

Greenbrier River Trail page 3



For Your Consideration page 3



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Winter at Hidden Creek Farm Market

Lucas Adcock
Staff Writer

The two-year mark is approaching in 2026 for the Amish families in Hillsboro, and their Hidden Creek Farm Market. It was reiterated by Paul, one of the Amish community members, that the families like to work together for a common goal, and that the market has been a great source of cohesiveness between both the Amish community, Hillsboro residents, and the communities within the surrounding areas.

Just after opening in summer of 2024, legal provisions prohibited the Amish from selling unpasteurized raw milk in their market, though West Virginia House Bill 4911 had been passed earlier in March of that year. However, the bill wouldn't go into effect for 90 days. So, while this was a temporary hurdle for the market, they now sell unpasteurized raw milk as an addition to the plethora of other products – including homemade ice cream, by the way.

"We would like to do raw milk products – butter and yogurt... cottage cheese," Paul said, "but we're not allowed to do that."



HIDDEN CREEK FARM Market is Amish-owned and is located in Hillsboro. In the two years since the market opened, the farm has expanded and now the market sells local raw milk, in addition to a variety of fresh produce and homebaked goods.
L. Adcock photo

While there isn't a specific law in West Virginia that targets the Amish, the general state laws – particularly the WV Farm Fresh Dairy Act – regulate raw milk sales and allow for limited direct sales of products if they are registered and labeled with warnings.

The issue here is that the outright retail sale of unpasteurized milk products, such as yogurt and butter, often require pasteurization or working through the herd-

share program. According to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the main goal is to create "safe, local and wholesome West Virginia grown dairy products for the consumers in our state."

To achieve this, processing milk into fluid bottled milk and other dairy products is acceptable, but "it still MUST BE PASTEURIZED," according to the WVDA website.

Though the Hidden Creek

Farm Market has experienced a bit of a setback when it comes to selling those particular dairy products, the market itself is thriving.

Paul said that the biggest change the market has seen in the last two years is the reliable production of fruits and veggies during the winter months, producing squash, cabbage, kale, lettuce, turnips, carrots. And offering pears, lemons, oranges.

see Market pg 5

A quiet sign-off for Public Broadcasting

Lucas Adcock
Staff Writer

The year was 1967. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Public Broadcasting Act, establishing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) as a private, non-profit entity to fund public radio and television stations nationwide. Its support for educational and public-interest programming, however, officially began in March of 1968. But it wasn't until January of the following year that public TV interconnection launched, funded by both the CPB and the Ford Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 each, to connect 150 public TV stations through a landline link.

Over the next few years, the CPB would go on to fund historical networks and shows such as the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), which aired both *Sesame Street* and *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Following the funding for these iconic shows, National Public Radio (NPR) was then incorporated, which, unlike PBS, produced and distributed its own programming. Even in the '70s, CPB funded millions of dollars to NPR, allocating this money in order to provide the first ever live coverage of debates within the U.S. House of Representatives. Then, in 1975, Congress amended the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, ensuring adequate funding for public broadcasting and mandating that more of the appropriation be distributed to local stations.

As technology in the late 70s and 80s improved, so did the CPB, to include distribution of television programs via satellite, the development of closed captioning, and the construction of the public radio satellite system. Fast forward a few years and NPR is on the verge of bankruptcy, saved by none other than the CPB which allocated a restructuring \$7 million dollar loan through the CPB fund itself as well as the Radio Fund which was a secondary method of fund allocation. Since its origin, the CPB has been a

staple of funding for various organizations including five in 1987 that supported national minority consortia. After allocating \$800,000, the production and distribution was attained for public television programs by and about Blacks, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders.

During this time period, a reauthorization of the Public Broadcasting Act codified that the CPB's mission is to "encourage the development of programming that involves creative risks and that addresses the needs of underserved and underserved audiences, particularly children and minorities." Later, this assisted in reinforcing the role of public television and radio stations as valuable community informational and educational resources, and affirms the important of universal access. In 2004, the CPB helped the state of Alaska in linking its networks of public radio and television stations through the means of a high-speed data network, allowing for further interconnectivity in the nation.

Fast forward through time to 2025 and we now sit at the end of an era that not only affects the hardworking citizens of public broadcasting, but arguably more so, the listeners. The audience; the citizens who get their information from these networks. Following a decision by the federal government to end support and funding for the CPB in Summer of 2025 – federal officials using arguments such as NPR and PBS being biased in their programming – executive order 14290 titled Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Biased Media was passed, directing federal agencies and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to end support for NPR and PBS.

The last of the CPB's funding came in FY2025 and totaled \$545 million dollars. Of that amount, \$121.54 million went to radio productions and stations, but now, the CPB has ceased operations.

see Public pg 6

Deputy shortage causing strain

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The Kanawha County Sheriff's Department has 100 deputies. Now, just imagine what would happen if that agency was cut in half and there were only 50 deputies to do the same amount of work.

That is the case in Pocahontas County. The numbers may be drastically different, but Sheriff Troy McCoy says it is difficult to operate the agency with only three deputies when he would like to have eight.

"This department is more than half cut," he said. "It makes it tough."

In 2025, the sheriff's department had nine people apply for deputy positions – with all nine failing to make the final cut.

Whether it was the written exam, physical test, background check or polygraph test, all but one of the applicants failed. However, when the one individual, who did pass, went to the West Virginia State Police Academy for training, he did not finish the 16-week training.

McCoy said there are sev-

eral steps in the process to become a deputy, and it can be tough to complete.

"I'm not sure people know what that process is," he said. "It starts out with a written application and then once we get at least two or three applicants, there will be a written Civil Service test. After they pass that, we move on to the physical ability test and once they get through that, then they go on to the background investigation and the polygraph examination."

The background check includes more than a sweep for arrests or any illegal activity. It includes education and employment background.

With the polygraph examination, there are times that, while the candidate answers truthfully, the truth reveals that they are not a good candidate to be a deputy.

If a candidate does not pass the written exam or physical test, they are welcome to apply again, but a bad background check or failing the polygraph is the end of the road.

"If you fail the written test or you fail the physical test, you can reapply," McCoy

said. "We encourage it. The written test, a lot of times for whatever reason, they fail it. Certainly, they can come back."

Now there is a study guide that is available for those interested in the position. It covers everything that may be on the test, which is more than just information about law enforcement. It is a general knowledge test.

"The physical test is another animal all together," McCoy said. "You can do it or you can't."

If a candidate does pass all four sections – written, physical, background and polygraph – they are hired as a deputy. At this point, they are considered an employee and wear the uniform, but they are limited to what they can do until they go to training at the State Police Academy.

"They are assigned with a deputy," McCoy said. "They are always with a deputy. They can do anything the deputy that they're with can do, for the most part. If they're working a vehicle crash, they can direct traffic, but we can't send them by themselves to the crash."

In addition, if the deputy

comes across an accident or is approached by a citizen while they are on their way to work or home after their shift, they cannot work that incident alone. They must call for assistance from one of the on-duty deputies or call it in to the state police.

As soon as possible, the deputy is enrolled in training at the State Police Academy in Institute, where they stay, study and train for 16 weeks to become a certified officer. During this time, they are still a sheriff's department employee and are paid for their time.

The next academy is in May, so McCoy said he will try to have the Civil Service Exam again in February or March in hopes of having applicants that become candidates.

McCoy said his ideal candidate would be someone who wants to stay in Pocahontas County and make a living here. He said that in the history of the sheriff's department, there have only been three deputies who stayed long enough to retire.

see Deputy pg 9

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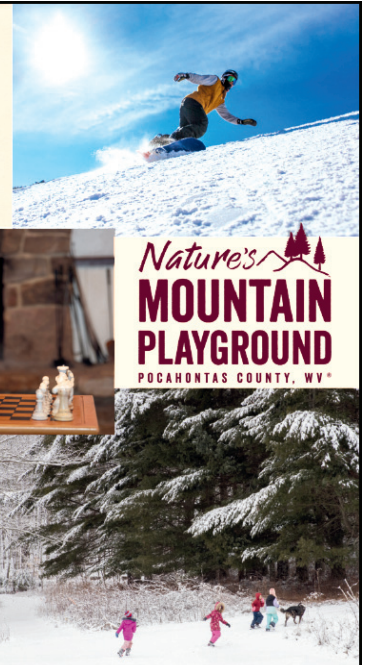


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Primary Election News

As of Tuesday, January 20, the following local candidates had filed for office:

County Commission – Northern District
Matthew Barkley (R)

Board of Education – Non-Partisan Central District
Andrew Frosty McNabb
Southern District
Carl V. Kelk
Morgan McComb
Karen G. McCoy
Connie Rose

Democratic Executive Committee - Female
Jody Mohr
Tracy Samples

Republican Executive Committee- Male
Daniel Loftis

PSC promotes broadband expansion

Charlotte Lane
PSC Chair

One of the major issues the Public Service Commission has grappled with in recent years involves our effort to support the expansion in this state of high-speed internet service, commonly called broadband.

