fan shape while ravens' tails have more of a wedge or diamond shape.

Another easy way to identify the difference is by their voices.

The "caws" of crows have a higher pitch than the deep croaking or groaning of ravens.

Since time immemorial, both crows and ravens have always been associ-

ated with death and have been a source of human interest and superstition.

They've figured prominently in Greek, Roman, Celtic, Scandinavian, European, Japanese and Native American mythology.

Crows were thought to be messengers of the gods and were used for divination – forecasting the future – since the time of ancient Rome.

In many cultures crows were believed to carry the souls of the dead to the next world.

They have been called tricksters, thought to be bearers of bad omens, and

considered harbingers of danger or death. Folkloric traditions in medieval Europe and Britain reinforced these notions.

For instance, seeing crows in a church yard or crossing one's path meant bad luck. Or a crow landing on the roof foretold bad news or even impending death.

The menace of crows was featured in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" and in Shakespeare's plays.

But the superstitions didn't always equate crows

See **CROWS**, page 19

STATION 2 RESTAURANT AND LODGING



FAMILY DINING BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

Appetizers • Specials • Burgers • Subs
• Pizza • Desserts • Hand-dipped Ice Cream

Closed Monday.

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sun.

8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tues. - Thurs.

8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

Now serving draft and bottled beer.

Six-packs available to go.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Four rooms featuring queen beds, separate baths, Wi-Fi, cable, big screen TV and a common lounge.

LODGING INCLUDES
BREAKFAST

Call for pricing and availability.

After hours: 304-456-4509



Main Street, Durbin • 304-456-4506 • station2restaurant.com

RIVERTOWN



SHOP. EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE.
MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

in the historic

CJ Richardson building

309 Eighth Street • Marlinton

Rivertown Shops open
for the season
Thursday - Saturday 10 - 5 p.m.

Rivertown Café

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Thurs. - Sun.,

8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Alison Pottery

Original fine craft and art

Mountain Echo

Souvenirs, gifts and more

Little Mountain Yoga

Weekly schedule: @littlemountainyoga

Creekside Candy

Fresh, locally made candies

Rivertown Artists' Studios

Watch our artists as they work

Rivertown Live Music - see schedule @RivertownMarlintonWV

with bad fortune.

Sometimes, after a wedding, two crows would be released together. If the crows flew away in opposite directions, the couple could soon be parted.

But if they flew away together, the newlyweds could expect a long life, happy life together.

In some cultures – Norse, Native American and Asian, for instance –

crows were symbols of wisdom and could represent the visiting spirit of a departed loved one.

But somehow, maybe because of the perverseness of human nature, we'd rather see crows as harbingers of evil and death.

Especially at this time of year, we revel in stories set in graveyards and haunted houses.

Halloween movies will often feature animals we've insisted on associat-

ing with the macabre, like black cats, bats, owls, ravens and crows.

Like the soundtrack of a scary movie, the cawing of crows can be heard in the fall of the year, almost like an announcement of the onset of the darkness of winter.

Illogical as it may be, generations of folklore predispose us to think of the sight and sound of crows as somehow suspect.

And as we judge them, it

may be that crows are judging us as well.

They're not just smart – they hold grudges. For years. Sometimes their entire lifetime.

After an altercation with another bird, animal or a human, crows have been known to pass their prejudices on to their friends, family and offspring.

So, have a care the next time you think of crossing a crow.

You may be making



more than just one enemy. down the line. You may be making the Remember Alfred whole family mad at you – Hitchcock's movie, "The and even generations Birds."

FREE WATER ANALYSIS!

- HARDNESS
- IRON
- SULFUR
- ODOR
- ACID H2O
- TASTE
- BACTERIAL
- CHLORINE

ECOWATER
SYSTEMS



Your Water. Perfected.

YUCKY WATER? We Can Help!

