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# The Pocahontas Times

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## Moore ready to bring more to Linwood Community Library

Suzanne Stewart  
Staff Writer

For Linwood Community Library's new librarian Katie Moore, the facility is much more than a place to check out books. It's a community center where she hopes to help people get together and enjoy books and other activities.

"That's something that I am passionate about, specifically getting people out of their houses, getting people out to engage with people, and feel like they're not alone," she said.

Moore knows all about living in a rural area and needing a place to go for camaraderie and fun. She grew up near Thorny Creek in the last house on her road, in a little place called Clawson.

The family suffered several tragedies through the years, and Moore didn't honestly think she would ever come back to Pocahontas County. Now that she has, she's glad she did.

Moore went to college at West Virginia University and moved with her boyfriend to Boston, Massachusetts, and then back to the eastern panhandle before coming back to her family home.

After her father, Charles



**AFTER SEVERAL YEARS** away for college and work, Thorny Creek area native Katie Moore has returned to Pocahontas County and is the new librarian at Linwood Community Library. Moore said she is looking forward to getting to know members of the community and offering programs that bring them to the library for more than books. S. Stewart photo

"Buck" Moore, passed away in April, she and her boyfriend came back to Clawson and decided to stay.

"My partner - he is very much not from Pocahontas County," she said. "He is

from a place where there is civilization. He's not used to this, so when he was the one that suggested 'why don't we just stay here and we'll make your dad's house our home.' That's kind of where we are

right now. It's really nice."

Things fell into place and as luck would have it, the Linwood librarian position came up and although the job

see **Library pg 5**

## BOE special meeting reviewed PCHS audit

Suzanne Stewart  
Staff Writer

The Pocahontas County Board of Education held a special meeting Friday, January 9, to discuss a recent audit that was done at Pocahontas County High School.

Superintendent Dr. Leatha Williams and chief school business officer Sarah Hamilton presented a report to the board in which the audit results were revealed.

Before sharing the results, Williams and Hamilton gave an overview of West Virginia Department of Education Policy 1224.1 which covers the accounting procedures for public schools.

The policy outlines the rules and regulations for handling of all funds that are received at the school level, including breakfast and lunch fees, fundraisers,

donations, ticket sales and concession stand funds.

"So, the school principal is responsible for the financial management of the school, not the Pocahontas County Board of Education," Williams said. "The principal must ensure that all provisions of this manual and local board policies and procedures are complied with; that all accounting records are maintained accurately and that all financial reports are prepared and submitted in a timely fashion."

Hamilton explained that the audit was ordered after a report was issued December 11 to her and Williams concerning the funds at PCHS. The following day, Hamilton and Williams began an investigation by first visiting local banks and donors to make sure the policy was being followed.

see **BOE pg 5**

## The experience of living in Hillsboro

Lucas Adcock  
Staff Writer

There are residents of Hillsboro who have lived here their entire lives. And I say "here" because I, too, live in Hillsboro.

After living here for nearly two years now, there have been so many wonderful days and nights that I've learned just can't be found anywhere else. At the very least, not in the city. So, I thought, "What would be a great way to explain to everyone how living in Hillsboro is not just another place to live, but an experience?"

In Hillsboro, the nights don't announce themselves. They arrive quietly, like most everything else. The

sun settles and its rays disappear softly behind the mountain until you can hear the nocturnal sounds of nature shuffling and buzzing and croaking. The occasional car that passes by may rumble from the motor, and then it's gone. When the sun has gone down and the moon has taken its place - that's when there's space. Real space. The kind of space that lets you hear a fire crackle or see the stars without having to look for them. A time when the smoke from the stove outside drifts sideways and hugs the ground.

Whether you're visiting a family member or stumbling through this historical little town, comfort can be found in the most unlikely of places. Hiding in its

crevices are the keys to life's real value. It's the little things for me: the tinge in my nose from the bit of creosote in the wood stove. The crunch of gravel under the tires. The stars painted on the sky in such a way that it hints at the artist above. And in the mountains, the roaring hills come to life as the night wind whips and echoes farther than the day.

It's far too often that I am reminded of a life with a quicker pace, and even the short years I've lived in Hillsboro have reminded me how much of the quiet life I prefer.

Not only does it remind me that this is how life should be experienced, but also that life is too short to see **Living pg 10**

## 'A change is gonna' come'

Lucas Adcock  
Staff Writer

As we look at our world today, it's important to think back to how much of our society was set in place by the work of a singular man. The famous civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was unafraid of criticism, unafraid of cynical backlash, and unafraid of being told that his beliefs were radical. But to this civil rights leader, his views were radical. They were meant to be. Change without radical action was never possible in the realm of civil rights until someone stepped forward to take charge on the subject, and that's just what King did.

As Martin Luther King Day approaches, it's important to understand the relevant history of this prominent figure that we all learned about in school, beginning with the fact that King's name was not always "Martin Luther King Jr." but

rather, "Michael King Jr." As a child, he was comfortable with his name. When he was only five years of age, his father, King Sr., decided to change both his and his son's name to reflect Protestant Reformation Leader Martin Luther, following a 1934 Baptist Church Alliance meeting in Berlin.

This meeting sparked a strong sense of purpose in King Sr., enticing him to return to the United States with a new perspective on racial inequality that heavily stemmed from oppression and discrimination as marked by the rise of Nazi Germany. King Sr.'s perspective on inequality then directly stemmed from the teachings of the Baptist Church Alliance as it was stated: "This Congress deplores and condemns as a violation of the law of God the Heavenly Father, all racial animosity, and every form of oppression or unfair discrimination toward the Jews, toward coloured people, or

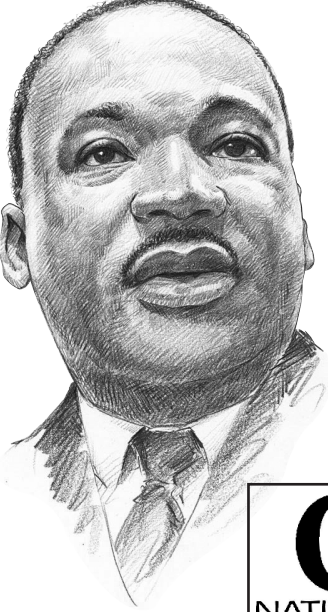
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Wed. 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship  
Wed. 8:00 p.m. Mid-Week Prayer Service

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE, SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 1960.**

toward subject races in any part of the world."

Later, as a 15-year-old at Booker T. Washington High School, Martin Luther King Jr.'s intelligence placed him amongst the ranks of those able to skip a grade - or two. As a high schooler, King skipped both the 9th and

see **Change pg 8**



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# Dems look at unresolved issues from last year

By Esteban Fernandez  
Times West Virginian

Jobs will lead this year's legislative agenda, according to West Virginia House Speaker Roger Hanshaw.

The West Virginia Press Association held its annual legislative lookahead session, a preview of what lawmakers hope to accomplish before the end of the legislative session's 60 days. The new session begins January 14.

"We know that if we deal with jobs first, if we deal with an environment driving economy, we can solve a lot of problems," Hanshaw said.

Hanshaw argued that centering the legislative agenda around job creation would provide the foundation to tackle the state's social problems, such as educational attainment, family unification and the foster care crisis. Hanshaw said the plan was built on top of three pillars, the first of which was building the state's population into a 21st century workforce.

Key to that goal will be ensuring teachers receive appropriate compensation.

Hanshaw said the legislature will seek a teacher pay raise to \$50,000 a year. Hanshaw also emphasized the importance of the state's growing aviation industry, which is fueling workforce demand.

For the second pillar, Hanshaw also wants to make benefits portable, allowing workers to transition jobs with more ease. Along with portable benefits, Hanshaw wants to expand and expedite permits so projects can begin faster.

For the third pillar, Hanshaw said it rests on responsible economic growth. Encouraging housing construction by removing sales tax on home construction materials.

Hanshaw added responsible economic growth also rests on diversifying the state's economy. However, legislative Democratic leadership in the form of House Minority Leader Sean Hornbuckle and Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, emphasized the importance of addressing longstanding challenges the state has faced, beginning with child welfare.

"Some of the priorities that I will personally advo-

cate for this session will be the 6,000 children in our foster care system, which we all know is broken," Woelfel said. "Those children are there through no fault of their own. We can't really fix that without resources."

Woelfel also opposed Governor Patrick Morrisey's plan to move forward with an income tax cut, despite the state not hitting its revenue target for an automatic trigger tax cut. The legislature passed the trigger cut in 2023, which only activates once the state hits its revenue goals. Woelfel also strongly defended public education from the effects of the Hope Scholarship, which has to a student exodus from the classroom to homeschooling and other options.

"There are people in the Senate, the House that don't give a (expletive); they don't care what happens to you," Woelfel said. "They don't care about public education. I don't mean they want it to fail, but they don't really care whether it fails or not. And there are some, frankly, that want the public school system to fail."

see Dems pg 6

# BOE policy removed from agenda after causing concern

Suzanne Stewart  
Staff Writer

When Policy 3112: Board-Staff Communications was placed on the Pocahontas County Board of Education meeting agenda for January 6, it caused a lot of concern for staff and the community who saw the proposed policy taking open communication in the wrong direction.

The policy calls for all staff to follow the chain of command, which would have staff take their concerns through the chain of principal, board office director and then superintendent, who would then take the concern to the board members.

There were several individuals, including students, at the board meeting who voiced their dislike of the policy.

Pocahontas County High School LSIC member Josh Hardy and seniors Ramona Hardy and Joey Van Meter, who also served as student representative on the board, spoke about how they saw the policy as a way to cut communication instead of a way to help it improve.

Since the three individuals spoke during the delegation's portion of the agenda, the board members could not respond or answer questions. Superintendent Dr. Leatha Williams did address the issue later in the meeting.

Williams said she had the proposed policy pulled from the agenda due to the

concerns that arose but explained why she thought the policy was important.

"As your leader in the school system, I am committed to keeping Pocahontas County Schools on the right track and addressing issues stemming from the West Virginia Department of Education State of Emergency, including clarifying and enforcing chain of command, and establishing a communication structure that supports that," she said.

"I am mindful of the distress our county has endured and have worked to ensure transparency and reporting on decision making in all things that I am doing," she continued. "Those times of poor communication and lack of transparency are behind us. Together we are building a stronger system with common practices, clear communication, high expectations and policy driven decision making."

With that said, Williams said she still expects the staff to follow the chain of command that has been in place when the policy was initially enacted in 2020.

"Please note, the proposed policy revision only changed one section," she said. "If a staff member chooses to communicate directly with the board regarding county business, then that communication should be sent to all board members and the superintendent should be copied, as well."

Since the policy was only up for revision, it will re-

main in place as it was written in 2020, but Williams said the revision will not be made at this time.

"Out of concern for the health of our county, I would remove this proposed revision from the agenda," she said. "My goal is to unite our county and our school system. We will enforce chain of command, but we will not do it at the expense of the relationships and this policy – if it is that strongly felt about – we can remove it."

In business management, the board approved the following:

- Second reading of Policy 5223: Absences for Religious Ordinances and Instruction.

- Second reading of Policy 7540.02: Digital Content and Accessibility.