Because of the mountainous terrain of the state, broadband is often accessed through provider service lines strung on utility poles. Our Commission regulates those poles and what can be attached to them.

It is estimated that the state has more than 2.5 million poles, mostly owned by the two major power companies, but also by telephone carriers like Frontier.

We have been tasked with determining who, other than the pole owners, can attach their services to the poles owned by the power or telephone companies. And we are to properly interpret the Federal Communications Commission and state rules to determine who will pay the costs and what attachments can be made with those third-party attachment applications

So, if you pay attention to what we do here, you will be hearing lots in the future about such terms as “broadband expansion,” “pole attachments,” and a panel we created to look into all this: “the pole attachment working group.”

The Commission has a leading role in the pole attachment process. Our rules and our orders have declared who is going to pay for the various services.

Another major issue in all of this is the need to replace aging and weakened utility poles that are subject to inclement weather and environmental damage. These utility poles are critical to the delivery of essential services throughout West Virginia.



Charlotte Lane

The Commission expects two reports detailing pole replacement and maintenance activities to ensure the money allocated for pole infrastructure is spent as intended.

Access to utility poles is imperative to the expansion of broadband in West Virginia. New broadband projects are ongoing throughout the state. More than 78 percent of locations in West Virginia now have access to broadband, according to the Federal Communications Commission, increasing from 65 percent in 2023. However, to reach 100 percent, West Virginia’s pole attachment policies must be streamlined, and the pole distribution system must be sound.

Together, these two issues – pole attachments and the quality of the pole distribution system itself – are essential elements of the utility delivery system. The Commission is addressing these issues on behalf of all West Virginians.

In the House of Delegates ~Week ending January 16

Ann Ali

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates gavelled in for the second regular session of the 87th Legislature Wednesday, eager to put in motion many of their proposals constructed in the months since the first regular session adjourned.

For one committee, there was no time to waste.

“Mister Speaker, your Committee on Education is ready to go to work,” said Committee Vice Chairman Delegate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia, during Wednesday announcements. “We will meet today at 2 p.m. in the House Chamber for an analysis of the West Virginia School Aid Formula.”

The House Finance Committee broke from its traditional early session spate of scheduled state agency budget hearings for a hearing Thursday morning on House Bill 4007, relating to industrial access roads.

“Industrial access roads are important to economic development, period,” said Delegate David McCormick, lead sponsor of HB4007. “This program is part of the West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program initially started in 1999, and a county or municipality could request up to \$400,000 for industrial access road construction.

“What this bill does is it doubles that to \$800,000 to make up for inflation and increased costs since that time, and it can be used just for construction of the road by the Department of Highways who administers this program.”

House Bill 4008, also relating to the Business Ready Sites Program, advanced through the House Energy and Public Works Committee Thursday, as well. The measure would expand the current grants to include 5-acre sites for grants of as much as \$75,000 in assistance, 20-acre sites for as

much as \$100,000 and sites of more than 20 acres may be eligible for as much as \$250,000.

“I think this is going to give the Division of Economic Development more flexibility and more tools in their chest to get sites ready and foster in more businesses and create more jobs,” said Delegate Jordan Maynor, R-Raleigh, the lead sponsor of the bill.

The newest member of the House, Delegates, John Jordan, R-Beckley, took the oath of office just a few

hours after being appointed to fill the unexpired term representing the 42nd District, which is a portion of Raleigh County. Jordan, who serves as Lead Pastor of Calvary Assembly of God, was joined by his wife, Stephanie, for the swearing-in ceremony as House Clerk Jeff Pack administered the oath.

The last day to introduce bills is February 17, and 483 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Reported Scams in 2025: Medicare scams top the list

Medicare scams topped the list of fraud complaints reported to the West Virginia Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division in 2025, according to the office’s year-end review released last week.

“It’s vitally important for consumers to be diligent when they receive a call, text or email from someone or an organization that is unfamiliar to you. Never share your personal or financial information. If you have a question about an unsolicited call, text or email, call our office to verify its authenticity,” Attorney General McCuskey said.

From January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, the top 10 fraud complaints reported to the Con-

sumer Division were:

1. Medicare
2. Robo Calls
3. Social Security/Government
4. Loans
5. Sweepstakes/Lottery/Prize
6. Debt Collection
7. Service Disconnection/Promotion
8. Computer/Phishing/Social Media
9. Tax Relief/Forgiveness
10. Home Warranty/Home Protection

The division saw a notable uptick in debt collection, tax relief, and home warranty scams in December as fraudsters targeted consumers during the holiday season.

Consumers can take these steps to avoid becoming a victim:

- Never give anyone remote access to or control of

your computer for any reason

- Never share personal identifiable information such as your Social Security number, date and place of birth, financial information, or medical records

- Remember that legitimate entities will not ask for money to resolve a criminal matter

- Be alert for requests to send money via wire transfer or Bitcoin—these are major red flags

Consumers who believe they may have been the victim of a scam can contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or visit ago.wv.gov

Reporting scams helps protect other West Virginians from falling victim to fraud.

Tucker Community Foundation accepting scholarship applications

The Tucker Community Foundation has announced the start of its annual scholarship season.

The deadline for applying is Friday, March 6, at 3 p.m.

The Foundation encourages every student to complete and return their application as early as possible.

The Tucker Community Foundation has more than 45 scholarship funds available for high school and college students in Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pendleton, Preston, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur counties and Garrett County, Maryland.

Scholarship awards will range from \$500 to \$10,000 with most in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 range. Last year the Tucker Community Foundation awarded more than \$133,000 in scholarships to deserving students in the 10-county service area.

Students can go to tuckerfoundationwv.org to download an application and view the list of scholarships. Scholarship applications are available now, and the dead-

line to apply is Friday, March 6.

High School guidance counselors throughout the Foundation’s service area have applications for distribution to students.

Chief Financial Officer Michael Moore encourages all high school and college students to apply even if their educational needs do not align with a particular scholarship fund.

High school seniors, college students, students attending technical schools and other non-traditional students (e.g., adults returning to school) are encouraged to apply for a Tucker Commu-

nity Foundation scholarship regardless of their field of study.

The Tucker Community Foundation manages more than 160 endowed funds providing annual scholarships and grants to nonprofits and charitable causes throughout their ten-county service area. Inspired by the flood of 1985, the mission of the Foundation is “Creating opportunities for the individuals and communities we serve”. For more information about scholarships contact the Tucker Community Foundation at 304-478-2930 or visit www.tuckerfoundationwv.org

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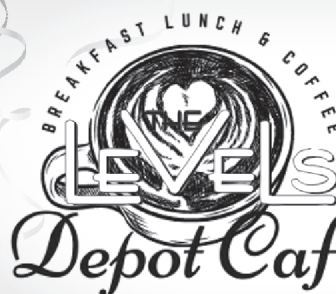


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The Greenbrier River Trail Reconstruction

Lucas Adcock
Staff Writer

The 78-mile railroad-turned-trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding is a beloved staple in the communities in both Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties. Even through the winter, people love traveling the trail and seeing the beauty that is hidden behind the trees. Beginning January 25, however, a major reconstruction effort for preservation of the trail will begin, lasting two years in total, which is only the current estimate of time it will take.

The reconstruction will involve a substantial project to re-deck all 37 bridges along the trail, so you can expect rotating closures to occur during the process beginning with a closure from Harper Road (mile marker 5.55) to Anthony Road (mile marker 14.12). Through the next two



SHARP'S BRIDGE ON the Greenbrier River Trail. GRT Foundation photo

years as you search for adventure and sight-seeing, be sure to check the Greenbrier River Trail Foundation's website for updates on this reconstruction.

The Foundation's efforts are running strong for this project, aiming to preserve the trail and the longevity of its infrastructure while maintaining safety for those who enjoy it. The meaning it has

in the hearts of those who traverse it will live on and can still be enjoyed during this two-year process, but, in the meantime, don't expect to take your bikes or horses or feet over all 37 bridges in a single go.

The foundation appreciates the West Virginia Division of Highways for their assistance with this Federal Transportation Alternatives

contract; and gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support from those who helped meet the 20% match funding requirement: James F.B. Peyton Foundation, Seneca Trail Charitable Foundation, Hollowell Dawkins Foundation, State Parks Foundation and hundreds of Trail users.