**Water Treatment Systems that Work...
Guaranteed! (We put it in writing)**

Now available with Wi-Fi

- Sales and Service • Pumps
 - We service most major brands!
- LICENSED WELL PUMP INSTALLERS**

**CITY & COUNTY WATER,
WELLS, SPRINGS & CISTERNS
HOMES • BUSINESSES • CAMPS**

**ECOWATER SYSTEMS USE
1/3 THE SALT AND 1/2 THE WATER
OF OTHER WATER SYSTEMS,
AND COST LESS THAN
\$2 PER YEAR TO OPERATE.**

- Bottled water quality, without the inconvenience of bottles
- 100 % FINANCING



WV contractors
license WV#028787

1-800-985-2000
WWW.AWTECOWATER.COM

**Strong communities
don't happen by chance.**
Grants make a lasting impact.



To apply or to donate visit our website

**TUCKER COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

PO Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287
304-478-2930 • TuckerFoundationWV.org

Creating opportunities for the individuals
and communities we serve:

*Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pocahontas, Preston,
Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, WV and Garrett County, MD*

Local service & great rates

Call, click or stop by today



Kenny Woods
Agent

200 8th Street
Marlinton, WV 24954-1031

Bus: 304-799-4242
www.kennywoodsinsurance.com
kenny@kennywoodsinsurance.com



State Farm
Bloomington, IL

Autumn Breeze STABLES



**Year-round guided
trail rides and
more at Snowshoe
Mountain**



Western-style trail riding
for ages six and older -
all skill levels.

30-minute lake rides to three hour trail rides.
Sleigh rides (depending on snow)!

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit our website for more information
wvtrailrides.com

304-572-2262 (Stables) or 800-759-7238

What happened at the poolroom...

Jaynell Graham

From the archives
July 2015

“Sometimes, even though you are having a good time, you can’t help but stop and think about how much you miss the old times.”

Wilbur Sharp became the owner of the poolroom on Main Street in Marlinton in 1926, located in the building he purchased from Moody Hogsett. It is the present day location of the Flower Garden.

Through the years that poolroom changed hands and names – Wilbur Sharp’s, Sharp and McLaughlin, Moses and Meadows and The Smoke-

house – but one thing remained the same, and that was the hot dog chili served at the lunch counter.

Sharp’s granddaughter and Pocahontas County Preservation Officer B. J. Gudmundsson has recorded the history of the poolroom owners, and she offers the following information as to how that famous chili –served to generations – first made its way to the small town of Marlinton.

Origin of Wib Sharp’s Hot Dog Chili

“In 1937, Wilbur Sharp, owner of the Pool Hall in Marlinton, made a business trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While staying at the William Penn Hotel, he visited the restaurant and ordered a

hot dog with chili.

“It was, without a doubt, the best hot dog chili he had ever eaten.

“He asked the waiter about the origin of the chili and was told that it was the chef’s secret recipe.

“Sharp asked to speak to the chef, and the waiter summoned him to the table.

“After complimenting the chef on the “best hot dog chili ever,” Sharp asked if he might have the recipe.

“The chef rattled off the recipe, and Sharp wrote it down.

“He returned to Marlinton, cooked up the chili, and the rest is history.”

See **POOLROOM**,
page 21



Photo courtesy of Ken Nottingham

Tables waiting for action in the old poolroom on Main Street in Marlinton. The “quiet” of this photo is in sharp contrast to the memories of the cracking and pinging of pool balls and pin ball machines. Michael McMann, of Great Falls, Montana, still remembers, after all these years, that there were five pool tables.



VACATION FARM RETREAT

Relax amidst spectacular fall foliage in private, quality accommodations on 700 acres of private land - protected by conservation easement - near Cass

We offer two cabins, one cottage and three RV camping spaces for daily, weekly or monthly rental. **RESERVATIONS THROUGH OCTOBER ARE LIMITED.**

CALL NOW TO BOOK OR MAKE PLANS FOR 2026.