- Fundraisers; out of county, out of state and overnight field trips; early retirement incentive of \$500 for professional and service personnel; independent school audits by Education Consulting Team, LLC; and federal guidance to adjust standard mileage travel reimbursement from .70 to .725.

In personnel management, the board approved the following:

- Leave of absence of Christine Campbell as principal at Pocahontas County High School, effective December 17, through the remainder of 2025-2026 school year.

see Policy pg 6

# Primary Election News

The voter registration deadline for the 2026 Mid-Term Primary Election is April 21.

If you want to register for the first time or make changes to your existing Voter Registration, you may do so at the Pocahontas County Clerk's office on the first floor of the Pocahontas County Courthouse between now and April 21.

If you are interested in be-

coming a candidate for county office, you may file the paperwork for that at the County Clerk's office, as well.

The following county offices will be on the ballot in the primary election.

Pocahontas County Commission – Northern District

The filing fee for County Commission is \$447.22.

The salary for this office is \$44,722 per year.

Three members will be

elected to the Board of Education.

The filing fee for this office is \$25.

The open seats on the Board are one in the Northern District, one in the Central and two in the Southern. (Yes, that's four, but only three will be elected.)

Conservation District Supervisor – Filing Fee is \$10

Party Executive Committee – Filing Fee is \$10.

# Circuit Court

The following hearings were recently held in Pocahontas County Circuit Court before the Honorable Patrick I. Via:

Roger A. Watson, Jr., 34, of Marlinton, tendered a written plea agreement to the court wherein he pleaded guilty to Count I, burglary, a felony, and will enter the Southeastern Drug Court program. The State asked for dismissal of Count II of the indictment, petit larceny. The court granted the motion with prejudice. The defendant is to pay \$160 in restitution according to the agreement. If he successfully completes the drug court program he may withdraw his plea of guilty and the case will be dismissed.

David Bradley Moyers, 43, of Durbin, appeared by video from the Tygart Valley Regional Jail for a hearing on motion for reinstatement of bond. The state objected and the court denied the motion. The State relates that the matter will proceed to trial March 23 on Count I of the indictment. Moyers was indicted on two counts, driving while license revoked for driving under the influence of alcohol, third or subsequent offense; one count, assault; one count, destruction of property; one count, brandishing a deadly weapon.

In person arraignment was held for Christina Mae Giese, 43, of Dunmore, wherein the defendant waived her right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Bond has been posted in the amount of \$30,000 but a motion for revocation of bond has been filed by the State. The State asked as a condition of bond that Giese have random screening through Day Report. The State's motion to revoke bond will be held in abeyance as long as Giese complies with the terms and conditions. Giese was indicted on one count, grand larceny; one count, entry of a building other than a dwelling; one count, damage, destruction or theft of equipment used by emergency responders; one count, prohibited acts.

Stephanie R. Aguilar, 37, of Marlinton, failed to appear

for her arraignment and defense counsel has no knowledge of her whereabouts. An arrest warrant is currently open on a revocation motion. Aguilar was indicted on one count entry of a building other than a dwelling; one count, destruction of property; one count conspiracy to commit a felony.

Clinton Eugene Buzzard, 41, of Marlinton, appeared for his arraignment hearing wherein he waived his right to a speedy trial. Bond was set at \$10,000 cash or surety, but the State was agreeable to allow personal recognizance bond of \$10,000, with special conditions of no contact, direct or indirect, with the victims in this matter. Day Report condition will no

longer be required as long as Buzzard is in a residential treatment facility. Buzzard was indicted on one count, entry of a building other than a dwelling; one count, destruction of property; one count, conspiracy to commit a felony.

James Lee Bullock, 45, of Green Bank, failed to appear for his arraignment and defense counsel did not know the whereabouts of the defendant. An arrest warrant was issued a couple of months ago on a previous revocation. Bullock was indicted on one count, malicious assault; one count, kidnapping; one count, domestic battery; one count domestic assault.

see Court pg 6

# Implementation of SNAP Healthy Choices Waiver

The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA) recently announced the implementation of West Virginia's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Healthy Choices waiver, a new initiative designed to promote healthier nutrition choices and improve long-term health outcomes for West Virginians. The waiver went into effect January 1, 2026.

Approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS), the SNAP Healthy Choices waiver focuses on encouraging nutritious beverage options by removing soda as an entitle-

ment under SNAP. All food items and many popular beverages will continue to be included as part of the program.

For the purposes of the SNAP Healthy Choices Waiver, "soda" is defined as any carbonated, non-alcoholic beverage that contains:

- Water
- A sweetening agent (including sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, or artificial sweeteners)
- Flavoring
- Added carbonation

Only beverages that meet all four criteria will be restricted.

This change does not apply to food purchases. Other beverages – including water, milk and 100% fruit

or vegetable juice – remain fully eligible for purchase with SNAP benefits.

All SNAP-authorized retailers in West Virginia are required to be fully compliant with the new policy by April 1, 2026. DoHS will be providing technical assistance to all retailers to ensure a smooth transition.

The soda waiver is approved through December 31, 2027, with an option for the State to request an extension for an additional two years.

For questions regarding the SNAP Healthy Choices waiver, please contact the DoHS Office of Constituent Services at 1-877-716-1212, or email DoHSPublicComments@wv.gov

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## Reason and Romanticism

by Joe Miller

In 1989, Francis Fukuyama penned a book titled *The End of History and the Last Man* in which he argued that Western-style liberal democracy had triumphed over the forces of illiberalism.

For a few years, it seemed that Fukuyama might be right.

Countries across Eastern Europe overthrew their authoritarian dictators and began holding free and fair elections. Central and South American nations embraced free markets and (eventually) free elections. The Arab Spring pointed to liberalizing in the Middle East. China joined the World Trade Organization and American officials assumed that political liberalism would follow soon after.

Alas, it seems that Fukuyama's declaration may have been premature.

China remained stubbornly totalitarian, even as its citizens got richer through freer markets. The Arab Spring faltered. Old-school autocrats seized power in Russia, Hungary and Turkey. Venezuela embraced Soviet-style authoritarian Marxism.

In America, no less a figure than Vice President J.D. Vance openly proclaims himself a member "of the post-liberal right."

It's important to understand here that Fukuyama isn't using "liberal" in the same way you might hear it used on talk radio or Facebook—the one that conflates "liberal" with support for an FDR/LBJ-style expansive welfare state.

Fukuyama is using an older meaning of liberal, one that traces its origins back to figures like John Locke, Thomas Paine, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. It's an Enlightenment idea, one that sits at the heart of the American experiment.

In this broader sense, Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama are both liberals.

Liberalism in this older sense has three main tenets.

1. The primacy of the individual.
2. Equal treatment under the law.
3. State neutrality.

I'll explain each briefly in the remainder of this column. In the next few weeks, I'll look more closely at arguments for each.

The primacy of the individual is the bedrock of liberalism. For a liberal like Jefferson or Locke, what the thing that matters most is that each individual is allowed to make their own choices.

A trait or a relationship that an individual chooses—for example, dressing sharply or joining a specific church—is morally relevant. We can make our own choices and our own judgements about people based on the choices that they have made.

Conversely, traits or relationships that are not freely chosen are not an appropriate basis for making judgements about people. Your skin color and your parents are not things you have chosen and are therefore not appropriate factors for making judgements about you.

Equal treatment under the law sounds pretty straightforward, though in practice, it took a civil war, a suffrage movement and a series of Civil Rights movements before we got this one implemented correctly.

A country's laws have to treat individuals the same. No one gets to be exempt. No one gets special treatment. Whatever public goods a country provides (e.g., schools or roads or parks or police) have to be equally available to all citizens.

Figuring out exactly what it means to treat people equally under the law can be tricky business. More often than not, policy disagreements between Republicans and Democrats boil down to differing interpretations of this principle.

see Reason pg 8

# Whitey Daugherty ~ a Pocahontas County Musical Legend

Gibbs Kinderman  
Contributing Writer

Considered by many to be the most entertaining local musician of the second half of the 20th Century with his unique style of blues playing, Richard Thomas Daugherty was born in Clover Lick May 16, 1924. Mr. Daugherty was a veteran of World War II and was employed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources in Pocahontas County.

He was known in the community as "Whitey" and was often referred to as "the best musician in the county," entertaining at church services, reunions,

events and on the radio until shortly before his death at the young age of 58.

Richard Thomas Daugherty died Sunday, July 11, 1982 from a heart attack and was buried at the Brownsburg Cemetery near Marlinton."

He was one of the first local musicians to appear live on WVMR, which went on the air in July 1981. The 1982 program was "Frost City Limits," hosted by Norris Long, the voice of Blue Grass on WVMR since its earliest days, and named after the Public TV program "Austin City Limits." This broadcast introduced Mr. Daugherty to many new listeners, and made his signature tune, "Mister Drifter," the sta-

tion's most requested song for quite some time.

Some of the 1980s WVMR radio volunteers want to honor him before the generation that knew him has all gone.

Thanks to the work of Norris Long, the 1982 live program and several of his songs, including "Mister Drifter," are preserved in the WVMR archives.

If you have memories of Whitey you'd like to share, or a tape of his music, please contact Gibbs Kinderman at 304-667-2334 or gibbskinderman@gmail.com



Science in Small Bites  
It's about "Time"

We go about our busy days, occasionally glancing at our watch or the clock on the wall. But we seldom stop to think about how time really works: is it the same time here as on Mars? Is time linear and the same for everyone at all times, throughout the universe?

The following discussion will prove that what most of us think about time is inaccurate.

What began as a thought experiment led Albert Einstein to conclude that "Time is but a persistent illusion." His statement is fact, but a premise that boggles the mind.

So, what did Einstein mean when he used the word "illusion" regarding time? Not to get ahead of myself, but clearly, he was referring to our brain's biological inability to conceptualize time in the universal sense.

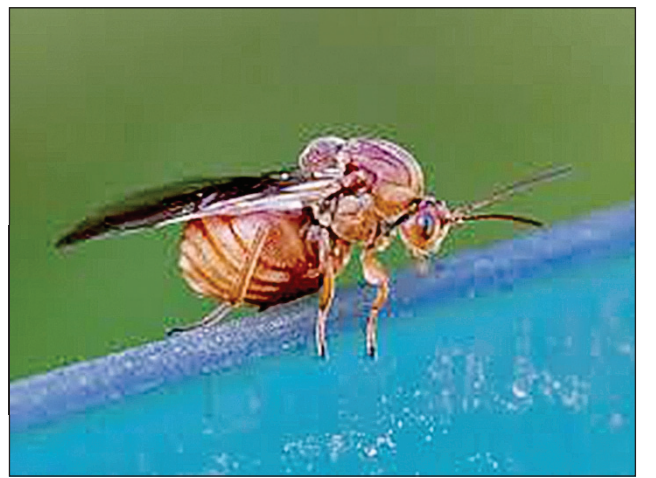
Time is one of the most used words in any language on Earth. The world would be chaos without time, at least in our world, where our daily lives revolve around a standard way of measuring time.

Without it, we couldn't organize our schedules or, say, show up for work on time. Time and space are two sides of the same coin - they are intrinsically related, theoretical physicists call it spacetime.

Imagine arranging a lunch date with a friend and not specifying the time or place to meet. You might end up at the Dirt Bean at 11 a.m., and your friend at the Hillsboro Pub at 1 p.m. For both of you to arrive at the same place at the same time, you need to know both sides of the coin,

space and time; one is meaningless without the other.