Ken Springer

Science in Small Bites

Segment one: Butt Breathing

Last week's column ended with the question, "Can we breathe through our butt?" The short answer is yes, but in a specific way. So, don't let your imagination go wild. The question was not meant to be flippant, but rather to discuss recent research indicating that oxygen can enter the bloodstream outside the lungs. In certain medical situations where the lungs are compromised, oxygen can be administered through the anus.

When Dr. Takanori Takebe's father had pneumonia and was put on a ventilator, he realized how invasive the procedure is. Dr. Takebe, a stem cell biologist and medical doctor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, began a research project to determine whether oxygen could be delivered medically to the vascular system when the lungs are unable to provide enough oxygen.

Dr. Takebe was well aware that the digestive tract has a vast surface area rich in ar-

teries, capillaries, and veins. Enemas are often used to deliver medication into the bloodstream through the anus.

Dr. Takebe and his colleagues developed an enema containing perfluorodecalin, a compound with an affinity for oxygen. When administered into the anus of mice

and pigs under low-oxygen conditions, the blood went from a murky hue to a bright red color, indicating an infusion of oxygen.

Results from human trials confirmed the efficacy of perfluorodecalin in raising blood oxygen levels when injected into the anus. Research continues on this novel treatment, but it could be a landmark treatment in emergency cases involving compromised lungs.

Dr. Takebe won the Ig Nobel Prize in 2024 for his discovery. When he accepted the prize, he brought the house down in laughter when he remarked, "Thank you so much for believing in the potential of the anus."

Segment Two: The indigenous Inuit people of the Arctic respond differently to immersion in cold water than non-Arctic people – why?

Some years ago, I was teaching a class on human thermal stress at the OSHA Training Institute in Des Plaines, Illinois. Heat Stress, or hyperthermia, is covered in the first two days of the week-long class, during which we emphasize the role of physiological acclimatization to heat over a period of one to two weeks.

When we get to the topic of cold stress, hypothermia, we find that for non-arctic people, acclimatization is

see Your pg 5



INUIT PEOPLE RESPOND differently from non-polar people in how they physiologically react to cold. Courtesy Bernd Hilderbrandt Pixabay



Reason and Romanticism

by Joe Miller

30 Minutes or Less

(2011) is not a particularly good movie. The plot involves a couple of half-wits (Danny McBride and Nick Swardson) who hatch a plan to force a slacker pizza delivery guy (Jesse Eisenberg) to rob a bank by strapping a bomb to Eisenberg's chest and threatening to detonate it if he doesn't deliver the cash by a specific time.

Eisenberg enlists his roommate (Aziz Ansari) and together they rob a local bank branch in a heist that is a deliberate homage to/parody of the bank robberies at the heart of *Point Break* (1991).

Point Break is also not a great film, but it's a lot more fun than *30 Minutes or Less*. That one, of course, centers on an FBI agent (a young Keanu Reeves) who goes undercover with a group of adrenaline junkies (led by Patrick Swayze) who are suspected of a string of daring bank robberies.

30 Minutes or Less is an example of what TV Tropes calls "Forced Into

Evil" – a common plot device involving characters who take on the actions that we would typically associate with the villain, but who do so only because they, their loved one(s) or possibly the entire world will suffer if they don't perform the evil act.

Most of us share the intuition that characters who are Forced into Evil are less blameworthy (or maybe not even blameworthy at all!) than Patrick Swayze's surfer crew in *Point Break*. Choosing to commit crimes for the thrill of it (and/or to fund surfing and skydiving adventures) is pretty clearly wrong.

When someone is genuinely coerced into performing a bad action – either through force or through deception – we don't generally hold them morally responsible for their bad action. Rather, we typically blame the person who did the coercing.

Having the ability to choose our actions is what makes us capable of morality. Consider, for example: if a shark eats a swimmer's

see Reason pg 9



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Go to tuckerfoundationwv.org to download the application

and view the list of scholarships. Or talk with your school guidance counselor.

High school seniors, college students, students attending technical schools and other non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 304-478-2930 or visit tuckerfoundationwv.org

PO Box 491, Parsons, WV 26287

TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. Which Christmas tradition used to be a year-round practice?
2. Who was the director of the FBI from 1924 to 1972?
3. Who was also known as "The Scourge of God"?
4. What animal is on the label of "Shiner Bock" beer?

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Our president has been in government long enough to realize that there are many government employees who take their jobs seriously and who want to do the right thing for the American people, so why does he treat them like criminals when they disagree with him?
He knows that many government programs are there to protect working people

from the whims of corporations so why does he slash those programs while giving big tax breaks to billionaires?
The president is smart enough to understand the science behind the reality of Climate Change so why does he regard it as a hoax while undermining good efforts to protect working people from it?
Bob Must, Hillsboro



Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

Last week, at the Mon-Forest Towns Partnership quarterly board meeting in Elkins, a reference was repeated that was often used in the early organizational days of the partnership. We likened the work to "building the plane while we flew it." Some of the work still feels that way.
Another term often used for the original 10 Towns was "Rising tides lift all ships." Now, Durbin is one of 12 proverbial ships being lifted. How is this happening?
Some will remember, just over a year ago, Durbin was included in a presentation made to the Pocahontas County Commission on behalf of both MFTs in the county. Seed monies were made available for projects that had potential to advance the community's goals and lift the local economy.
In Durbin's case, a website for the Town was a doable project that was agreed upon to be a good first step. So, the first official use of donated funds was to match other Town and private funds. This project is a

perfect example of public-private partnership and will provide the ability for local businesses and The Town of Durbin to sell the many services and recreational assets that Durbin has. This website puts Durbin in "the game" with other towns, that do not have these many and diverse assets.
Through the MFTP grant-writer, other Grant opportunities are being pursued. More times than not, grant applications have a tight window for responding. The up-front matching-funds were an obstacle in the past. In the future, making sure the "Match-Funding" creates the most return will be the focus. That can make all the difference.
So, if you have not visited the newly constructed webpage for Durbin, go to it today. From the website you can meet town government, see events, find forms and documents, pay bills and even make a donation. The great job with photography and lay-out should make you proud.
Discover Durbin — VISIT DURBIN

From the Superintendent

Dr. Leatha Williams

Dear Community Members, School Staff and Families,
As a child growing up in Neola, West Virginia, I am very familiar with small-town life. In many ways, small towns offer some of the very best our country has to offer. They are unique in that everyone knows your name, and there is always a friendly face willing to help when needed. I am also aware that in small towns, the school system is the heart of community activity—the

perceptions that may or may not be rooted in facts or a full understanding of processes and laws.
I am writing to provide a mid-year update and to ensure that we are all working together toward the shared goal of developing a strong school system that remains free from state control. We have been working diligently to address both the Special Circumstance Review and the Special Education Monitoring requirements, mandated by the West Virginia Department of Education in the takeover.
The first phase of this work focused on increasing staff awareness of identified issues. The next phase involved countywide training

to address those issues and establish appropriate policies and procedures. These initial stages, while important, are the easier parts of the process because they involve the intake of information.
The most challenging stage is implementation. This phase requires us to change practices and explore new ways of thinking to ensure our school system is both high-functioning and high-performing. As part of this process, I am closely reviewing our operations to ensure that all schools are following required policies, procedures and processes in accordance with State Code.

see From pg 9

Community Calendar

PUBLIC NOTICE
Bloodmobile Tuesday, January 27, noon to 6 p.m. at the Community Wellness Center in Marlinton. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800 733-3767 or visit redcrossblood.org. Sponsored by Marlinton Lions Club
The Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority will hold a public hearing concerning the five-year updates of the Pocahontas County Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan Wednesday, January 28, at 6 p.m. at the courthouse. The Solid Waste Authority's regular monthly meeting will be held following the hearing.
Green Box hours Sundays 1-4 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Menu: Brown beans and Cornbread.
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.