- Fully furnished cabins with woodburning fireplaces; private and suitable for single or couple, just 10 miles from Green Bank Observatory and Snowshoe Mountain Resort.
- Miles of trails for hiking, birdwatching or horseback riding
- Three RV pads with full hook-ups
- Well-behaved pets welcome
- Call for availability



Reservations
required:
304-456-4852

Visit our Facebook page or website
for complete information and rates

shalimarfarm.com



POOLROOM from pg 20

There is a lot of history and a lot of memories associated with the poolroom – known in its later years as The Smokehouse. Jim Mason, of Marlinton, can describe the inner workings of this landmark in such a way that you can almost hear

the sounds and smell the aromas. Stepping through the door of the poolroom was like entering another world, Mason said. People stood in the aisle looking at the magazines, your ears were met with the ping, ping, ping of the pinball machines and the

crack of breaking racks of pool balls, as men and young boys honed their skills, day and night, around the pool tables. In a time before coin operated tables, one had to “lay down the dime” to reserve the next game or challenge the winner. The poolroom hired young men to “rack the balls” for each game – keeping people honest. Several years ago, one of those young men attended a revival in Edray where he “got saved.” He was faced with a dilemma. Could he return to his old job racking balls at the poolroom, with his new-found salvation?

But then he remembered that a couple of Presbyterian ministers frequented the poolroom – bringing the message to those who may want or need to hear it. Coupled with the sounds of the pool tables

and pinball machines were the distinct aromas wafting from the lunch counter – corned beef, spiced ham and, of course, hog dogs with chili. Stools at the counter were rarely empty, and no one went away without a memory – memories which come to mind, even today – many years after the Smokehouse ceased to be a part of the community. Edgar Starks, of Hillsboro, worked for George Edgar seven days a week for \$24 pay. Saturday nights were a \$2 treat for him, he said. “I’d go to the poolroom and get a hot dog and a glass of buttermilk,” Starks said. “Then I’d cross the street to go to the movie and get popcorn, a chocolate candy bar and a coke.” Retired WVU Horticulturist John Jett, of Morgantown, has memories of the place, as well.

“Larry Davis always had money in his pocket,” Jett said of his Marlinton High School friend. “I liked the grilled corned beef. It was corned beef from a can. They buttered the bread on both sides, but what made the difference was that they cut the lettuce in slices. That gave it a better flavor. I found that to be the biggest treat.” Jett also remembers a lemon-lime drink called Green River, served from the fountain in what looked like a martini glass. “That’s what my memory recalls,” he said. Jett liked to watch the older boys play pool – Tom Michael, Gary McElwee, Delmas Barb and Richard Wright were a few that came to mind. Michael McMann, now of Great Falls, Montana, preferred the grilled cheese sandwich and a fountain drink. He recalls that there were benches

down the right side of the poolroom which led to Paul Gladwell’s Barber-shop. Visualizing the interior of the old hangout, McMann said there were five pool tables and two pinball machines, and there were magazines, hot peanuts and cigars for sale. It was a great place to be on Friday and Saturday. “The tannery got off at 2:00 or 2:30 and some of the guys went to the Grille, and the rest went to The Smokehouse,” he said. The Grille sold beer, and was located next door to French’s Diner. It seems that very few photos of the interior exist, but photos are not needed to conjure up the sights and sounds of The Smokehouse. Those are forever etched in the

See **POOLROOM**,
page 22

We help students chase big goals.

Scholarships fund a bright future.

To apply or to donate visit our website

TUCKER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PO Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287

304-478-2930 • TuckerFoundationWV.org

Creating opportunities for the individuals and communities we serve:

Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, WV and Garrett County, MD

Community Care of West Virginia

Available for your healthcare and pharmacy needs

Community Care of Green Bank
4498 Potomac Highlands Trail
Green Bank, WV 24944
Phone: 304-456-5115

Community Dental Care of Green Bank
6404 Potomac Highlands Trail
Green Bank, WV 24944
Phone: 304-456-5433

Community Care of Marlinton
821 3rd Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954
Phone: 304-799-4404

Coming Soon to Slaty Fork!

CCWV.org

SENECA CAVERNS

ESCAPE. UNDERGROUND.

3328 Germany Valley Road • Riverton, WV • 304-567-2691

Open Friday - Monday seasonally, April through mid-November

Cave Tours • Fri. - Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Gift Shop • Gem Mining • Disc Golf

ASBURY'S

— AT THE CAVERNS —

FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT

Fri., Sat., and Mon. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.