The human brain evolved to accommodate only three dimensions: height, width and length, and, if you include our natural but limited



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A CROSS SECTION of an oak gall reveals the wasp larvae in the center of the sphere and filaments from the outer shell providing nutrition to the insect by way of photosynthesis.

understanding of time, a fourth dimension. Our perception of the malleability of time does not come easily to us. Many reject the notion that time does not pass at the same rate for everyone.

Time, as we know and utilize it, is not universal, nor is it linear. Our view of time is often expressed as a flowing river, but this metaphor is inaccurate.

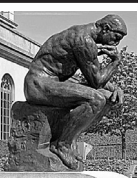
Time has an inverse relationship with space and is affected by gravity, velocity and entropy. There is an arrow of time pointing toward increasing entropy, beginning after the Big Bang.

Entropy, in the context of time, is a measure of disorder. Our universe started with low entropy but continues toward greater disorder; this is one way to think of time.

What we will discuss in the following paragraphs about time is something that can and has been proven

many times, but is exceedingly counterintuitive, a real challenge to our natural concept of time. Our brains can easily grasp the idea of linear time, "tick tock, tick tock," etc., but time is really an expression of velocity, space, gravity and entropy.

see Your pg 8



## TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. What is the only bird that can fly backwards?
2. What is the world's largest city by area?
3. What is a female elephant called?
4. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution deals with self-incrimination?

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# IRS: 2026 filing season; online tools and resources help

The Internal Revenue Service has announced Monday, January 26, 2026, as the opening of the nation's 2026 filing season. This year, several new tax law provisions of the One, Big, Beautiful Bill become effective, which could impact federal taxes, credits and deductions.

Taxpayers have until Wednesday, April 15, 2026, to file their 2025 tax returns and pay any tax due. The IRS expects to receive about 164 million individual income tax returns this year, with most taxpayers filing electronically.

IRS.gov has online tools and resources taxpayers can use before, during and after filing their federal tax return. One, Big, Beautiful Provisions provides information that could help lower tax bills and potentially increase refund amounts.

"The Internal Revenue Service is ready to help taxpayers meet their tax filing and payment obligations during the 2026 filing season," said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank Bisignano. "As always, the IRS workforce remains vigilant and dedicated to their mission to serve the American taxpaying public. At the same time, IRS information systems have been updated to incorporate the new tax laws and are ready to efficiently and effectively process taxpayer returns during the filing season."

### IRS Individual Online Account

Taxpayers can access their individual online account information, including balance due, payments made or scheduled, tax records and more.

### New Schedule 1-A

Taxpayers will use the new Schedule 1-A to claim recently enacted tax deductions, such as no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, no tax on car loan interest and/or the enhanced deduction for seniors.

### Enroll in a Trump Account

Parents, guardians and other authorized individuals can establish a new type of individual retirement account for their children. To learn more, visit trumpaccounts.gov

### Open a bank account

The IRS strongly encourages taxpayers to establish a bank account to receive their tax refunds via direct deposit, because the IRS is phasing out paper tax refund checks due to the executive order, Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account.

### Forms 1099-K and 1099-DA

Taxpayers should visit IRS.gov and learn what to do if they receive either of these forms. Form 1099-K, Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions, is used to report payments received from credit

see IRS pg 8

## Community Calendar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Marlinton Town Office will be closed Monday, January 19,** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Garbage pickup for this day will be Tuesday, January 20.

**The Landfill and the Solid Waste Office will be closed Monday, January 19,** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### EVENTS

**Dunmore Community Center will host breakfast Saturday, January 17,** 8 to 10 a.m. The menu will include eggs, sausage, ham, biscuits, gravy, fruit and more. \$10 per person, ages 5 and younger free.

**FREE Community Dinner Thursday, January 22,** 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Marlinton Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by area churches and community volunteers.

### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

**Budding Bookworms playgroup at Green Bank Library.** Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. for children age 5 and younger, accompanied by an adult. Cancelled when schools are closed.

**McClintic Budding Bookworms** – Thursdays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Linwood Little Librarians** – Thursdays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Friday Fun at Durbin Library** – Fridays 4 to 5 p.m.

### MEETINGS

**Allegheny Post 117 Tuesday, January 20,** 6 p.m. at Arbovale Community Center. All members are encouraged to attend.

**WV Prayer Alliance** third Thursday of the month 6:30 p.m. at the Community Well-

ness Center. Non-denominational. Everyone welcome. Gather to pray for our community and our country. For more information, call Kim at 304-439-0593.

**The Pocahontas County Beekeepers** meet the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Community Wellness Center in Marlinton. New members welcome.

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

### PARKS AND REC

**Adult Pickup Basketball** Thursdays 5:30 p.m.

**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.



## Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

Like so many other issues in government and in life, this county's trash situation, and how to deal with it, is bringing up various unintended circumstances that have no good or pleasant answers.

While the alternative options are being considered at the county level, I began some testing, for comparison's sake, for the Town garbage options. Knowing the trash and garbage fees are going to rise is a given. We just don't know how much. Two days of testing indicates a further decision at the Town of Marlinton, which can produce a negative impact at the county level.

On January 7, the Town trash truck was asked to fuel

up before going to the county landfill. The driver was asked to return to Town and fuel again before parking for the night. The trip took one hour and nine minutes. The truck used three gallons of fuel, (better than I expected). Fuel, labor and tipping fee (using an average of five tons) at the present \$95 per ton rate, totaled \$514.80.

On January 9, the driver ran the route and fueled the truck before parking. Councilman Scott Gibb drove to the Greenbrier County Landfill and unloaded, (thank you, Scott). He returned to Marlinton and refueled before parking. The trip took three hours. The truck used 15 gallons of fuel. Fuel, labor and tipping fee (using an average of five-tons) at

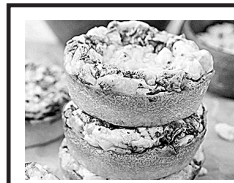
the Greenbrier County rate of \$67 per ton totaled \$477.06.

A final decision is difficult to make, (knowing the impact that approximately 1,200 fewer tons per year will have on the newer/higher rate for Pocahontas County.

The difference this makes for the Town is easy to see. Currently, it is \$37.74 cheaper per trip if the Town goes to the Greenbrier County Landfill. If we started tomorrow, this savings could amount to approximately \$9,812.40 per year for the Town of Marlinton.

The estimates of an increase to \$130 to \$140 per ton at our landfill is what will be hard for Marlinton Town Council to swallow.

A tipping fee of \$140 per ton would increase our Town's trash bill by an extra \$262.74 per trip. An annual increase of \$68,312.40 per year. Nothing is easy anymore.



Spinach, Feta Egg Muffins

Bake until set in centers, 18-20 minutes.

6 eggs  
2 Tbsp. water  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1/3 cup frozen leaf spinach thawed, squeezed dry  
1/4 cup diced baked ham  
1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese  
2 Tbsp. drained diced pimientos  
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coat 6 muffin cups with cooking spray. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, water and pepper until blended stir in the spinach, ham, feta and pimientos. Divide mixture evenly among muffin cups.

## What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Bake until set in centers, 18-20 minutes.

### Chicken Tamale Casserole

1 cup 4-cheese Mexican blend, divided  
1/3 cup milk  
1 egg  
1 tsp. cumin  
1/4 tsp. ground red pepper  
1 (14 oz. can) cream-style corn  
1 (8.5 oz.) box corn muffin mix  
1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chilies, drained  
Cooking spray  
1 (10 oz.) can red enchilada sauce  
2 cups shredded cooked chicken breast

1/2 cup sour cream  
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine 1/4 cup cheese and next 7 ingredients (through green chilies) in a large bowl, stirring just until moist.

Coat 13 x 9-inch baking dish with cooking spray, pour in mixture.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until set.

Remove from oven and pierce entire surface liberally with a fork; pour enchilada sauce over top.

Add shredded chicken and remaining 3/4 cup cheese.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until cheese melts.

Remove from oven; let stand 5 minutes. Cut into 8 pieces; top each with 1 Tbsp. sour cream.

Serve.

## Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Easy to carry  
9 CFO's deg., perhaps  
12 Hacks off  
16 U.S. soldiers  
19 Priest, at a baptism  
20 Alley —  
21 Pendant gem  
22 Period  
23 Medical operation led by a wizard?  
26 Phone no.  
27 Crusty treat  
28 Harbinger  
29 Make sharp  
30 Toon skunk  
31 Bow shooter's attention?  
36 Manhole lid, e.g.?  
38 — avis  
39 Sad, to Sartre  
41 City in western New York  
42 Muscat native who regularly attends Mass?  
47 Kia crossover SUV model  
49 — of the North" (1922 documentary)  
50 Derivation of a word: Abbr.  
51 Tax IDs

52 London or Leeds native  
53 Onetime Texaco rival  
55 Mined stuff  
57 Turks and — Islands  
62 Olive of "Popeye"  
63 Grill residue  
64 Like a cream-colored skeleton?  
67 Make flush  
69 Enclosed bill of fare?  
72 Showed on TV again  
73 Actor Silver portraying a guy escaping a burning building?  
75 With 55-Down, "My treat"  
77 And the like: Abbr.  
78 Face-off participant  
79 Elev.  
80 Kismet  
82 152, to Cato  
83 Remainder  
85 500-sheet paper unit  
87 Comic Kevin  
89 Roster in a mob film  
93 Preparing to install a steam outlet?

95 One-off, as a committee  
96 Vouch for  
99 Writer Seton  
100 Winter storm conditions?  
102 Sort who doesn't think before speaking?  
108 Speak wildly  
109 Litigant  
110 Polite request starter  
111 Pro-gun go.  
112 Soft & —  
113 Feature of this puzzle (hint: string together the letters omitted from the starts of 10 long answers)  
119 Lofty verse  
120 Notion, in Nantes  
121 Banquet dispenser  
122 Irredeemable  
123 Boise-to-Fresno dir.  
124 Scottish loch  
125 Mil. draft org.  
126 Stays with, as an agenda

DOWN

1 Vast plain of Argentina  
2 Broadcast studio sign  
3 Federer of tennis  
4 Deadlock  
5 "Life of Pi" director Lee  
6 Gas grill meas.  
7 Maui wreath  
8 Hosp.  
9 In a demure way  
10 Cap'n's underling  
11 "Much — About Nothing" (1996 "Simpsons" episode)  
12 Sign off from a computer  
13 Candor  
14 Whittled  
15 Devious  
16 Settle a score  
17 "Let me say it again ..."  
18 Southern Italian city  
24 Very tall bird  
25 Letters after pis  
30 Flag holder  
32 "... unless I'm wrong"  
33 City in Texas  
34 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" actor  
35 Cereal grass  
36 Singer  
37 Swift pirate ships  
40 Border  
42 In a plane, e.g.  
43 Gymnast Retton  
44 Dye-making compound  
45 "— So Shy"  
46 Ear: Prefix  
48 Like many '90s albums  
51 Actor Penn  
54 — Tzu (dog)  
55 See 75-Across  
56 Dark bread  
58 "— done it!"  
59 "Thelma" novelist Marie  
60 Big speech as files  
61 Matching up, as files  
63 Vampire Lestat creator  
64 "So —" ("Very well")  
65 NHL's Bobby  
66 When la lune shines  
68 Actor Gerard  
70 Orderly  
71 Rams' org.  
74 "— chic!"  
76 Rent payer  
80 Suet, e.g.  
81 Roadie's load  
82 Suez, e.g.  
84 Positions  
85 Hi- — picture  
86 Steps onto a subway, say  
88 "River" New Age artist  
89 Coiffures  
90 Drivers' licenses, e.g.  
91 TV show created by Barbara Walters  
92 Rob of "The Stand"  
93 Edition: Abbr.  
94 — di-dah  
97 Dissertations  
98 Actress Garr  
101 Digression  
103 Author Rand  
104 Relief sounds  
105 Patella sites  
106 Artist Max  
107 "Midnight Cowboy" role  
110 Bus. bosses  
113 60 secs.  
114 Letters after mus  
115 Decay  
116 Prefix with dermis  
117 Nov. follower  
118 Type

## Weekly SUDOKU

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2			3	6	9	7	5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Lady Warriors ranked sixth in Single A

**John Snyder**  
Contributing Writer

The Pocahontas County Lady Warriors are 8 – 1 to-date on the season and are ranked 6th in the State in Single A play.