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.
CHURCH NOTICES
Marlinton Presbyterian Church - Bible Study 9 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.
New Hope Lutheran - Minnehaha Springs - Sunday Worship 8:45 a.m.
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church near Beartown - Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
Grace and Truth Home Fellowship - Sunday, Worship 11 a.m. Tuesday, Prayer 7 p.m. Located in Arbovale. Call Jim at 304-456-3255 for directions.
see Calendar pg 10



What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Markey's King Cake
4 1/2 cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. yeast
3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup water
1 cup butter (2 sticks)
3 egg yolks or 2 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. orange or lemon zest, optional
1/2-1 stick butter, softened or melted
2/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup cinnamon
Icing
4 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla
Purple, green and gold sanding sugar
Combine 1 1/2 cups flour, 1/4 cup sugar, salt and yeast in mixing bowl. Heat milk, water and 2 sticks of butter. Cool to 110 degrees. Add

liquids to flour in mixing bowl. Beat with hand mixer or stand mixer 2 minutes. Add yolks, vanilla, orange or lemon zest and 1/2 cup flour. Mix 2-3 minutes. Mix in 2 to 2 1/2 cups flour to make a stiff batter. Mix 2-3 minutes. Leave in bowl, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 4 to 5 hours or overnight.
Return dough to room temperature. Scrape dough onto floured work surface. Knead for one minute. Roll into rectangle approximately 9 x 15 inches.
Soften 6 Tbsp. butter and spread over rectangle being careful to keep 1/2" from top and bottom free of butter. Blend sugar and cinnamon together. Sprinkle over buttered rectangle. Roll up from edge closest to you. Pinch edges together once rolled. Transfer to parchment covered cookie sheet and form a circle pinching ends

together. Let rise until double in bulk. Place in preheated 350-degree oven.
Bake 30-35 minutes. Remove from oven and slide parchment with king cake onto cooling rack. Let cool 10-15 minutes then top with icing. Sprinkle with colored sugars. Place bean or plastic baby under bottom of king cake. The person who gets the bean or baby is King or Queen for the Day and gets to make the next King Cake.

Crustless Pecan Pie
3 large eggs
1 cup maple syrup, honey or corn syrup
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. cream of tartar.
1 cup pecans, chopped
1 tsp. vanilla
Beat eggs until lemon colored. Mix syrup, sugar and butter together and add to eggs.
Sift dry ingredients together and add to egg mix.

Add vanilla and pecans. Blend well.
Pour into well-greased 8-inch pie pan or baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees 30 to 35 minutes.
Serve as is or with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.
Quick and easy!
Serves 8

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Super Crossword THE THIRD PERSON

ACROSS
1 Go to
7 Stogie who sometimes replaced
12 Sauna locale
15 Defeater of Gore
19 Time: Prefix
20 On the briny
21 Retained
23 Old foxtrot dancer makes a two-in-one chess move?
25 Makes lively
26 Flow blockers
27 Oct. preceder
28 "All I Wanna Do" singer
30 Prefix with propyl
31 Winter hrs. in Philadelphia
33 Lawman
34 Falsehood
35 "The Finest Hours" co-star years deep?
40 America's first female astronaut takes a bus?
45 Top-secret U.S. org.
48 Starting on
48 Sanaa locale
49 "Samson and Delilah"
50 co-star developer fully?
55 Conductor
59 Big 20th-cen. conflict
60 Actress — de Armas
61 Universal rule
63 "Eww, mice!"
64 Harry Potter's skill
68 "Play It as It Lays" co-star does a fusing job?
72 "Middle Child" rapper
73 In the past
75 Spain's El —
76 Really annoy
77 "Broadcast News" co-star feels sore?
80 Dirt Devil or DustBuster, for short
82 "Bolch- —" (1952 song)
83 Former TWA competitor
84 Coll. in Columbus
86 NYSE debut
87 Rolo filling
91 Frontwoman of Hole has a deep fondness?
96 Cowboy rope
98 Italian money
99 A, in Munich
100 "Jerry Maguire" star goes sailing?
105 "Coma" novelist makes dinner?
110 "There — god!"
111 Barber's cut
113 Boise-to-Tucson dir.
114 "Dr." of music
115 Miami Heat great walks in water?
120 Potentially shocking fish
122 Writer Urs
123 Came through, as a radio signal
124 "Cheers" actress years?
128 Setting fire to
129 Shire of film
130 "Apparently!"
131 Throw easily
132 Golf gadget
133 "Geez, that's rough!"
134 Recluses
DOWN
1 Not alkaline
2 Defeat soundly
3 Quake
4 Vast spans
5 Dir. 135 degrees from
6 G.P., for one
7 Postpaid enc.
8 UFL start
9 Immigrant's class, in brief
10 Edwin of Reagan's Cabinet
11 Old Turkish officials
12 In a cutting way
13 Like a runt
14 Indigo dye
15 Wild pig
16 Innumerable
17 1-year-old on "Family Guy"
18 Steeds, in Westerns
22 Sierra maker
24 Sparkling
29 History topic
31 Exxon, once
32 Trade blows
36 Accrued city.
37 Indian bread
38 This, in Peru
39 —"wester
41 Subsidiary theorem
42 Singer Sumac
43 Singer Des—
44 Officeholders
47 Munich Mrs.
49 Beetles and Golfs, in brief
50 Famed flag-raising site of 1945
51 Orbiting body, e.g.
52 Spring month
53 Firm bigwigs
54 "Yes, yes!" in Mexico
56 City in Israel
57 Procedural form-filing
58 Endorses
62 Quirky
65 Maj.' superior
66 Yale student
67 "Stuck" actor Stephen
68 "Road —"
69 In-favor vote
70 Pale
71 LAX takeoff guess
73 Throat-check sounds
74 Avocado dip, informally
77 Former female mil. group
78 Prefix with grain or color
79 Inrefutable
80 Color shade
81 Bus. entities
84 Other, to Jorge
85 Snooty type
88 Oval portion
89 Pre-2001 space station
90 It fills ia mer
92 1921 Karel Capek play
93 Cravings
94 Pet pests
95 Artist Yoko
97 Wikilinks founder Julian
100 Little goody
101 New York city or river
102 Yucatec speakers
103 Put a stop to
104 Noon nap
106 Alt unit
107 Danish port
108 Big chain of food stores
109 Has a hunch
112 "Hogwash!"
116 French pals
117 After taxes
118 Correct copy
119 Pinot, e.g.
120 Filmmaker Kazan
121 Panache
122 Pork cut
125 Graceful tree
126 Fashion initials.
127 Lav in a pub

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Your, from page 3

very limited. As luck would have it, we had an Inuit paramedic in the class.

We spent the last day of class in a laboratory, where we set up cold-plunge tanks. The two plexiglass tanks resembled fish tanks, with one filled with room-temperature water and the other iced down to 40 degrees.

Small saucers filled with ten pennies each are placed at the bottom of both tanks. Students first plunge one forearm into the tank and, after two minutes, are charged with picking up one penny at a time until they have removed all ten. Nearly everyone in the class was successful in the first exercise.

The same procedure is followed for the cold tank, except very few can pick up all ten pennies due to intense vasoconstriction and diminished tactile ability—except for the gentleman from Alaska, who had no problem in collecting all ten pennies. Why?

Adaptation to cold exposure evolved and enables lifeforms to survive and thrive in extreme environments such as those in the Polar regions. Over time, the Inuit have developed a resistance to cold-related injuries, known as the “hunting reaction.”

The response of non-polar people to immersion of extremities in cold water causes vasoconstriction, resulting in reduced dexterity and an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite.

The Inuit are regularly exposed to cold-water immersion while hunting seals and fishing, a cornerstone of

their culture and diet. Instead of vasoconstriction, which hampers tactile abilities, cold water triggers vasodilation in Inuits. This adaptation allows them to maintain heat in their hands and other extremities, and to return to normal body temperature more quickly than non-Inuit people.

Segment Three: If you knew Sushi, like I know Sushi.

Sushi is not everyone’s cup of tea – “What, me eat raw fish, no way.” I’ve heard that statement many times, yet millions of people here in the U.S. love sushi. There are currently 19,000 sushi restaurants in the United States. Kawafuka, the very first sushi bar in the U.S., opened its doors in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo in 1966.

The original and most widely favored sushi item of connoisseurs is sashimi. Sashimi is raw fish on a bed of sticky rice, served with soy sauce and the fiery condiment wasabi, made from the plant Wasabia japonica. The many types of sashimi include salmon, tuna, shrimp, squid, and many more.

But there is one sashimi fish that is entirely unlike salmon or tuna, it is one that can kill you. The Japanese have consumed the Japanese pufferfish for at least 12,000 years. The fish itself is unusual in that it puffs itself up to look larger to predators. Another feature of the pufferfish is that it contains a deadly neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin, primarily in the liver and ovaries, and, even worse, it has no known antitoxin.

Treatment can sometimes be successful if the victim gets medical help quickly,

generally using charcoal to absorb the toxin.

Physical risk-takers come in all forms, such as rock climbers and skydivers. And some regularly indulge in Fugu sashimi, particularly in Japan. There are a few sushi bars offering fugu sashimi here in the U.S., most of which are in larger cities such as New York and Los Angeles.

Here, as in Japan, the sushi chefs must be trained and licensed to prepare Japanese pufferfish. Fugu diners report that the fish is firm and has a sweet taste. But what the fugu fanatics really like is when small amounts of the toxin make their mouths tingle; now that’s a real risk-taker.