First Friday Seafood Buffet 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Sunday Buffet Noon - 3 p.m.

Bi-weekly Seneca Sunset Music Series by local artists

Visit us at senecacaverns.com or Facebook at #Seneca Caverns WV

POOLROOM from pg 21
minds of its customers.

Ken Nottingham, of Sugar Hill, Georgia, supplied one lone photograph. It is of the pool tables, but there are no people. Perhaps "what happened at the poolroom, stayed at the poolroom."

Ken's wife, Sally McLaughlin Nottingham, recorded Ken's memories – memories that will resonate with the men who grew up in Marlinton.

Ken was in one of the groups known in the poolroom as the "town rats." Town boys who would show up regularly in the late 50s and early 60s and try to get a table to play pool. There was a town ordinance against anyone under 18 playing pool, but since The Smokehouse didn't serve beer, they could sometimes get away with it. The "town rats" Ken mostly played pool with were Bobby McComb, Rick Griffin, Richard Wright and John Kenney.

"The routine was to go to buy comic books or play

pinball on one of the two nickel machines. Then you would sit on the stools and watch the adults play. If it wasn't busy then they could slip to a table but would be run off if more men showed up. They did this mostly on weekdays during the summer because Saturdays and evenings were too busy. They played either rotation or 8-ball, with the loser paying the ten cents for the cost of the table. He remembers a man they often liked to watch who had a hook for a hand and was really good, but Ken doesn't remember his name.

During the winter Ken went to the poolroom at lunchtime for two hot dogs with everything and a fountain coke – for fifty cents. A hot dog with everything was mustard (yellow or horse), onions, relish and chili on a steamed bun. Bill Bob [Meadows] would have it ready for him because lunchtime was so short. You only had 25 minutes to walk to the poolroom, eat and get back to school."

Keith Moore, of Marlinton, is always good for a story about the old days in Marlinton.

When asked what came to mind when he thought about the poolroom, he said, "the pool tables, mostly, and the fifteen cent poolroom hot dogs. There has never been a better hot dog put out than what they put out there."

Moore was a frequent customer in the late 1940s and early 50s, although he was, for much of that time, underage.

"I got the pool stick taken away from me," Moore laughed. "You had to be eighteen, I guess, to shoot pool. We'd wait until they got busy. We'd be sitting back there on the bench and when they got busy up front, we'd grab a stick and break 'em. We'd get in a shot or two, and here they'd come and take the stick away from us."

Moore identified the pool player that Ken remembered – the man with a hook for a hand. It was Dempsey McNeill, who lived in Buckeye.

"We watched all the old

ones play pool down there – Louie Colson, Adolph Cooper – he was a better lawyer than he was a pool shot – and I think Dick Currence might have played with them, too.

"It was against the law for a minor, under eighteen, to play the pinball machines. I got caught,"

Moore laughed. "Me and a buddy of mine was playing the machines and somebody tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'how old are you?' I looked around and it was Mike Murphy, the State Police. I said 'eighteen.' And he asked my buddy how old he was, and he

was a year younger than me, but he said, 'eighteen.' And Murphy said, "Good. You all come with me. You're going to fight fire. We did. We went down to Droop Mountain."

"Those were the good old days," Moore said. "Precious memories, precious memories."



POCAHONTAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Snowshoe Clinic

Now Open Five Days a Week

**Valarie Monico, PA-C and
Chance Walther, FNP-BC**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Primary and Minor Urgent Care -
Accepting New Patients - Visitors
to Area Welcome

Located inside the Inn at
Snowshoe on 565 Cass Road,
Slaty Fork



Call Now: 304-799-1072



LET'S GET OUTSIDE!



**Book your next
Adventure**

SCAN ME!