Last week gave them two more wins against Pendleton County and Bath County, and a loss at home against power team Tug Valley.

The Girls Varsity played regional rival Pendleton County in Franklin last Thursday. They were behind 37 to 32 at the end of the third quarter but outscored their opponents 31 to 10 in the fourth quarter to win 63 to 47 with a pressure defense.

Allyson Taylor had 20 points; Alexis Arbogast 15; Calli Propst 13; Shayla Bennett 8; Savana Sharp 7.

Saturday, at home, the Varsity went up against last year's state tournament runner-up Tug Valley and suffered their first loss of the season 81 – 37. An injury and COVID were factors

for the Warriors in that loss. Haven Deskins scored 27 points for Tug Valley and Bailey Hall had 22 rebounds.

Savana Sharp was the leading scorer for PCHS with 12 points; Cali Propst was right behind with 11; Shayla Bennett added 6 points; Rya Barlow and Alexis Arbogast each threw in 3; and Julia Brown added 2.

The Girls Varsity got back on the winning track with an exciting 88 - 62 victory over Bath County Monday.

Allison Taylor scored 26 points, including five three-pointers and had 21 rebounds. Savana Sharp scored 21 points and had eight rebounds. Alexis Arbogast scored 13; Calli Propst filled up the stat sheet and scored 16 points; Shayla Bennett added 9; Maxie Monico 2; and Rya Barlow added 1.

Trinity Forbes scored 36 for Bath.

Th PCHS JV Girls won their third straight game

with an exciting 48-45 win over Tug Valley.

Julia Brown and Addison Hamrick led PCHS with 15 points each. Chloe Annett scored 5 before being injured; Halleigh Teter 2; Rya Barlow 2; Reanna Alderman 2; Jolene Workman 5; Haiven Brown 2; and Ryley Kerr 3.

## WARRIOR BOYS

The Warrior Boys JV and Varsity Basketball teams had wins over the Richwood Lumberjacks Saturday afternoon at home. The JV won 64-46 and the Varsity won 77-71.

Michael Mason and George Shifflett put up 17 points each for the JV team.

Bringing home the win for the Varsity were Carter Vandevander with 30 points; Ben Workman 18 points; and Cash Beers 15.

The Boys have games January 16 at home against Bath County at 7 p.m.; January 17, Highland, away, at 2 p.m. and January 20, Union, away, at 7 p.m.

# Michael J. Porter scholarship

**Chris Mishoe**

When Michael Porter moved to Pocahontas County, he became involved in education as a substitute teacher. As he interacted with the students, he became aware that after graduating, students were often held back from furthering their education because of financial needs. He contacted Ruth Taylor and told her of his interest to award a cash scholarship to a graduating student wishing to further their education in one of the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. As time went on, it was decided that as the cash amount grew, it would better be served by the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation administration.

After Michael's death in 2022, some of his friends wanted to honor Michael's

memory and thought that by continuing to help the scholarship fund grow it would truly do that. They presented the idea to other friends, family and the Hillsboro Community and found that all were on board with a project. It was suggested a Golf Scramble would be the vehicle to begin to work on accomplishing the task. Ruth Taylor, of Hillsboro, Phillip Cain, of the Pocahontas Country Club, and Anne Bowling, of the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation, along with business members of the community helped put together our annual Golf Scramble. This year, we were able to add nearly \$10,000 to the principal of the account. It is our plan to continue to grow the base amount, so that the scholarship will continue to increase. At present the scholarship amount is \$1,000.

As we come to the end of this holiday season of gift giving and family and lights and remembering the year, I would like to take a moment and share my sincere thanks to all those who have helped raise awareness of this scholarship and have helped raise money for Michael's cause. Michael was truly a light to all his friends, his family and to his students.

Michael's mother, Cathy, his sister, Debbie, and all his extended family and friends wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for those who have made this cause their own.

May this year of 2026 bring you all the blessings you deserve, as we give thanks for all the blessings we received in 2025.

As Michael often said throughout his life, may we all continue to "Do Good Things!!"

## School Menus

January 19 – 23

**Monday, 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. No school.

**Tuesday, 20:** Banana bread square, fruit. Walking taco with lettuce, tomato, cheese, black beans, Mexi corn, carrots, fruit, milk.

**Wednesday, 21:** Cooks' Choice.

**Thursday, 22:** Breakfast pizza, fruit.

Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad with romaine lettuce, whole grain roll, herb roasted zucchini with parmesan, pineapple, milk.

**Friday, 23:** Oatmeal muffin square, fruit cup. Chicken noodle soup with WV grown chicken, whole grain grilled cheese sandwich, celery and carrot sticks, cookie, fruit, milk.

## BOE, from page 1

On December 16, Hamilton was joined by director of personnel Dr. Rhonda Combs at PCHS, where they were given access to the school safe.

"The following funds and on-site collections were in the safe – the Turkey Trot, Poinsettia Sales, track donations, Advent calendar funds, Forest Festival travel stipend, robotics, class dues, yearbook sales, powder puff T-shirt sales, National Honor Society dinner collections, science lab fees, SkillsUSA club dues, Christmas T-shirt sales, FFA donations, FFA fruit sales, lunch payments and concession sales," Hamilton said.

"Some of those occurred as early as September," Williams added.

The policy requires that the principal make a daily bank deposit, especially if the take for that day is more than \$500. With what was found in the safe, it was determined a deposit had not occurred since the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

When reviewing what was found in the safe, Hamilton said there were issues with receipt totals and the amount of money attached to them adding up. There was one case where the receipt for concession stand sales at a football game reported \$3,098.38. That number was scratched out replaced by \$2,878.30 which was also scratched out.

The final number was \$2,879.56 and minus the startup of \$450, the total deposited in the safe was \$2,429.56.

There was no explanation as to why the numbers were scratched out and whether or not the final count was right or not.

The receipts that are issued with funds require a list be made of how many \$1s, \$5s, \$10s and so forth are collected before the total is added at the bottom.

Hamilton said there was a receipt that recorded 116 \$1 bills were collection, however, when she counted the money to verify that, there were only 66 \$1 bills present.

Other issues were discovered when the safe was fully analyzed.

"Basketball uniforms were purchased without a signed requisition or a purchase order in place," Hamilton said. "Additionally, the vendor used was not an active vendor for our school system. A check for the science lab fees was dated September 9, 2025, and the deposit went through the 16th of December.

"The athletic director reported that referees had not been paid and \$39,000 was

kept in the safe for several weeks, and in some cases, part of the funds had been there for months," she continued. "I personally took the money to the bank in the last two weeks of December."

There were also times when money was taken from one fund to reconcile another, leaving the first fund short. A note was found stating the ticket sales from a game was \$54 short, so \$54 was taken from that night's concession stand funds to reconcile it.

After these discoveries, Williams and Hamilton had an independent audit done for PCHS. The audit was for July 1, 2024 through December 22, 2025.

Williams and Hamilton shared the results of the audit, which found several areas of concern that need to be corrected.

The auditors found that paperwork was not being filled out properly, such as listing how many of each denomination of bill was collected and the total of each. There were also several times amounts were crossed out and replaced without any explanation.

Regarding bank deposits and funds going back and forth from the bank, the audit not only revealed that deposits were not being made in a timely fashion, but cash taken out of the bank for ticket sales was not returned to the bank between school years.

It was noted that cash was taken out for the ticket sales boxes on August 22, 2024, and it was not returned until August 1, 2025. It was then taken back out on August 19, 2025.

The audit also revealed that there were no copies made of checks before they were deposited in the bank.

Next, they reviewed purchases and purchase orders and discovered that the policy was not being followed regarding purchases of more than \$5,000 and backdating of purchases made.

"So, our finding in this section, we noted that purchases over \$5,000 were not properly bid out and three quotes were not obtained," Williams said. "The recommendation is that we follow those guidelines of Policy

8200. We get three quotes when it's necessary to meet the threshold.

"Continuing on with purchasing orders, they reviewed purchase orders during the audit period of July 1, 2025 through December 22, 2025, and noted there were 627 created during that time frame and 294 of them were backdated to a date that predated the invoice date, however, were actually encumbered in the system well after the order date and in some instances, after the goods were already received," she added.

Williams and Hamilton also shared a spreadsheet that showed a list of funds, when they were received and when they were deposited, some take more than 100 days to be deposited in the bank from the time of receipt.

After reviewing the audit, Williams explained what will take place to ensure the issue is corrected and will not happen again. First, she and Hamilton have agreed that all the other schools will also undergo audits to see that things are in order there.

"Training will be required for all staff members via Vector or another solution in which everyone will read, train and make sure that they know the appropriate spending protocol," Williams said. "I'm sure most people do understand the appropriate spending protocol, and we have gotten derelict in doing it because we did have auditing years where we didn't have these findings, so it's not that we don't know.

"Principals and school secretaries will be trained on time management, financial procedures and organizations," she continued. "They are a team, so they need to understand the policies that regulates them."

Williams added that she is going to ask principals to try to spread out fundraisers throughout the school year so there will not be an overflow of money coming in at one time.

After the independent audits are done, Williams said there will be another one in July 2026, after a baseline is made by the previous audits.

Suzanne Stewart may be contacted at [sastewart@pocahontastimes.com](mailto:sastewart@pocahontastimes.com)

## Library, from page 1

isn't in her degree field, Moore jumped at the opportunity to serve the community.

Moore has been friends with Pocahontas County Free Libraries Director Hallie Herold since childhood and was eager to work with her friend in creating new programs for the Linwood Library, as well as maintaining the ones that are ongoing.

"Hallie and I met last night and talked," she said. "I've got a list of things I want to do. I am still figuring out how to accomplish them."

Of course, the library's bread and butter is books and Moore has a knack for helping a visitor find what they're looking for, simply by learning what they like to read.

When I mentioned a couple of my favorite authors, she's immediately said, "I have a book I think you'll love."

"That's something that's been fun, too," Katie said. "When people check out books, I tell them to let me know how it was so I can recommend it," she said. "I think it's really important to connect with people. Kind of get a sense for what people like."