There is a hilarious episode, “One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Bluefish,” of The Simpsons in which Lisa talks a reluctant Homer into going to a sushi bar for a change of pace. Once he gets there, he devours every item on the menu but one, fugu, and he demands it. The chef tries to talk Homer out of it, but Homer insists, and he is served fugu sashimi.

The restaurant calls him later, saying the fugu was improperly prepared and that he has 24 hours to live. The funny part of the episode is that Homer tries to complete an impossibly long bucket list, only to find out that he wasn’t poisoned after all.

For Your Consideration’s next column will stray from the center of hardcore materialistic science to the outer fringes in a story about a phenomenon called Time Slips; you’ll like this story of momentarily stepping back or forward in time.

Ken Springer
ken1949bongo@gmail.com

Lady Warriors now 10 – 1

John Snyder
Contributing Writer

Pocahontas County High School Lady Warriors, ranked 6th in the State in Class A, continue their winning streak.

Last week, the team won both of their games. One was easy and the other required another fourth quarter comeback.

PCHS defeated East Hardy 88 - 14, with Allyson Taylor leading in scoring with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Savana Sharp scored 21 points and had five three-pointers and eight rebounds. Calli Propst added 16 points and filled up the stat sheet. Alexis Arbogast made three three-pointers in her 13 points. Shayla Bennett added nine, Maxie Monico had two points and Rya Barlow added one.

On Saturday, the girls played AA rival Summers County in an important game. Trailing by two points at the end of the third quarter, the Lady Warriors prevailed in the last quarter for a 57 – 52 win.

Savana Sharp led in scoring in this game with 18 points, Allyson Taylor had 17, Calli Propst added 10, Shayla Bennett and Alexis Arbogast each added six. This was a very important win for PCHS.

The JV lost a two-quarter game. Many of our opponents do not have a full JV roster, which is frustrating for them and our coaches.

The big game this week is at home against Tygart Valley Thursday night, January 22.

Tygart is ranked 7th just behind PCHS.

The JV game will start at 5:45 p.m. with the Varsity

playing at 7:30.

Saturday, January 24, the Lady Warriors will play Sherman High School at home with the JV playing at 2 p.m. and the Varsity following that game.

It is well worth noting that Alexis Arbogast ranks second in the State in three-point shots made.

Savana Sharp is the second leading player, regardless of Class, in percentage of free throws made with her 80% record. Allyson Taylor and Calli Propst are in the Top 10 leaders in the State in other categories.

WARRIOR BOYS

The Pocahontas County High School Warrior Boys Varsity Basketball team defeated the Bath County Chargers 79-69 last Friday night but fell to Highland County 51 – 40 on Saturday night.

Market, from page 1

The list goes on! All of it, fresh produce.

In addition, the market produces homemade sourdough, jams, donuts, and plenty of delicious treats.

What seems to be a fan-favorite is the recent addition of their chicken BBQs on Saturdays, selling individually or in meals: chicken legs and thighs, pepperoni rolls, popcorn, and iced tea – and the best part? It’s all homemade.

Not only are the products delicious, but the atmosphere of the market is also unmatched to anything of its kind, rendering a friendly

environment and unique products from which to choose. The Market and the Amish community have grown exponentially over the last couple of years, and they’re not slowing down.

Nearly two years in operation, the local Amish community out of Hillsboro is

still enjoying the support of the community and visitors.

Hidden Creek Farm Market is located at 1455 Lobbia Road, 1.5 miles off of Rt. 219 in Hillsboro.

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Obituaries



Frances Buzzard

Frances Astin Buzzard, also known as Hank and Francie, age 88, went to be with her Heavenly Father Sunday, January 11, 2026, while surrounded by her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Larry Buzzard; her parents, Henry Astin and Cameron Hoover Astin; four sisters, Mayona McLaughlin, Helen Kellison, Pauline "Polly" Goldizen and Dinah Lee Hefner; and two infant brothers.

She is survived by her three children, Vicki, Lois (Mike) and Joe (Joy); three grandchildren, Chad, Ryan and Cameron; two great-grandchildren, Shaniah and Degary; one sister, Karen Sue "Susie" Lane; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was a long-time member of Parham Road Baptist Church. She retired from Henrico County Food Service where she worked as a cafeteria manager for many years. She taught the other cafeteria managers how to make the delicious yeast rolls that they served in the cafeteria and was known for her Buzzard buns.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Campbelltown Church.



Bobby Joe Huffman

Bobby Joe Huffman, age 89, of Charleston and Greenbrier County, peacefully passed away Friday, January 9, 2026, following a long illness.

BJ graduated from Elkview High School in 1955, as a three-sport athlete and at the top of his class. He was proud of his academic and

athletic accomplishments, especially playing on the first Elkview High School football team to beat Clendenin High.

BJ graduated from West Virginia Tech with a degree in Chemistry and went on to WVU dental school, graduating in 1963. He remained a lifelong Mountaineer fan and supporter. After graduation, he returned to his home community of Big Chimney and established a successful dental practice. Following his retirement and move to his beloved farm in Greenbrier County, he continued to practice part-time at Denmar Correctional Facility and Anthony Correctional Facility.

He was a past member of the Elks Lodge, Lions Club, a charter member of CAMC, one of the founders of Sandy Brae Country Club and an original investor in Elk National Bank. He was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and Edith Huffman, brothers Jack and H. Edward; second wife, Candace; and a grandson, Charles Robert.

BJ is survived by his first and last wife, JoAnn; children, Jeff (Kathy), Stephanie (David) and Stephen (Cherie); three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Per his wishes there will be no service.

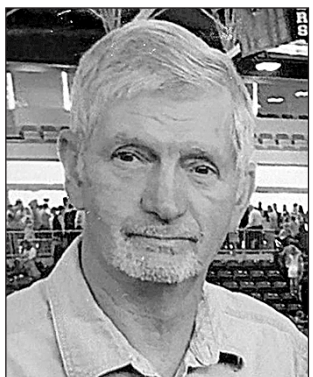
The family would like to thank the wonderful Hospice workers and the exceptional staff at Brookdale Charleston Gardens. BJ was treated with kindness, compassion, dignity and respect by everyone in his final months living at Charleston Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Hospice or Brookdale Charleston Gardens Employee Christmas Fund is suggested.

May he rest in peace.

Online condolences may be sent to haferfuneralhome.net

Arrangements are in the care of Hafer Funeral Home, 50 North Pinch Road, Elkview, WV 25071.



Ronald Doyle

Ronald Dale Doyle, 78, of Mace, went to be with the Lord Saturday, January 17, 2026, surrounded by his

loved ones in his home.

Born September 27, 1947, in Marlinton, he was a son of the late Buford and Ruth Doyle.

He was a graduate of Marlinton High School.

Ron was a faithful member of the Mace United Methodist Church. He loved the Lord and showed it through serving his neighbors.

Ron and Doris were married December 24, 1966 in Virginia. They moved to Delaware, where he worked at Chrysler Corporation for two years, then they moved back to West Virginia to live at Mace. Ron worked for SS Joe Burford for 20 years and with the Huttonsville Correction Center Maintenance Department until he retired.

In Ron's prime years, he enjoyed fly fishing, hunting, camping, doing body work on Broncos, tinkering in his garage, and being on his tractor. After retirement, he focused on being with his family. His daughters loved taking him on their family trips. He continued the maple syrup-making tradition with his brothers, their families and the community. He loved to take people to the sugar camp.

"Gunsmoke" and football occupied his time the last few years as his health faded. He continued to ride around with Doris to find a great burger or hotdog.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Doyle.

He is survived by two brothers, Gary Doyle (Ellen), and Donnie Doyle (Belinda); sister, Cindy Taylor (Mike); his loving wife of 59 years, Doris Ware Doyle; daughters, Tina Beckwith (Rick), and Teresa Sharp (Randy); his grandchildren, whom he adored and cherished, Dustin, Whitney, Cody (Katie) and Austin (Allie). He loved being part of their lives and watching them in sports as they grew up, and teaching them so many things, such as hunting, fishing and working in the garage. He is also survived by one great-grandson, Dax, with whom he enjoyed riding on the tractor and sharing naps on the couch.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Mace United Methodist Church with Pastor John Welch officiating. Burial was in Mingo Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations of sympathy be made to Mountain Hospice, 1002 Crim Ave, Belington, WV 26250

Online condolences may be shared at Lantzfuneralhome.com



Ray McLaughlin

On January 12, 2026, Joseph "Ray" McLaughlin, 94, of Dundalk, Maryland, passed away at home.

Ray was born and raised in Cass. He served in the Navy and moved to Gray Manor in 1955. Ray worked at Thompson Steel for 41 years. He was a hard worker and was always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors as he put others before himself. Ray volunteered with Boy Scouts and at the food pantry at church. He enjoyed gardening and spending time in West Virginia at the family property. He also enjoyed just sitting outside in the yard.