• Camping • Hiking • Equine Trails • Lodging

43 MEADOW LANE - DURBIN, WV 26264

304-456-3101



*Tune in to Allegheny
Mountain Radio -
your listener supported community
radio station!*

WVMR 1370 AM
Frost, WV

WVMR-FM 91.9 FM
Hillsboro, WV

W278AL 103.5 FM
Durbin, WV

WNMP 88.5 FM
Marlinton, WV

WDMT 106.3 FM
Marlinton, WV

WVLS 89.7 FM
Monterey, VA

WCHG 107.1 FM
Hot Springs, VA

There's an
APP for that -
Download
now!



Streaming online at alleghenymountainradio.org



*Fall is
Sweet
Here!*



HIGHLAND COUNTY
**HANDS &
HARVEST**
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2025

Harvest Trail • Arts & Crafts • Entertainment • Fun!

Get the full schedule & details about our 33rd annual county-wide event at

HIGHLANDCOUNTY.ORG

HIGHLAND COUNTY



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
MOUNTAIN
LOVERS™**
virginia.org



The Road of Churches

Curtis Curry
From the Archives
2010

Back Mountain Road is typical of Pocahontas County's country roads – winding through the mountains and valleys for its entire 36-mile length. Not so typical is the number of churches found along this picturesque drive. On a recent summer day, Evelyne and I visited each of the 12 church sites. It was a beautiful and inspiring day to learn about each of these wonderful churches.

Back Mountain Road begins at Edray and drops sharply away from U.S. 219 just beyond the Edray United Methodist Church. It was built in 1883 with some of its congregation

coming from the Hamlin Chapel on Stony Creek. It is an example of the early “two door” church.

Some of the early congregations wanted to separate the sexes during services to eliminate any distractions from the “casting of eyes” or flirting by the young people. Men entered the right door with women and children using the left door. A shoulder high partition ran between the pews prevented entering the opposite side without exiting and reentering the other door. As new churches were built or old ones remodeled, one of the two doors was often eliminated. Another good example of the two-door church with the partition remaining is Mary's

Photos by Curtis Curry
At right, the Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church near Stony Bottom, and below, the Mount Pleasant Church, near Edray.



Chapel near Slaty Fork.

After 1.5 miles we reach the Mt. Pleasant Church. It is among the oldest congregations in the county,

organized in 1840 with first services held in the Indian Draft schoolhouse. Services were moved to a new school built in 1893



and the school was converted to a church in 1922. Services are no longer held in the Mt. Pleasant Church.

At 3.9 miles we reach the the Fairview Church – “A Home for All” – is located

in the community of Fairview overlooking the Greenbrier River.

It was established in 1882. The neat church

See **CHURCHES**,
page 25



Open
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
for all your
animal care
needs!

POCAHONTAS VETERINARY SERVICES PLLC

Large and Small Animals • Farm Calls
Stacy Tawney, DVM
304-799-6803 150 Carl McCarty Drive



Eddie's Service Center

• 24-Hour Wrecker Service • Tires
Batteries • Lock-outs • Auto Repair
• State Inspections

21217 Seneca Trail, Edray (Rt. 219 North)
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
After hours, call 304-799-4405
Robbie Ramsey, Owner/Operator

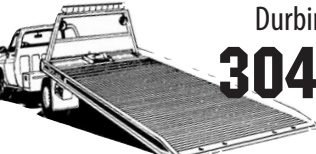
304-799-6651

MURPHY'S AUTO
QUALITY USED VEHICLES
BODY & REPAIR SHOP
WRECKER & ROLLBACK SERVICE

12745 Potomac Highlands Trail
Durbin, WV 26264

304-456-4858

Michael Murphy, Owner



Closing for the season October 26

Jack Horner's Corner



- Bike, canoe and tube rentals
- Pizza, Subs and more
- Soft-serve Ice Cream
- Provisions • Newspapers

Seebert • 304-653-4515
adjacent to the Greenbrier River Trail across from Watoga State Park
Open seven days a week.



LOCUST HILL INN, CABIN & RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT
OPEN DAILY,
5 - 8 P.M.