Moore even plans to have a "readers' picks" section of the library, similar to those in bookstores, for "staff picks." She wants to display recently returned books with comments from the readers in hopes that someone will be inspired to check out the book as well.

In addition to books, Moore said she wants to get a few activities organized for the community, including a game night and something for homeschool children in the area.

"I would love to have a game night here," she said. "I was actually thinking about the mail order mystery things that you can get. I think it would be a fun – get out of your house – do

something collaborative

night. "I have met a lot of homeschool parents and I would like to see if they're interested in coming up and doing things together," she added. "I know they are already really good with networking and communicating with each other. I would love to be part of bringing people together, too."

A reader herself, Moore said her favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut – a mutual love she shared with her dad.

"That was his favorite," she said. "I would get him a Vonnegut book every Christmas."

She also likes stories where the main character learns a lesson, and, hope-

fully, becomes a better person by the end of the book.

Although it has been challenging to return to her childhood home, especially after so recently losing her dad, Moore said she is happy to be back in Pocahontas County and excited about the future.

She is also ready to take on the completely made-up role of "Mayor of Clawson." "I ran into some people who camp there that my dad knew forever, and they called him the 'Mayor of Clawson,'" she said. "It triggered something in my memory and I was like, 'I remember people calling him that.'

"Now it's an inherited title, so now I'm the 'Mayor of Clawson,'" she added, laughing.

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## Obituary



### Phyllis Buettner

Phyllis Jean Buettner, 68, of Paden City, peacefully passed away at her home Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Born April 17, 1957, in Marlinton, she was a daughter of the late Eugene P. and Monda Mason Galford.

Phyllis was a retired mortgage loan technician for the United States Government. She loved scrapbooking, gardening, traveling and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of the Paden City Garden Club, past state and national president of NA-COAC/NASP and Paden City Christian Church.

She is survived by her husband, Louis "Lou" Buettner; four sons, Brian McKeever, of Glasgow, Kentucky, Eric (Ashtin) McKeever, of New Martinsville, Lance (Karen) McKeever, of Morgantown, and David Buettner, of New Philadelphia, Ohio; daughter, Tonya Armstrong, of Port Washington, Ohio; seven grandchildren, Carter McKeever, Silas McKeever, Anna McKeever, Sienna McKeever, Braxton McKeever, Kalena McKeever and Isla McKeever; five step-grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild; sister, Karen McCoy, and husband, Steve, of Droop Mountain; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside service was held Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Paden Memorial Garden in Paden City with friend Jeremy Joy officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Paden City Christian Church, 105 E Main St., Paden City, WV 26159.

## Dems, from page 2

Woelfel urged the legislature to take up the question of the school aid funding formula. The current formula is outdated, and schools must pay for support positions that are mandated by the legislature out of pocket, which strains counties' school finances. Republican State Sen. Amy Grady, chair of the Senate Education Committee, however, placed emphasis on changing graduation requirements. She said students need more pathways out of public education, and that the traditional four-year college experience isn't for everyone. She said schools should prepare students with the skills

employers are looking for. Hornbuckle also brought up the subject of utility bill prices. He supports a freeze on utility bills to give the legislature time to find policy fixes. He also called for reforms to the Public Service Commission to make it more responsible to the people.

However, none of the suggestions from the Democrats has a chance of reaching bill status unless Hanshaw agrees to move it onto the legislative agenda.

"Folks think they have all the ideas, and it never works out that way," Hornbuckle said. "I think we have to make a concerted effort to put people first this legislative session."

*Times West Virginian*  
Article provided by the West Virginia Press Association

## Policy, from page 2

Resignation due to retirement of Christine Campbell as principal at Pocahontas County High School, effective June 30, 2026.

Employment of Jennifer Stewart as teacher at Marlinton Middle School, pending successful background check.

Resignation due to retirement of Kimberly Rao as secretary II/accountant II at Pocahontas County High School, effective December 31, 2025.

Employment of Melissa Taylor as interim head coach for girls' basketball at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Employment of Rebecca Petete as interim \$1 coach for girls' basketball at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Employment of Patricia Plaughter as teacher for the 21st Century Grant after-school program at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School.

The next board meeting

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will be Tuesday, January 20, at 6 p.m., in the board of education conference room in Buckeye.

## Obituary Policy:

Obituaries are published free of charge up to three column inches with a \$6 per column inch charge thereafter.



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# Everything that hinders

by Dawn Reed

**M**y cell phone had been acting weird for a while.

Everything was running slow. I didn't get much service though my coworkers – with the same phone carrier and sitting right beside me – had no trouble at all. The sound for calls had not worked for a year and a half. Every single one had to be made on speaker. (Several millennials tried to figure it out – with no luck.)

Typically, I chalk any trouble with my phone to operator error. There's so much I don't understand. Turning it off and back on was my go-to for months. It never made a difference.

I didn't have the latest version iPhone; I was several behind. My beloved found me the next upgrade for a penny. He even volunteered to take it to the cell phone store to get it switched over. Holy Moly! What a dear! He stopped by my workplace to pick up my sluggish cellphone and

went to get it done. It was the sweetest thing.

My beloved had no clue as to all that was on my phone. He didn't realize I hadn't done my last update because I was over my storage limit. The nice lady at the cell phone store told him for me. She worked diligently to transfer everything to the new phone. It took two and a half hours. My beloved waited the entire time. He dropped it back off to me with instructions to delete all unnecessary data.

I had 16,223 pictures, more than 700 notes, countless text messages, and bunches of unused apps running. All of them together were hindering the effectiveness of my cellphone. I was holding on to so much stuff I didn't need, and it was holding me back. There were 100s of pictures of clouds, our dog asleep on the couch, recipes and quotes I hadn't looked at in ages. For my new phone to function properly, I was going to have to let some

stuff go – to get rid of some unnecessary baggage.

I've been hanging on to lots of other stuff I don't need. Purging my phone (and the new year) motivated me to clean out some closets. In one of them, I found a clown costume from the late 1990s, a child-sized kimono from Japan (vintage 1970s), an adult-sized bee costume (Sunday School emphasis mid 90s), a mummy costume (Trunk or Treat 2018), two Tooth Fairy gowns, two wigs and an old pinata.

In addition to material things, we can also hold on to past mistakes, past hurts, unfulfilled dreams, losses, anger, bitterness, jealousy, or a host of other emotions.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us, "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

As we go into 2026, are there things we need to throw off? Things that are hindering our peace, our



Dawn Reed

hope, our growth. Is there sin that is keeping us rooted in place? As the writer said, "Let's throw it off...and run with perseverance..." Not quitting but always going forward.

The "throwing off" can be a process, but God is faithful. He will see us through it. Oh, how I wish I could have snapped my fingers and cleared my phone instantly. That first evening, I spent three hours deleting 1,200 photos of dumb stuff.

I may be hindered for a while yet.

## Court, from page 2

Ashley Simpson, 35, of Charmco, pleaded not guilty to all counts of her indictment and waived her right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Bond has been posted. Simpson was indicted on two counts, fraudulent schemes: two counts, conspiracy to commit a felony.

Anthony Joseph Lamb, 27, of Marlinton, pleaded not guilty to all counts in his indictment and waived his right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Bond was posted. Lamb was indicted on one count, wanton endangerment; one count, obstructing an officer.

Steven Bryant Simpson, 41, of Charmco, pleaded not

guilty to all counts of his indictment and waived his right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Bond has been posted. Simpson was indicted on two counts, fraudulent schemes: two counts, conspiracy to commit a felony.

Anthony Joseph Lamb, 27, of Marlinton, pleaded not guilty to all counts in his indictment and waived his right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Bond was posted. Lamb was indicted on one count, wanton endangerment; one count, obstructing an officer.

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# Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

## Noah Puffenbarger Family – circa 1921



**THANK YOU TO** Maxine Elbon for sending this photograph of her great-grandfather, Noah Puffenbarger, and family of Frank, West Virginia. Maxine writes: “The picture was taken 1921 timeframe. As I name the people in the picture you will notice first man on left in back row is Warrick W. Hoover who was married to Edith Puffenbarger. Uncle Warrick Hoover was timekeeper at the Tannery in Frank from beginning until his retirement. My grandfather, Joseph Puffenbarger, also was a life time employee at the Tannery.

“Front Row (l-r): Violet Hoover, Katherine Puffenbarger (my mother), Bertie Wilfong Puffenbarger, Charles Puffenbarger, Noah Puffenbarger, Eugene Puffenbarger. Second Row: Warrick Hoover, Edith Puffenbarger Hoover, Hubert Puffenbarger, Virginia Puffenbarger, Joseph Puffenbarger (my grandfather), Ratie Arbogast Puffenbarger and baby Helen Puffenbarger.” (Preserving Pocahontas Archives, Courtesy of Maxine M. Elbon; ID: PHP007746)

Photographs in the “Preserving Pocahontas” Digital Library may be found at [www.pocahontaspreservation.org](http://www.pocahontaspreservation.org) or [www.preservingpocahontas.org](http://www.preservingpocahontas.org)

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

## Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,  
January 18, 1951

Over in the county of Highland, ladies have a society for the pursuit of science. They call it the Garden Club. Regular meetings are held, usually in the home of a member.

At the recent January meeting, a lady gave her experience in winter feeding of birds in her backyard. Fruits, grains, seeds and suet were items on the bill of fare – water is especially appreciated. Keep the water from freezing by adding glycerin

Her list of birds included an occasional blue jay, cardinals, sparrows, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, titmouse, wrens and what all; why, even a mocker. The mocker acted high-winged and temperamental. He bumped on and then bumped off the table. He ate up the raisins the lady had served. When robins turned up at the cafeteria, there were content

with water and frozen, rotten apples.

My little niche in the program was to tell something of the bogs of Cranberry. They asked me last summer. I will promise anything 90 days ahead; even to the payment of money; and put it in writing, too. While appreciating most highly the distinctive honor, as the fateful date approached, I began to have doubts. It so happened to be the day of the week the paper is assembled and printed.

Then, too, the weather for weeks on end was more fitting for people of my years to be in the chimney corner, a sitting by the fire, than galivanting over a countryside, 50 miles from home.

However, it turned out that there had never been a better time to go to Monterey. The weak winter sun was beginning to gain strength, the road was smooth and fine with small hazard from ice, the company of fellow seek-

ers of truth proved delightfully stimulating. I would have remarked in the words of an old friend on this return from the Kanawha County jailhouse – the company was as congenial as one could wish!

Anyway, it was a pleasure trip. However, I do not seem to be able to get over the wonder of being able to leave home after lunch, go 45 miles, speak a piece, get back home for early supper, tuck a paper on the press, print for four hours and then to bed by 10 o'clock.

### OUR ARMY AND NAVY BOYS

Corporal Wallace W. Bussard, of the U. S. Guard, who is stationed in Wilmington, North Carolina, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bussard, at Frost, during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Lacy Wiseman, of Droop, who have two sons serving in Korea, heard the latter part of December from them both and they had been moved out of the Seoul area. Orville had received a banged-up shoulder and was sent to a hospital. He called to his brother,

Junior, from the ship, that he thought he was being taken to Japan, but instead he was hospitalized in Seoul. He was removed from there and now the whereabouts of neither Orville nor Junior are known to their parents.

B. B. Vandevender, electronics technician, third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ora Vandevender, of Bartow, is serving aboard the repair ship USS Hector in the Far East.