He was the beloved husband of Medie G. McLaughlin; devoted father of Ronnie McLaughlin (Donna), Michael McLaughlin (Barbara), Patty McLaughlin and the late Jimmy McLaughlin (d. 2018); dear brother of Betty Mahaffey; and is also survived by eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Monday, January 19, 2026, with interment in Oak Lawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Accent Care Hospice, 5457 Twin Knolls Road, Suite 100, Columbia, MD. 21045.



Naomi Reed

Naomi M. Mace Reed, 92, of Barberton, Ohio, went home to the Lord Monday, January 12, 2026.

Born Mildred Naomi Mace, December 20, 1933, in Mace, she was a daughter of the late Herbert Troy and Jessie Mace.

After graduating from Marlinton High School,

Naomi moved to Washington D.C. and worked in the FBI Secretarial Pool under J. Edgar Hoover. Naomi married James William Reed February 11, 1956 and had lived in Barberton, Ohio, for the past 70 years. At the time of his death in 2022, Naomi and Jim had been married 66 years.

Naomi worked as Secretary/Office Manager at Johnson United Methodist Church for 42+ years where she kept the pastors in line. Naomi was a mother figure, counselor and support to so many who met or knew her through church. Naomi loved serving the Lord and being involved in the church. She was a member of Johnson United Methodist Church more than 65 years and was active on many committees and women's groups. While her children were growing up, she was active with the PTA, Band Boosters, Sports Boosters and involved in many school and community events. Naomi made the best homemade bread and cinnamon rolls. We will always remember the days growing up and the wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen and the times we got to bake with her. She was the most wonderful, caring mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and individual.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by brothers, Herbert Mace and Robert Keith Mace; sisters and two brothers-in-law, Janice (Reed) Frank Stotts, Sr., Mary Dott (Reed) Fred Ware, Sr. and Richard Laraway.

She is survived by a sister, Shirley Laraway, of Temperance, Michigan; sisters-in-law, Martha Reed, of Valley Head, and Lucille Mace; children, Kim (Bill) Nickerson, of Coventry Township, Ohio, Debbie Zwick, of Barberton, Ohio, Beverly (Tom) Kirkpatrick, of Barberton and Grafton, and David (Wendi) Reed, of Phoenix, Arizona; grandchildren, Jennifer Pearson, Jessica, Matthew and Amy Zwick, Troy, James and Korra Reed, Ryan (Shelley) Kirkpatrick and Amber (Brandon) Marshall; great-grandchildren, Savannah Collins, Abby Schrader and Caleb Kirkpatrick, Titus and Ason Marshall; adopted granddaughter Destinee Singleton and adopted great-grandson, Mason Singleton; and many nieces, nephews and friends, including Justine Garrett, her neighbor of 68 years, who became her special sister.

Her funeral service will be held Friday, January 23, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Johnson

United Methodist Church in Norton, Ohio, with Rev. Dr. Scott Wilson and Rev. Dr. Steven Bailey officiating. Burial will follow at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Thank you to Summa Care Home Care and Summa Care Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.com and Johnson United Methodist Church, 3409 Johnson Road, Norton, Ohio 44203..



Sylvia Woodhouse

Sylvia G. Tyree Woodhouse, 86, of Marlinton, passed away Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at home surrounded by her family.

Born November 1, 1939, in Marlinton, she was a daughter of the late James A. and Gladys Cewilla Arbogast Tyree.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Debra Charlene Crow; grandson, Leo Greg Woodhouse Jr.; sister, Myrtle Virginia Burgess; and two brothers, Orman G. Tyree and James L. Tyree.

She was a member of the Marlinton Church of God and was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who loved all. Sylvia met all the needs of her children. She was safeguarding and sacrificial in order for them to have a happy childhood. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Sylvia is survived by two daughters, Gypsy Lee Atkins, of Cleveland, Tennessee, and Cewilla Sue Casto, of Buckhannon; one son, Leo Greg Woodhouse; 13 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral service will be held at noon Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Marlinton Church of God with Pastor Fred Goldizen officiating. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery in Marlinton.

The family will receive friends at the church from 11 a.m. until time of service.

Online condolences may be shared at Lantzfuneralhome.com

Public, from page 2

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting was the largest single source of funding for public radio, television and other radio stations nationwide, and with the rescission of federal funds for FY '26 and '27, CPB has now made its quiet sign-off.

So, what about our very own Allegheny Mountain Radio (AMR)? This beloved radio station is not only a staple to the audience's everyday routine, but a bonding experience for some, a sole news source for others, and just plain fun to listen to for many.

For Scott Smith, AMR's general manager, the federal decision to rescind funding for the CPB is a tough hit on all three of AMR's locations, Smith explained that the reason AMR is able to continue for the time-being is simply due to the fact that two of their locations have received grants from the Public Media Bridge Fund, which allocated a grand total of \$26 million – through a unique application process – to public media organizations that were most in need following the loss of the federal funding.

Tim Isgett, CEO of Public Media Company, said, "With this initial round of funding, our goal was to present each grantee with a foothold to

stabilize their infrastructure and continue their vital services. These grants not only take another step forward in the collaborative effort to respond to a crisis but also create an opportunity to develop a sustainable future for public media that builds stronger, more engaged, and more connected communities."

Fortunately, AMR general manager Smith says that the AMR network has received grants to keep the network active for some time, but that it's still difficult to pinpoint how long that "some time" actually is, taking into account any unforeseen expenses such as fixing an antenna, for example, which can be a costly endeavor and could also shorten that running timeline of funds.

Smith manages the three stations that reach various communities in West Virginia including, Dunmore, Hillsboro, Durbin, Marlinton; and in Virginia, Hot Springs and Monterey. Needless to say, Smith stays busy. AMR even gained some national attention in the midst of the crisis. Smith was interviewed by various media outlets including NPR, The Atlantic, Politico and Meet the Press with Kristen Welker.

"Last year was the highest of highs and the lowest of lows," Smith said, referring to the 2025 funding crisis, "and the highest has been the

amount of support we have received financially and, you know, just conversationally, people saying, 'Y'all are too important to this area, you can't go away,' messages like that."

While Smith can't speak for other stations and how they've been affected, it can be noted that a majority of stations and networks received at least 60% of their funding from the CPB, thus, all of them are taking a massive hit as we move into the new year. Following the decision of the CPB to cease operation after the federal government rescinded the \$1.1 billion dollars (yes, billion, with a "b") of funding, the corporation said that it would rather enact this decision, based on the idea that it could be vulnerable to "future political manipulation or misuse."

So, take it as you will, the crisis is a double-edged sword, to use the least of clichés. The CPB doesn't want to be taken advantage of after the fact, leaving stations and networks nationwide without funds, and

some with very few funds.

Despite this, Smith remains optimistic because of the amount of support that AMR has received. "You've got to let people decide on their own merit whether they think Allegheny Mountain Radio is important, and whether it should continue," he said. "Quite frankly, again, that's just been such a source of gratification and it's been humbling, the number of people who have indicated that 'Absolutely, we need Allegheny Mountain Radio.'"

And yet, the end of an era

of major support for these programs, networks and stations, stems from the federal government insinuating that the national public media outlet as a whole is biased, not taking into account – or maybe they have and we just never heard about it – the fact that some public stations are essential to everyday life for people all over the country. Not only that, it gives to some a purpose, to others information, to all: public opinions, information and news that can be vital.

AMR is a staple in the communities of West Vir-

ginia and Virginia and to see stations such as this struggling makes you wonder how many other hometown stations are doing the same. Though the crisis with the CPB is, in fact, a quiet sign-off for funding of public broadcasting, its outcome will echo in static across the entire nation.


lucasadcock@pocahontas.com


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

In Loving Memory of
Kenneth Gay Kelley
4/16/35 - 1/23/25

Dear Kenneth,
One year has come and gone since God took you home to heaven. There has not been a day since then that I have not missed you.
You are always in my thoughts, and you will forever be in my heart. I will always love you.

Love,
Joyce





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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

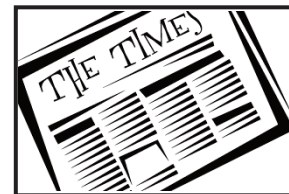
Mill Operation at Stony Bottom – circa 1910



WORKERS IN FRONT of the Buena Vista Hardwood Company mill operation at Stony Bottom, West Virginia. This small, but long-running mill was organized by W. R. Moore, of Buena Vista, Virginia. It began operation in 1901 or 1902 and operated until the middle 1920s. (Pocahontas County Historical Society Collection, Courtesy of Mrs. Amos Lytton; ID: PHS001458)

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

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



Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday,
January 22, 1976

Monday was c-c-cold. The report is 27 degrees below on one thermometer and 30 below on another at the coal operation near Cheat Bridge. Five below at Marlinton with 10 to 17 below reported in other places.