Perfectly cooked filet mignon, juicy ribeyes, delicious homemade crabcakes and other entrees. View menu online. Indoor and outdoor dining options Wine and beer bar. Order your meal in advance – call by 1 p.m. the day of your choice.
By reservation only.
Sorry, no walk-ins, please.

Book a cozy room with breakfast provided; a private cabin; or just join us for dinner! Free Wi-Fi. Just blocks from the Greenbrier River and Trail and a 30-minute drive to Snowshoe.

304-799-5471 • Rt. 39, Marlinton • locusthillwv.com

HEAVY-DUTY TOWING AND WRECKER SERVICE

24-HOUR AVAILABILITY
Towing from the smallest vehicle to the heaviest loads!

Call for details.



VARNER TOWING, LLC
Open 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Mon. - Fri. • Durbin
304-642-9053 / 304-637-7171

and grounds are maintained by a small congregation but regular services are no longer held.

The winding, sometimes narrow road brings us to the Woods Poague Chapel at 7.7 miles. It has an interesting history, first known as the Union Chapel and called the Beverage Church by some. The original building was built in 1874 and used by several denominations. In 1900, services were transferred to the Poague Lane schoolhouse. In 1919, a church building in Clover Lick was purchased from the Lumber Company of Raywood, moved to its present location, and ded-

icated as the Woods Poague Chapel. It is presently privately owned and is being renovated.

Next along our route at 11.6 miles is the quiet community of Clover Lick nestled beside the Greenbrier River. Named for the salt lick located in a clover field, it was once a bustling community with a sawmill, stores, a C&O Depot, a school, and two great churches. Now, only the Depot remains as an attraction to those traveling the Greenbrier River Trail. Clover Lick has the unwanted distinction of having lost its two churches in disastrous events.

The Clover Lick Methodist Church was built in



Photo by Curtis Curry

Cass Presbyterian Church is now used as the Cass Community Center.

1917 along the east bank of the Greenbrier River near the Clover Lick The Grace Episcopal Bridge. It was destroyed in November 1985, by the great Greenbrier River flood and not rebuilt. The tower bell was recovered in 1908. It was often referred to as the "Ligon Francis Asbury Memorial Church" to honor Mrs. John Ligon and her family

for their efforts in establishing and supporting the church in Clover Lick. The church building burned in November 1990, and was not rebuilt. A memorial now stands where the church was located to honor those that worshipped there.

Back Mountain Road again climbs upward and at 14.9 miles we find the Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church near Stony Bottom. It was organized in 1894 as the Driftwood Church and the

name was changed in 1931 to honor the member that helped organize the church.

Mile 19.7 brings us to the town of Cass now known as the site of the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. In the early 1900s, Cass was a booming lumber community filled with workers and their families. The Cass Presbyterian Church is located about a block from the Cass Depot. It was organized in about 1900 and the church building completed in 1904. Records show 12 original members. The Cass Presbyterian Church was dissolved in 1970 and the building donated to Cass. It now serves as the Cass Community Center.

Just up the hill is the Cass United Methodist Church organized in 1903. They first used the Cass Presbyterian Church for services. The church building was built in 1924.

We travel through Cass and across the Cass railroad tracks to mile 24.7 and the Wanless United Methodist Church. It was built in 1907 and 1908 and

See **CHURCHES**,
page 26

A-1 PUMPING SEPTIC TANK PUMPING & INSTALLATION



DURBIN, WV
304-456-4505

Quality Service – Affordable rates
Certified, Licensed Installation
and Repairs

WV#54-93-0015

We specialize in Residential and Commercial Construction



- New Homes • Additions
- Porches & Decks • Vinyl Siding
- Garages & Buildings
- Window Replacement
- All Types Roofing

Let's get started on your project!