Sergeant Thomas E. Gibson, of the U. S. Army Air Force, has returned to his duties at McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington, after spending several days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Gibson, on Elk.

Corporal and Mrs. Forrest G. Kellison, of Rapid City, South Dakota, are visiting home folks here this week. Corporal Kellison is with the 8th Air Force in which he has served 32 months. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest G. Kellison, of Buckeye.

see 75 pg 10

member to have ever seen it before; he looks around to see which way is not the way home, grabs his bundle and starts; he goes through the same adventures he had before; finally stops to rest, and a friend comes along. Evidently the friend remarks that a last year's grasshopper leg is a very noble acquisition and inquires where he got it.

Evidently the proprietor does not remember exactly where he did get it, but thinks he got it “around here somewhere.” Evidently the friend contracts to help him freight it home. Then, with a judgment peculiar antic (pun not intended), they take hold of opposite ends of that grasshopper leg and begin to tug with all their might in opposite directions. Presently they take a rest and confer together. They decided that something is wrong, they can't make out what. Then they go at it again, just as before. Same result. Mutual discriminations follow. Evidently each accuses the other of being an obstructionist. They arm up, and the dispute ends in a fight. They lock themselves together and

chew each other's jaws for a while; then they roll and tumble on the ground till one loses a horn or a leg and has to haul off for repairs. They make up and go to work again in the same old insane way, but the crippled ant is at a disadvantage; tug as he may, the other one drags off the booty and him at the end of it. Instead of giving up, he hangs on, and gets his shins bruised against every obstruction that comes in the way.

By and by, when that grasshopper leg has been dragged all over the same old ground once more, it is finally dumped at about the spot where it originally lay. The two perspiring ants inspect it thoughtfully and decide that dried grasshopper legs are a poor sort of property after all, and then each go off in a different direction to see if he can't find an old nail or something else that is heavy enough to afford entertainment and at the same time valueless enough to make an ant want to own it.

see 100 pg 10



## Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday,  
January 15, 1975

Last week's reminiscing was centered on the smoke-stack and wasn't intended to be a complete story on workers, but we welcome any additional history...

Here are a few of the entries for the contest you may enjoy...

My Mom says I am a hot head, so I would like to blow my stack.

Joe McMillion  
Hillsboro

I wish to blow my stack to clear the air and help beautify our landscape in Marlinton.

Jerry Jett  
Marlinton

I would like to see an explosion or big boom for peace and progress – not war. I was born in Cass and worked in Marlinton during 1942 for the Ration Board. Also, I remember the landmark well.

Mrs. Evelyn Rayborn  
Charleston

Born there – mother killed by train and was reared by my grandmother. John Welsey Irvine was my grandfather.

Ruby Irvine Winebrenner  
Gauley Bridge

The reason I would like to blow your stack is that it was impossible to get the odor out of my clothes. I was employed at the tannery in the late 20s and lived at Edray with my parents.

John McClure  
Charleston

I would like to enter the Blow Your Stack Contest. I

was born near Mill Point. I graduated from Hillsboro High School where my brother, Joe, played on the football team, and I have often wanted to blow up Marlinton after a ballgame.

Mary Kramer  
Berrier

### SNOW GOOSE

Sunday afternoon, a white goose was honking and hissing on lower Second Avenue as a dog or two barked around it. Randy Stemple threw a piece of canvas over it and took it to the Greenbrier River nearby.

This is probably the goose seen on the Greenbrier the past week or so. The Snow Goose is a stock bird and doesn't have the longer neck of other geese.

### BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Matheny, of Durbin, a son, Patrick Brian.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. McElwee, of Athens, Georgia, a daughter, Brandy Jean.

### DEATHS

Mrs. Dora Rachel Combs, 84, of Buckeye; born at Woodrow, a daughter of William E. and Nancy Kelley Sharp. Service from Van-Reenen Funeral Home with burial in Cochran Cemetery.

Howard James Kelley, 55, of Fairmont; born at Lobelia, a son of the late Howard T. and Sara Jane Byrd Kelley. Funeral service from Van-Reenen Funeral Home with burial in Dunmore Cemetery.

Mrs. Emma J. Aldridge, 95; born at Mill Point, a

see 50 pg 10

## Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times  
Price Brothers

Thursday, January 17, 1901

A man fell into the water tank last week and was hurt. He was at work on the top of it and fell to the bottom bruising himself considerably. To add to his discomfort, no sooner had he landed and hurt himself because there was no water to break his fall, the water came pouring in from the pumps and came near drowning him.

If the new tank keeps leaking until warm weather, the citizens of Marlinton will be favored with the luxury of an ideal shower bath to cool them off and refresh them after the arduous toils of the long summer days.

Friday evening, the sound of an explosion was heard and felt in Marlinton. It was learned afterwards that it was an explosion of dynamite at Falling Spring, 32 miles by the railway. A large boulder had fallen on the track and delayed the passenger train going down. Twenty-five sticks of dynamite were placed on top of the boulder and plastered over with mud. The stone was completely shattered and the train proceeded after a delay of 15 minutes.

The present winter is a very remarkable one for its mildness. We have had no snow this winter. Folks are getting a little uneasy about their supply of ice for next summer. We have had more bright days than usually falls our lot. This is the mildest winter since 1892-3.

A few cases of smallpox are breaking out again in this county on Droop Mountain, and a few cases are reported in the brush section of Edray district. Everyone should be vaccinated who has not already rendered himself immune to the disease.

Whooping cough has made its appearance in the families of Uriah Bird and Jeff Killingsworth, east Marlinton. There seems to be no danger of its spreading as the parents are carefully isolating their children.

### THE ORGANIST

There is a certain church in this county which has had an organ for about 20 years, and the position of organist has been supplied from the young ladies of the congregation. The peculiar part about it is that none of the young ladies have held the position of organist but for a very short time because shortly after a young lady begins to play on that organ in the face of the congregation, she gets married. This has happened without exception in some 15 or 20 cases...

### PARALYZED

In every large town like Marlinton, there are a number of men who occasionally make a night of it and solace themselves with alcoholic joys. Paralysis is a terrible thing. It makes you feel so bad the next morning. A party of men were courting this sort of paralysis the other night in this town when one of them suddenly declared that there was something terrible the matter with him, that he could not shut his eyes. His boon companions gathered around him in alarm. The victim's eyes were wide open, and he was struggling with muscles commonly known as orbicularis palpebrarum whose sacred duty it is to close the eye.

The eyes of the victim were wide open placidly staring at the faces of the men who were inquiring into the matter. The victim was making tremendous effort, straining every nerve to contract the orbicularis palpebrarum, without effect. The victim placidly stared until he went to sleep and the next day the olfactory muscle had resumed its function.

It is thought that the trouble was brought on by too frequent doses of a certain liquid known as an eye opener.

see History pg 10

## 100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,  
January 14, 1926

Six degrees below zero sometime Tuesday night. Zero at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The children of Seebert Wilfong, at August, have whooping cough. Also, two children of Denton Wilfong. Other cases have been reported in the same neighborhood.

### THE ANT

Continued...

The ant wags his property this way and that, shoves it ahead of him in a moment, turns tail and lugs it after him another moment. Gets madder and madder, then presently hoists it into the air and goes tearing away in an entirely new direction; comes to a weed; it never occurs to him to go around it; no, he must climb it; and he does climb it, dragging his

worthless property to the top; which is as bright a thing to do as it would be for me to carry a sack of flour from Heidelberg to Paris by way of Strasburg Steeple. When he gets up there, he finds that that is not the place; he takes a cursory glance at the scenery and either climbs down again or tumbles down, and starts off once more – as usual, in a new direction.

At the end of half an hour, he fetches up within six inches of the place he started from and lays his burden down; meantime he has been over all the ground for two yards around and climbed all the weeds and pebbles he came across. Now he wipes the sweat from his brow, strokes his limbs, and then marches aimlessly off in as violent a hurry as ever. He traverses a good deal of zigzag country, and by and by stumbles on his same booty again. He does not re-

## Change, from page 1

12th grades due to his academic success. He enrolled in his father's Alma Mater, Morehouse College, in 1944. At a mere 19 years of age, King had earned his BA in sociology, later studying theology at Crozer Theological Seminary where he was later ordained to the Baptist Ministry.

As a young man, however, King could not accept his new name. But following in his father's footsteps, and after decades of preaching and successful leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, King felt as though he had come to earn it.

Before his famous "I have a dream" speech which took place at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, King visited our very own Charleston, West Virginia. There, in 1960, he delivered a sermon and message at the First Baptist Church. A small announcement appeared in the local paper, the *Charleston Gazette*, inviting all members of the public to come and hear him speak.

*The Gazette*, noting that King would see the same race issues in Charleston as he did in the south, noted that there were also "men of good will" and that King would see the evidence of their work. *The Gazette* also went on to state that "perhaps this city [Charleston] can bolster the spirit of this courageous man and prove to him that this fight hasn't

been entirely in vain."

Don Marsh, the reporter for *The Gazette*, had the honor of interviewing King at his hotel in Charleston the evening before his address.

"Ultimately, we seek integration, which is true intergroup, inter-personal living where you sit on the bus, you sit together not because the law says it but because it is natural, it is what is right," King told Marsh.

These days, it is far too easy to place blame on anyone for anything. And as MLK day approaches, it is important to remember that he urged forgiveness and reconciliation as this great equality shift in the United States occurred.

Now, in retrospect, his death has marked conspiracy theories on whether or not the escaped convict and assassin, James Earl Ray, actually acted alone in the killing. King had just leaned over the balcony at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, speaking to Reverend Jesse Jackson, when Ray shot him in the head with a rifle. King died in the hospital that night.

Whether or not the conspiracies that surround King's death are real is up for debate. Nevertheless, his preachings, his teachings, his beliefs laid the groundwork for racial equality in our world. From the walls of the MLK memorial, what he stood for is plainly written: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

## Reason, from page 3

Broadly speaking, Republicans tend to hold that the equal treatment standard is met as long as the laws don't formally discriminate against anyone. Democrats tend to hold that formal equality now doesn't account for decades of historic inequality. Much of our politics is downstream from that divide.

The third principle, state neutrality, is a corollary of the first two.

If an individual's choices are what matter most and if we are to treat all individuals equally under the law, then we shouldn't use the power of the state to promote any particular set of choices.

People should be allowed to choose whatever they think of as a good life and the state shouldn't push any particular conception of a good life as better than others.

That means the laws shouldn't favor any specific religion. It shouldn't favor homeowners over renters or driving over public transit or rural areas over cities.

This is the part of liberalism that Americans are most prone to ignoring. We're pretty good about freedom of religion. But we also offer tax breaks for mortgage interest, but not for renters. We build way more roads than train tracks. And we tax farmland less than apartment buildings.

Now there may well be good reasons for the state to nudge people in particular directions sometime and about some things. But doing so is a tricky matter precisely because people disagree (often very strongly) about the things that deserve a nudge and about the direction of said nudge.

Most of the things that fall under the heading of "culture war" boil down to disagreements about when and how the state should cease to be neutral.

## IRS, from page 4

cards, payments apps and online marketplaces. Form 1099-DA, Digital Assets, is used to report digital asset proceeds from broker transactions. Taxpayers must report all taxable income on their federal tax returns, even if they don't receive either form.