TANNERY

Mrs. Jennie Sharp called to tell of an incident during the rebuilding of the Marlinton tannery. Her father, J. E. Chitester, read the blueprints and helped set the machinery in the new buildings. According to him, there was a man who was given to much profanity, and he had been exercising his tongue pretty much. Some of the men had set off a blast to loosen concrete and a rock came flying through the air, striking him in the head and killing him almost instantly.

LONG HIKE

Edwin White, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. White, of Minnehaha Springs, is an instructor at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and he and three other men are planning to hike the Appalachian Trail this spring – 2,050 miles from Georgia to Maine.

ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Faulkner, of Marlinton, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Deborah Ann, to Anthony Michael Rinaldi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Angelo D. Rinaldi, of Cortland, New York.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Armstrong, of Buckeye, a son, Larry Paul Armstrong, Jr.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder, of Marlinton, a son, Bryan Patrick.

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Andrew Price, Editor

Thursday,
January 24, 1901

THE UNIVERSITY

Every two years the proud University officials get down on their knees to the legislature and pray for appropriations to keep them going for the next two years.

This year, they hope and pray to get more money than ever, and it is generally reported that to accomplish this desirable end, the obnoxious Jerome H. Raymond has been sacrificed, and his resignation has been sent in. We sincerely hope this is true and that he is to be deposed. Leaving out the question of whether he is in the right in the controversy, the fact remains that there has been nothing but squabbling in the University for years, and what we want is a man who will keep down a fuss. A university ought not to carry its ills abroad any more than a well-regulated family.

And the University came down and danced before the legislature and pleased it, and the legislature said, “Bring us the head of Jerome, the Baptist, on a charger and we will give whatsoever you shall ask.”

And the university was sorry but there seemed to be no other way out of it.

ROOSEVELT KILLS A PANTHER

Roosevelt, or Rosevelt, as he calls himself, our next Vice-President’s job as governor of New York ended December 31, and he has a period between that date and March 4 when he swears in at Washington to enjoy himself. He made a beeline for the Rocky Mountains for he is a sporting man in truest sense of the word. He is now in the happy hunting ground and as he stalks the game

with all the cunning of an experienced hunter, 20 or 30 reporters hover at his flanks to note every action and send in the news to the home paper. They bunch so thick behind him at times that some of them tread on and break a stick and send the startled quarry into the depths of the wilderness.

The other day, the dogs treed a panther in a big spruce in Colorado. The Rocky Mountain people call them mountain lions. When the party came up, everyone insisted on Teddy shooting it, but he insisted on drawing lots. He drew the longest straw and as he raised the rifle to fire, the beast leaped at him. Teddy shot him through the spine in mid-air and the panther landed on Dr. Gerald Webb, but was dead and did him no great injury. The picture of a mountain lion leaping from a tall tree with the Vice-President blazing away at the flying figure with a rifle is truly inspiring.

NAMES OF PLACES

The new depot of the Levells is Seebert. This name is spelled S-E-Y-B-E-R-T often, but in a deed from Jacob Seebert to Joseph Seebert, made in 1826, Jacob Seebert signs his name S-E-B-E-R-T.

The Rockbridge family spells their name S-E-I-B-E-R-T, and they are descended from the Pocahontas family of Seeberts.

Another name we see spelled wrong frequently is Sittlington’s Creek.

The railway maps have is Suttlington’s Creek. Gillespie is spelled in a deed dated in 1822 G-i-l-l-a-s-p-i-e.

Marlinton has no “g” in its make up but strangers are as

see History pg 10

Thirty Years Ago

Pamela Pritt, Editor

Thursday,
January 18, 1996

Department of Highways Superintendent Jamie Abdella said the total snowfall for the county is 48 inches for the week of January 13 – 19.

Cold temperatures kept the snow on the ground until early this week when temperatures in the 40s began what may be the biggest January thaw we’ve had for quite some time.

Thursday,
January 25, 1996

Second ‘500 Year’ Flood in a Decade

Just a brief decade after flood waters inundated Pocahontas County, another deluge, just as devastating de-



WHEN THIS PHOTO was taken from the hill behind the Little General Store about noon on Friday, the Greenbrier River was holding steady at about its final crest of 20 feet, about a foot below its crest in the 1985 Flood. The river held at this level for several hours before beginning a slow drop in the late afternoon.

molished homes and businesses along the Greenbrier River, Knapps Creek and many smaller streams in outlying areas.

In Durbin, Jason Bauserman’s scanner was buzzing with emergency calls. At 6:00 a.m. Buster Varner made a plea, “I hope Marlin-

ton is listening! You all better get ready down there; something bad is coming.”

see 30 pg 10

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
January 25, 1921

FIELD NOTES

Lewis and Woodrow Alderman, aged 9 and 10 years, caught a fine big red fox the other night. It was not an accident either – they were trapping for foxes. These young sportsmen are sons of Mrs. Bedford Alderman, of Anthony’s Creek, near Neola. One day recently they found a crow caught in one of their

fox traps.

A couple of bears have been wandering the winter through on Marlin Mountain. At the fruit farm last summer, they took heavy toll on the sheep of Harman Kelly. The winter has been plenty severe for bears to have gone to hole, but these seem to be toughing it out in beds during storms and then feeding on mast when the weather moderates.

After a recent snow, Harmon Kelly, tracked a medium sized panther into some rock cliffs on Marlin Mountain. He set traps, but when he went to look, he found that the panther had come out at another opening in the rocks. He keeps his eye on this place and if the panther dens up there again, he will barricade both entrances.

Mr. Kelly is an experienced woodsman, and he knows his panther sign. Thirty or more years ago, he tracked a panther in Cheat Mountain. Some years ago, he tracked one in the Bolar

Draft of Jacksons River.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Moore, of Marlinton, a son, Thomas Douglas.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James McCray, of Dunmore, a son, James Howard.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson McGowan, of Marlinton, a son, Wilson Mauldin Jr.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Winfred Sheets, of Green Bank, a son, Roy Wetzel.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, of Renick, a son, Richard Eugene.

see 75 pg 10

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
January 21, 1926

Last Monday, when Mr. and Mrs. William Puffenbarger were returning from their wedding trip, their automobile engine stopped on them in the ford of Little Back Creek near Mountain Grove. They got out and tied the machine with a wire as the stream was rising rapidly. Before they could get a team, a lot of ice and treetops came down and washed the car down the creek.

ABOUT DUNMORE

This is the way that I read the sign as to the name Dunmore. It is one of the oldest settlements in Pocahontas County. All of Maj. Jacob Warwick’s children were

ber Dunmore place further back than the time Dunkum and Moore settled here. A. P.

BEARS

Some fox hunters near Minnehaha Springs last Thursday came across the track in the snow of a big bear. He had come from the Lockridge mountain and went into a big laurel patch on Brandy Hill. They went around the thicket, but the bear had not come there.

Word was sent to Jim and Bob Gibson and they came Friday morning with their bear dogs. They passed Marlinton before daylight, and at the Springs they found a small army ready to go to the woods.

It was found that the bear had left out and crossed the rise at the top of Allegheny Mountain at Rimel, headed south. The hunters followed him all day Friday and Saturday but never got near enough to justify turning the

dogs loose.

Late Saturday, the hunters had the bear surrounded in thick cover about High Top on the head of Meadow Creek. It was then too late, and the hunt was deferred until the next morning. As the standers were being placed, it is supposed the bear winded the men. Anyway, he left out.

Monday the men quit the chase on Ugly Creek, over in Allegheny County, somewhere back of White Sulphur Springs.

Word came Tuesday that hunters from Anthony’s Creek had taken up the trail where the Pocahontas hunters left off, and the bear was heading back toward the place of beginning. The snow went off Tuesday, and no word has come that the bear was killed.

This is a powerful big old sheep eating bear. He ranges the Allegheny and he costs the farmers of Anthony’s

Creek about \$500 each year in sheep. This fall, he has killed a lot of sheep for the farmers on Knapps Creek. He does not hole up in the winter, and last year, he killed sheep all winter long. He makes a big track and he steps out like a horse.

DIED

“Billy Mike” Gillian died at his home on Droop Mountain January 12, 1926, aged 77 years. He is survived by his wife and a number of children.

Mrs. Madge Sheets McQuain, wife of Robert McQuain, died at her home near Green Bank, January 16. Burial at Huntersville Monday afternoon. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Price Sheets, of Huntersville. She is survived by her husband and a number of small children. About six years ago, she was terribly injured in runaway accident, and she never fully recovered.