BRYANT CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Alex E. Bryant Jr., Owner
82 Angus Irvine Road, Marlinton
304-799-4399 License # WV026274



Upcoming Events at THE MINGO Saloon & Lodge

Lodging • Restaurant • Bar • Music

SEPTEMBER

9/9 – 9/14 Welcome Roanoke Valley H.O.G.
9/10 – 12 LIVE MUSIC, 7 p.m.
9/20 POW/MIA Memorial Ride & Ceremony
9/20 LIVE MUSIC, 7 p.m.
9/27 See us at the WV Roadkill Cook-Off, Marlinton

OCTOBER

10/4 Fall Ride with 304 Moonshine Mudders
10/4 LIVE MUSIC, 7 p.m.
10/11 Ellamore UFD Ride2Survive
10/11 LIVE MUSIC, 7 p.m.
10/25 Halloween Chili Cook-Off and More
10/25 LIVE MUSIC, 7 p.m.



Rt. 219 Valley Head
7 miles north of Snowshoe

VARNERS CONSTRUCTION



FOR ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATION:
Foundations, Roadways, Bridges
Driveways • Gravel Delivery
Certified Septic System Installation
Licensed, bonded and insured.
Call us for your next job! WV012079
NOW SCHEDULING FOR 2025
304-456-4505
busterv@frontiernet.net



Hevener Church of the Brethren near Durbin.

Photo by Curtis Curry

CHURCHES from pg 25

was originally known as the Mt. Union Church.

At mile 30 we reach the Hevener Church of the Brethren. It was built in 1904 and served the community until 1966 when the congregation joined with the Durbin Church of the Brethren at Durbin.

The last church on our journey at mile 31.7 is the beautiful Bethel United Methodist Church. It was built in 1906 with labor and materials furnished by the congregation. A fire

destroyed much of the structure in the late 1900s. Members used the remaining structure and new materials to rebuild the church as it is today. It stands as a tribute to the strong will of a strong congregation.

Our journey on Back Mountain Road ends at

36.2 miles just west of the Durbin community.

It has been a good day and we learned much about the churches of Back Mountain Road although we are somewhat saddened that many of the early churches no longer exist or are not in use.

Visit us online:
pocahontastimes.com



**HIGHLAND
MEDICAL
CENTER**

Quality Care Close to Home

120 Jackson River Road, Monterey, Virginia 24465

www.ourhmc.org



Physical Therapy



Behavioral Health

540-468-6400

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

TOLL FREE 844-468-6400

AFTER HOURS: 540-468-6400

FAX: 540-468-3301



Pharmacy



Dental Care



Medical Care

PHARMACY: 540-468-6421

PHARMACY HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

PHARMACY FAX: 540-468-3318

When you want to get away **YEAGER HOUSE**

THE PERFECT PLACE TO STAY

A charming house located on a Civil War battlefield.

Fully furnished with all amenities: fully equipped kitchen, air conditioned, washer/dryer, patio with table, chairs and grill.



ENJOY

Hiking, biking, birding, fishing, stargazing, scenic train rides or just relaxing in our beautiful national forest.

**MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND
SKIERS WELCOME!**



Book now at airbnb.com or booking.com (Two night minimum)
yeagerhousewv.com

Phone: 312-636-8188 or 312-636-8189

49 Old Pike Road, Bartow, WV 24920 • YeagerHousespt@gmail.com



Buying or Selling, Talk With Us First! **RemaxCountryWV.com**



Luxury Retreats



Commercial Opportunities



Building Sites with Views



Starter Homes



Large Tracts of Land



Vacation Homes & Condos

Martha Giddings-Broker/Owner 304.651.2099 martygiddings@remax.net
Michael Hughes-Sales Associate/Owner 304.651.2100 mhughes@remax.net
Heather Pace-Associate Broker 434.953.7574 heather.pace@remax.net
Ryan Pace-Sales Associate 434.960.4556 ryan.pace@remax.net

RE/MAX
Snowshoe Resort
Marty Giddings-Broker/Owner

570 Cass Rd Slatyfork, WV 26291
304-572-2100

RemaxCountryWV.com

RE/MAX
Snowshoe Resort
Marty Giddings-Broker/Owner



FL3X

PASS

2025-26 SEASON

3 FLEXIBLE DAYS
OF WEEKDAY OR WEEKEND SKIING/RIDING*

\$199

Price Jumps in October!



Scan for
more info

snowshoemtn.com/deals

*Excludes Holiday Periods