### Where's My Refund?

Refund status information is generally available around 24 hours after e-filing a cur-

rent-year return, or four weeks after filing a paper return.

### Be aware of tax scams and fraud

Taxpayers can learn how to prevent, report and recover from tax scams and tax-related identity theft on IRS.gov.

### Choose a tax preparer

Taxpayers should review IRS guidance for Choosing a Tax Professional, including tips on choosing a reputable preparer and how to avoid unethical preparers.

### Taxpayer Assistance Centers

Taxpayers should make IRS.gov their first stop to get help. If taxpayers cannot resolve their issue online, they can get help by making an appointment to visit a Taxpayer Assistance Center.

### IRS Free File and Fillable Forms

The IRS Free File program began accepting individual tax returns January 9 for qualified taxpayers. Taxpayers comfortable preparing their own taxes can use IRS Free File Fillable

Forms starting January 26, regardless of income.

### MilTax

Military members and some veterans can use the Department of Defense program, MilTax, for free return preparation and e-filing software.

### IRS-certified volunteers

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer no-cost, basic tax preparation to qualified individuals.

## Your, from page 3

Time is not the same throughout the universe, or for that matter, right here on Earth. For example, if you put your wife on a plane from West Virginia to California to visit her sister, upon disembarking at LAX, your wife would have aged slightly more than her sister.

Alternatively, when she returns to West Virginia, she will have aged less than you. You wouldn't notice this aging because of the lower velocity of the plane, but if that plane could go even a small fraction of the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, the difference in your ages would be significant. This phenomenon is called time dilation.

The concept of time dilation, however mind-boggling, was proven in 1971 in an experiment that placed cesium-beam atomic clocks on commercial jets and a control cesium-beam atomic clock at a stationary location on Earth. These clocks lose only one second in a million years. Some planes flew east, and some flew west.

As predicted by Einstein, the clocks on the planes either gained or lost time, depending on their altitude and direction of travel, but the results differed from those of a stationary clock, thereby proving the theory of time dilation. Satellites that provide accurate GPS signals must be routinely recalibrated due to their high speeds and lower gravity in Low-Earth Orbit. Time passes more slowly in satellites than on Earth.

You may have heard of the Twin Paradox, a thought experiment about time dilation. In this experiment, one twin travels near the speed of light in a spaceship, and the other twin remains on Earth. When the space-bound twin returns to Earth, her Earth-bound twin has aged considerably more than her.

Where time dilation goes from a thought experiment to reality is in space travel. A trip to Mars and back will be affected by time dilation, though only very slightly. If technology advances to the point where interstellar travel is possible, time dilation would mean that an astronaut would return to Earth far into the future, depending on the spaceship's velocity.

The previous section was a brief discussion of time, but I urge you to conduct your own research on this fascinating topic. There is a plethora of time-related videos on YouTube featuring physicists that can explain the phenomenon much better than I can.

In parting from the topic of time, allow me to leave you with one more factoid about the subject at hand. The speed of light is the universal speed limit, meaning that nothing can go faster than light at 186,000 miles per second.

Should a future technology exist in which a spaceship with astronauts on board could travel at light speed, time would completely stop for the astronauts without their noticing it, while back on Earth, millions of years would pass. If the spaceship were to travel at a speed close to, but not exceeding, the speed of light, time would slow down significantly, with decades or centuries passing on

Earth.

Imagine coming back to Earth, and everyone you knew was long dead, and that's just how time dilation works. So, the next time you glance at your watch, remember: it may tell you your heart rate and the number of steps you've walked, but it's not telling you the whole story of time.

### Now, it's "time" to move on

"An oak tree is a daily reminder that all great things often have small beginnings." *Mathshona Dhlwayo*

A friend's question inspired the following segment of "Science in Small Bites," "Why are the leaves in the crown of an oak tree different from those lower on the tree?"

The leaves near the top of an oak tree, called the crown leaves, are generally thicker, deeper lobed, and smaller than the shaded leaves below the crown. They evolved to withstand more intense sunlight in the crown.

Likewise, the leaves below the crown are thinner and larger, and the lobes are not as deep as the crown leaves to capture more light, a phenomenon referred to as phenotypic plasticity. The architecture of the stalwart oak is highly efficient, enabling optimal photosynthesis.

Another phenomenon associated with the oak tree is one I find utterly fascinating: the oak apple gall. One tree species we have plenty of here in the Appalachians is the oak family. Every spring, I look forward to seeing the development of these spherical galls, which range in diameter from one-half to two inches and are red or green. I particularly enjoy show-

ing these galls to visitors as a

way of demonstrating how evolution can include a relationship developing between a tree and a very tiny insect, the oak gall wasp, *Amphibolips confluenta*.

The oak gall wasp injects its egg into a developing oak bud in the early spring. The chemical compounds in the injection begin forming a globular nursery for its larvae. In a very real sense, the tiny wasp is tricking the oak into forming a ball rather than a typical oak leaf.

The unique architecture of the gall positions the wasp egg at the dead center, with structural filaments extending from the photosynthesizing outer layer to provide direct nutrition to the developing larvae. Not to anthropomorphize too much, but this strange relationship between an oak tree and a tiny wasp is quite clever.

I've often picked up a gall and wondered how many millions of years it would take for the little wasp to create such a complex relationship with something infinitely larger. It would make sense that the oak gall wasp made the first move. Well, the gall doesn't do any harm to the tree, so hurrah for the wasp.

Nature is grand and full of mysteries; let's love it and protect it, so that our grandchildren can pick up a gall and marvel at the beauty of our planet and all of its inhabitants.

In our next episode of "Science in Small Bites," we'll ask the probing question, "Can we breathe through our butt?"

Go ahead and laugh, but the answer may shock you.

Ken Springer  
ken1949bongo@gmail.com



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Accepting New Patients - Easy Transfers  
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New expanded hours to provide primary and urgent care for the Slaty Fork/Snowshoe area.

Accepting New Patients - Visitors to area welcome  
Call 304-799-1072.

Located in the Inn at Snowshoe,  
565 Cass Road, Slaty Fork.

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**304-636-7732**  
Rt. 219/250 South, Beverly 5-Lane, Elkins  
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elkinsmotorsports.net

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

**ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEEES & LEGATEES**

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

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

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

**First Publication Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026**  
**Claim Deadline: Monday, March 16, 2026**

ESTATE NUMBER: 14815  
ESTATE OF: **LARRY VOND SHAHAN**  
ADMINISTRATRIX: Lenora J. Shahan  
4864 Potomac Highland Trail  
Green Bank, WV 24944-8506

Subscribed and sworn to before me on January 8, 2026.  
Melissa L. Bennett  
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission  
1/15/2c

**NOTICE**

**BOARD OF REVIEW AND EQUALIZATION HEARINGS**

The County Commission of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in its capacity as the Board of Review and Equalization will convene on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing and equalizing assessments made by the Assessor.

**Friday, January 30, 2026** 10:00 a.m.  
County Commission Office  
Pocahontas County Courthouse

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026** 10:00 a.m.  
County Commission Office  
Pocahontas County Courthouse

**Monday, February 9, 2026** 10:00 a.m.  
County Commission Office  
Pocahontas County Courthouse

**Friday, February 13, 2026** 10:00 a.m.  
County Commission Office  
Pocahontas County Courthouse-Marlinton

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026** 5:45 p.m.  
County Commission Office  
Pocahontas County Courthouse

**PRIMARY ELECTION – May 12, 2026**

**GENERAL ELECTION – November 3, 2026**

**Candidate Filing Period**  
**January 12, 2026 – January 31, 2026**

**County Offices on the Ballot**

The Candidate Filing period for the following county offices opens January 12, 2026 and runs until January 31, 2026.

	Filing Fee
County Commission – Northern District Salary \$44,722	\$447.22
Board of Education Seats Expiring - 3	\$25.00
1 Northern	
1 Central	
2 Southern	
Conservation District Supervisor	\$10.00
Party Executive Committee	\$10.00

Based on W. Va. State Code §7-7-4  
1/8/4c

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

The Commission requests that appointments be made prior to these dates.

To schedule an appointment, please contact County Clerk Melissa L. Bennett at 304-799-4549 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.  
Pocahontas County Commission  
1/15/2c

**Which Ballot Am I Eligible to Vote in the Primary?**

If Your Party Is:	You May Vote:
Republican	Republican
Democratic	Democratic
Mountain	Mountain (if available) or Non-Partisan
Libertarian	Non-Partisan
Constitution	Non-Partisan
None of the Parties Above	Non-Partisan, Democratic or Mountain (if available)

**Voter registration deadline for the 2026 Mid-Term Primary Election is April 21.**

Effective December 1, 2024, pursuant to W.Va. Code 3-2-31, the Republican Party only allows registered Republicans to vote the Republican Party ballot.  
1/15/1c

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

**SRCD General Manager Position**

The Snowshoe Resort Community District (SRCD) is seeking résumés from well-qualified individuals who are interested in working for the SRCD as its General Manager.

The SRCD was established pursuant to the requirements of WV Code, Chapter 7, Article 25 Resort Area District Act (RAD Act). The District is located at Snowshoe in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The SRCD is interested in hiring an individual who can help the SRCD to grow successfully in its mission to provide for the public good of all Owners within the Snowshoe Resort Community District.

**The SRCD General Manager shall assist the SRCD Board with planning for future projects and services to be offered by the District. The SRCD General Manager shall have oversight of all existing projects and services, recordkeeping of the SRCD and compliance with the RAD Act, the SRCD's By-laws and the Ordinances and Policies of the SRCD.**

Candidates must have a proven success record managing multiple facets of a municipal type operation to include community relations development, business case development, budgeting and cost control, project management, grant writing and other funding source development skills and finance administration.

The SRCD General Manager position will be an employee of the District with a salary and benefit package commensurate with the candidate's background and work schedule. The SRCD General Manager will be required to maintain office hours and availability to meet other business needs of the SRCD Board and the SRCD's operational requirements.

The SRCD Board reserves the absolute right to reject any and all applications, leave the position unfilled and advertise for candidates at any future date at its sole discretion.

**Interested candidates should send their résumé, salary and benefit requirements to: SRCD, PO Box 377, Snowshoe, WV 26209, or via email to: info@snowshoedistrict.com no later than January 31, 2026.**

1/15/2c

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year and 500-year Floodplain**

**To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals**

This is to give notice that the Responsible Entity under Part 58 (Town of Marlinton) has determined that the following proposed action under the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and 23CDBG0004 is located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplain, and the Town of Marlinton will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The proposed project is located in the Town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County. The project will address various deficiencies within the Town's wastewater treatment system in order to meet the requirements of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection as well as to provide efficient and reliable wastewater treatment service to the community.

**There are three primary purposes for this notice.**

**First**, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. **Second**, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. **Third**, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

**Written comments must be received by the Town of Marlinton at the following address on or before Friday, January 30, 2026: Town of Marlinton, 709 2nd Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954, Attention: Sam Felton, Mayor.**

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the same address listed above.

Date: January 15, 2026  
Region 4 Planning and Development Council  
1/15/1c

**pocahontastimes.com**

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

A	L	K	A	L	I	U	N	M	A	S	K	A	C	H	T	U	N	G	
R	O	L	L	I	N	F	I	E	R	C	E	S	H	A	R	P	E	R	
B	U	M	P	K	I	N	O	N	A	L	O	G	S	A	T	I	D	L	E
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Y	E	M	E	N	I	S	N	A	N	T	E	S	E	N	A	M	E	L	

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Answer**

3	7	6	9	2	8	1	5	4
1	9	8	3	4	5	2	7	6
4	5	2	1	7	6	8	3	9
7	4	1	8	6	3	5	9	2
8	2	3	7	5	9	4	6	1
5	6	9	2	1	4	3	8	7
9	1	5	6	3	2	7	4	8
6	3	7	4	8	1	9	2	5
2	8	4	5	9	7	6	1	3

**Advertising Deadline is Monday at noon. Call 304-799-4973**

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Lewisburg, WV

**Town of Hillsboro ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**Sealed Bids for the construction of: Lagoon Improvements Project**

**Contract No. 1** – Furnishing all materials, labor, and necessary items for the improvements of the existing lagoon and other related appurtenances as outlined in the Plans and Specifications.

**Sealed Bids** for the construction of Contract No. 1 will be received at the office of the **Town of Hillsboro, 21 Firehouse St., Hillsboro, WV, until 2:00 p.m. local time on February 19, 2026**, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. A **pre-bid conference** will be conducted in Town Hall of Hillsboro, WV at **10:30 a.m. on February 12, 2026**.

**Contract Times:** 60 calendar days to substantial completion and 90 calendar days to complete work ready for final payment.

Bids shall be submitted on the furnished Bid forms. Bids shall be on a lump sum price basis as indicated on the Bid Form. The bids shall be submitted using the two (2) envelope system. Envelope #1 will contain the required bid documents. Envelope #2 will contain only the bid form and bid schedule.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

**E.L. Robinson Engineering Company**  
5088 Washington Street West, Charleston, WV 25313  
Project Manager **Shawn Kelly, P.E.**, Office: (304) 776-7473 ext 268  
Email: **skelly@elrobinson.com**

Bidders may examine and/or obtain the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

Bidding Documents also may be examined at:

**Town of Hillsboro, 21 Firehouse St, Hillsboro, WV 24946**

**Contractor's Association of WV, 2114 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25311**

The bidding documents are available at [elrobinsonengineering.com](http://elrobinsonengineering.com). To be considered a plan holder, register with QuestCDN.com for a free Regular membership and download the bidding documents for a download fee of \$50. Downloading the documents and becoming a plan holder is recommended as plan holder's receive automatic notice of addenda and bid updates. Interested parties may view the bidding documents at no cost prior to deciding to become a plan holder. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [Support@questcdn.com](mailto:Support@questcdn.com) for assistance in membership registration and downloading digital bidding documents.

A five percent (5%) Bid Bond or certified cashier's check must accompany all Bids. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a satisfactory Payment Bond and Performance Bond, each for 100% of the contract amount.

Prospective Bidders should note that these contracts will include the following critical requirements as identified in the contract documents:

1. Bid Bond (1 Document)
2. Acknowledgement of Addenda (1 Document)
3. WV Contract Licensing Act (1 Document) - All bidders are required to have a West Virginia Contractor's License per Section §21-11-11 of the West Virginia Code.
4. WV Drug Free Workplace (1 Document)
5. WVCAD Section 3 Policy and Procedure Manual (2 Documents)
  - a. Form 8 – Section 3 Clause & Certification
  - b. Form 13 – Section 3 Subrecipient – Contractor's Plan
6. Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities (1 Document)
7. Equal Employment Opportunity Certification (4 Documents)
  - a. Special Equal Opportunity Provisions
  - b. Equal Opportunity Standard Clauses – Executive Order 11246
  - c. Title VI Clause – Civil Rights Act
  - d. Section 109 Clause
8. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Certification (1 Document)
9. Build America, Buy America Act Certification (1 Document)

**Notice of Federal and State Wage Requirements**

Contractors are required to comply with all laws pertaining to prevailing wage rates for the State of West Virginia as issued by the Division of Labor and the federal wage rates issued in accordance with the Davis Bacon Act. The contractor will be required to pay the higher of the state or federal wage rates appropriate for each worker classification.

**WV Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Act**

WEST VIRGINIA CODE 21-1D-5 PROVIDES THAT ANY SOLICITATION FOR A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT REQUIRES EACH VENDOR THAT SUBMITS A BID FOR THE WORK TO SUBMIT AT THE SAME TIME AN AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE BID. THE ENCLOSED DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE AFFIDAVIT MUST BE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED IN THE FIRST ENVELOPE AS EVIDENCE OF THE VENDOR'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1D, CHAPTER 21 OF THE WEST VIRGINIA CODE. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE SIGNED DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE AFFIDAVIT IN THE FIRST ENVELOPE SHALL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF SUCH BID.

All bidders are required to have a WV contractor's license in accordance with Section 21-11-11 of the WV State Code.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Each Bidder must submit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided for in the Information for Bidders.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

All fees associated with the purchase of Project Specifications, Contract Documents, Plans, and Shipping are non – refundable.

Town of Hillsboro  
Gail Siers, Mayor  
1/15/2c

**Classifieds** GET THE JOB DONE!  
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent • Hire

**FOR SALE**

FOR SALE - 1,200 board feet, 1-inch thick, mixed red and white oak. Air-dried. 304-701-1084.

**HELP WANTED**

HELP WANTED - Now hiring for

1/8/4p

secretarial position. No weekends or holidays. Pay based on experience. Please call for an interview. 304-799-4614. Hannah Insurance Agency. 1/8/2c

**FREE**

FREE - Old newspapers. The Pocahontas Times office. 304-799-4973. 1/8/tfn

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**GENERAC**

**WE'VE GOT YOUR SNOW TIRES!**

...and WIPER BLADES, BATTERIES – ALL YOUR COLD WEATHER SERVICING NEEDS.

Don't get in a rut over winter maintenance - give us a call or stop by today!

**HILLSBORO AUTOMOTIVE**

1/4 mile east of Rt. 219 on Denmar Road, Hillsboro  
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday by appointment  
**304-653-4988**

**WE'VE GOT YOUR SNOW TIRES!**

...and WIPER BLADES, BATTERIES – ALL YOUR COLD WEATHER SERVICING NEEDS.

Don't get in a rut over winter maintenance - give us a call or stop by today!

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1/4 mile east of Rt. 219 on Denmar Road, Hillsboro  
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday by appointment  
**304-653-4988**

## Living, from page 1

live it any other way. When you look up and see the hazed outline of the Milky Way, it puts meaning into perspective. This place and the ones who live here make

it what it is. The close-knit community and thriving atmosphere only add to the experience, everyone just living an honest day-by-day way of life while enjoying each other's company.

I feel honored to have not only moved here, but to have been welcomed by such kind-hearted people.

Every day, I'm adding to the list of things that make it such a unique and wonderful experience to live here, and it never ceases to amaze.

*Lucas Adcock may be contacted at lucasadcock@pocahontastimes.com*

*Lucas Adcock also writes under the pen name L. A. Porter.*

## 50, from page 7

daughter of the late Joseph S. and Abigail Curry Smith. Her husband, Dr. Sandy B Auldridge, preceded her in death in 1963. Funeral service from Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church at Hillsboro with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery.

James (Buck) Howard, 47, of Richwood. Born at Mar-

linton a son of M. C. (John) Howard and the late Eula Rose Howard. Funeral service from the New Prospect Baptist Church at Richwood with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Mary Agnes Riley, 78, of Arbovale, a daughter of the late James and Martha Bostic Faulkner. Funeral service from Wallace and Wallace Funeral Home in Arbovale with burial in Arbovale Cemetery.

Thomas Paris McNeel, 82, of Lewisburg; born at Hillsboro, a son of the late Joseph and Mary Curry McNeel. Funeral service from the Jack K. Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with burial in the Calvary United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Charles Woodrow Keatley, 59, of Marlinton a retired miner and veteran of World War II. Funeral service from VanReenen Funeral Home with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

## 75, from page 7

### DEATHS

Mrs. Rachel Peck, aged 89 years, widow of Wellington G. Peck, died at her home in Durbin Friday, January 12, 1951. On Monday afternoon, the funeral service was held in the Durbin Methodist Church with burial in Simmons Cemetery. She is survived by four sons, John, Luther, George and Oliver; and a daughter, Mrs. Sarah

Simmons.

Harry Hunter Hefner, aged 58 years, of Bartow; funeral service from the Dunmore Methodist Church with burial in the Dunmore Cemetery. He is survived by his three daughters, Mrs. Opal Irvine, Mrs. Hazel Fitzgerald and Mrs. Helen Law; and a son, Hunter Hefner.

Mrs. Martha Jane Neal Ash, aged 83 years, died at her home in Cass, Saturday, January 13, 1951. On Tuesday morning, the funeral

service was held from the Cass Methodist Church with burial in Graham, Va. She is survived by her son, Charles E. Rollins, of Cass

### TYPO

A retired printer went into the restaurant business.

"This is an outrage — there's a needle in this soup!" cried one of his customers.

"Merely a typographical error, sir," said the aforesaid typo suavely. "Should have been noodle!"

## 100, from page 7

### DIED

Mrs. Nannie Crouch Beard, 79, died at her home at Beard January 10, 1926. Graveside service and burial at Oak Grove Cemetery. Mrs. Beard was the widow of the late Lieutenant Henry Moffett Beard, who died nearly forty years ago. She was a member of a prominent family of Randolph County. She was an exceptional woman, and the world is the better for her having

lived in it.

Louis Bauer, 61, died in the Montgomery Hospital January 11. He was buried at Mt. View Cemetery. He came to Pocahontas from Pa. over 20 years ago with the Campbell Lumber Company. For the past few years, he has worked at Raywood.

In the passing over of W. J. Dilley, a good man has gone to his reward. Born November 5, 1847, having passed his 79th birthday. The funeral service was conducted from the home at Dilley's Mill with interment on

a little knoll near his late residence.

The deceased was a son of the late Andrew Dilley. November 24, 1868, he married Miss Carrie H. Stalnaker, of Elkwater. ...

In 1870, Mr. Dilley professed religion at the Mt. Zion camp meeting and throughout these years he lived a faithful and spotless Christian life. He was ever ready to aid the needy ones.

At his age, he knew more people over on the other shore than he did here. We do not sorrow as those without hope.

## History, from page 7

### GOULD MILLIONS

The Countess Castellane who was left very well-to-do by her late father Jay Gould, is practically bankrupt, as it is estimated that she is in debt to the amount of \$4,000,000, which has been incurred since she married a fortune hunting insignificant European Count.

It is thus that the large fortunes which are made by the

financiers are dissipated and given back to the public from which they were gleaned. It is part of the plan. Every dog has his day, and the wealth of the millionaire comes back to the people as surely as time cures all things.

### STATE FLOWER

The time has arrived when we should adopt a State

Flower. The Rhododendron is suggested as being one of the most beautiful and widely distributed of the West Virginia plants, and a suitable one to adopt as a State Flower.

That is no bad idea and the choice is correct. The rhododendron, Greek for "rose tree" is more commonly known as big laurel...

TRIVIA ANSWERS: (1). Hummingbird (2). New York (3). Cow (4). Fifth



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