Last week, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Showalter, of Elk, received the sad message announcing the death of their only child, Howard, a young soldier in the United States Army, who was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. It is not known when his body will arrive to be buried here.

The young soldier was 22 years of age. He was a fine upstanding young man, who gave promise of a useful life.

Great sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents in the loss of their only child.

THE LAW OFFICE OF
MICHAEL C. DOSS
921 TENTH AVENUE, MARLINTON, WV 24954
304-799-7119

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES

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

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

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

First Publication Date: Thursday, 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

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

Which Ballot Am I Eligible to Vote in the Primary?

<i>If Your Party Is:</i>	<i>You May Vote:</i>
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.

1/15/14c

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until **FEBRUARY 12, 2026, 10:00 A.M.** (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project (s):

CALL: 004; CONTRACT: 2021000732; STATE PROJECT: S388-STR/IP-26 00; FEDERAL PROJECT: HSIP-2026 (159) D; DESCRIPTION: PAVEMENT MARKINGS, ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE; COUNTY: PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS RANDOLPH, TUCKER.

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

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

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

West Virginia Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
1/22/2c

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

WEST VIRGINIA LIFELINE/TEL-ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

West Virginia Lifeline/Tel-Assistance Information for Customers of **Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.**

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that makes communications services more affordable for eligible low-income consumers. This benefit provides eligible customers with a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 on qualifying internet service or telephone service bundled with qualifying internet service. In certain circumstances, a reduced benefit of \$5.25 may be available for voice only telephone.

West Virginia Tel-Assistance is a program that lowers the monthly telephone service by giving eligible low-income subscribers a discount on qualifying telephone service. This discounted rate provides a \$2.00 monthly, non-transferable usage credit.

Consumers may qualify for the Lifeline/Tel-Assistance program if their gross household income level is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if they participate in any of the following federal assistance programs:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or certain Tribal Programs.

To check further eligibility, you can contact your local Department of Health and Human Resources.

Lifeline/Tel-Assistance is limited to one discount per household. Lifeline/Tel-Assistance defines a household as anyone living at the same address who share income and household expenses. Lifeline/Tel-Assistance benefit is non-transferable and cannot be given to another person, even if they qualify.

Certification forms may be obtained by the Department of Health and Human Resources.

Services may vary by telephone company.
Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.
1/22/1c

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of

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.

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

Based on W. Va. State Code §7-7-4

1/8/4c

Sample Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

The language below is HUD's recommended wording of the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds. This Notice is used for projects requiring an Environmental Assessment (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.36). Words in bold type are required language. Words in italics are to be replaced by language appropriate to the particular project and Responsible Entity.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Town of Marlinton
709 Second Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954
304-799-4315

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Marlinton.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after at least one day after the end of the comment period the West Virginia Department of Economic Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds under of Public Law 115-123 (Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Division B, Subdivision 1 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) (February 9, 2018)) (HUD/State Identification Number: B-18-DP-54-0001) of the Appropriation Act and title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA) (42 USC 5301 et seq.), to undertake the following project.

Project Title: Town of Marlinton StormWater Project (CDBG-MIT)

Purpose: The purpose of the Town of Marlinton StormWater project is to rehabilitate and repair the existing stormwater system to ensure reliable drainage and reduce flooding risks within the project area. The current system is deteriorated and lacks adequate capacity to manage stormwater during heavy rainfall events, resulting in localized flooding, erosion, and potential property damage. The project is needed to protect public health and safety, maintain infrastructure integrity, and comply with applicable environmental and community standards. Without these improvements, the community will continue to experience recurring drainage issues, increased maintenance costs, and heightened vulnerability to storm-related hazards.

Location:Town of Marlinton, WV.
Estimated Cost:
Total Project Cost: \$8,655,040
CDBG-MIT Funds: \$8,655,040

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at West Virginia Community Advancement and Development (WVCAD), a division of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED), where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR with the West Virginia Department of Economic Development at 1900 Kanawha Blvd East Building 3, Suite 700 Charleston, WV 25305, attention Amy Clark, CDBG Programs Manager. All comments received by February 6, 2026 if notice is published: publication date plus fifteen days; if notice is mailed and posted: mailing and posting date plus eighteen days will be considered by the West Virginia Department of Economic Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban that Jennifer Ferrell in her capacity as West Virginia Community Advancement and Development (WVCAD) Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the name of grant recipient to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development will accept objections to its release of fund and the West Virginia Department of Economic Development's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development; (b) the West Virginia Department of Economic Development has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development via email at DisasterRecovery@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact Gerilee Bennett with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jennifer Ferrell, WVCAD Director

Note: The fifteen or eighteen-day public comment periods are the minimum time periods required by regulation prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (form HUD-7015.15) to HUD/State. The Responsible Entity may choose to allow a longer comment period. 24 CFR Part 58 requires, at Section 58.46, "Time delays for exceptional circumstances," a 30-day comment period for controversial or unique projects or those similar to projects normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The fifteen-day objection period is a statutory requirement. The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HUD/State, whichever is later.

Region 4 Planning and Development
1/22/1c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotype, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information is available in languages other than English. To file a complaint alleging discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 fax: (202) 690-7442; email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.
1/22/1c

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SUV

The Pocahontas County Commission is accepting bids for a SUV for use by the Pocahontas County Day Report Center.

All bids should be submitted in writing and placed in a sealed envelope marked "Sealed Bid – Pocahontas County Day Report Vehicle" and delivered by mail or in person to the Pocahontas County Commission, 900 Tenth Ave, Marlinton, WV 24954, no later than **February 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

Bid Specifications for the vehicle are as follows:
2025 or newer All-wheel Drive SUV, Third Row Seating, All-Season Tires, Trailer Equipment with 7 Way Wire Harness and Plug, Standard Safety Features.

Bids will be opened in the Office of the County Commission located in the Pocahontas County Courthouse, Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.

For further information, please contact the Pocahontas County Day Report Office at 304-799-6650, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The Pocahontas County Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to continue this matter from time to time as may be necessary.

John Rebinski, President
Pocahontas County Commission
1/22/2c

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

Answers

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Reason, from page 3

leg, you'd probably say it's an unfortunate accident, but you wouldn't try to charge the shark with a crime or call it evil. Sharks act on instinct. They don't make choices.

But if I were to cut off the leg of a swimmer and eat it, you would (quite rightly) charge me with a bunch of crimes and call me evil.

Put simply: the ability to make choices is what separates persons from animals and machines. When you interfere with someone's ability to make choices, you are treating them as if they are an object instead of treating them like a person. So, I really should respect your choices, and you should, in turn, respect mine.

Western-style liberalism—and, like last week, I'm using "liberal" in an older, philosophical sense, not in the modern American sense—rests on the idea that

governments should also respect people's choices.

For liberal political theorists like John Locke and Thomas Jefferson, this requirement that government respect choices entails two important principles.

1. A government is legitimate only when its citizens have consented to it.

2. A government retains its legitimacy only insofar as it protects its citizens' freedoms.

After a few fits and starts, western liberals largely settled on Constitutional democracies as the best way of realizing these principles.

Free and fair elections give citizens the opportunity to consent. A Constitution places limits on what the government can do, either through explicit prohibitions or by enumerating a particular set of individual rights.

In Europe, liberalism originated against a backdrop of hereditary aristocracy and powerful state churches. To be a European conservative in the 18th century was to

back the authority of the monarch and the head of the church against those who would let commoners vote.

The United States was founded as a liberal, Constitutional democracy. In America, our conservatives are mostly looking to conserve liberalism, because that's the entire history of our country. And American-style liberals are small-c conservative because liberalism is a thing they want to preserve.

We may have disagreed on lots of particulars, but Americans have long been, well, united in our belief that governments require the consent of the people and that our Constitutional rights place sharp limits on what the government can require us to do.

And, as we'll see over the next couple of weeks, that shared belief in the importance of individual choices grounds liberalism's commitment to equality and to state neutrality.

joe.miller@fountaindigitalconsulting.com

Deputy, from page 2

He was one of them.

"What I need here is a career deputy," he said. "Someone who wants to be in Pocahontas County. Someone who is going to stay in Pocahontas County. Someone who is going to stay with this agency."

One issue that McCoy faces is losing officers to the state police. He said the three local state policemen were originally deputies who moved on to the state agency. He holds no ill will against the officers and doesn't blame them for wanting to advance to the state level.

"That is our competition," he said. "It's not necessarily the surrounding counties."

The state does pay more than the sheriff's department, but McCoy added that with the state, there is the possibility of being assigned to a different county and needing to relocate.

With the sheriff's department, you are guaranteed to stay in Pocahontas County. The pay is good, too.

"Not as much as the state police," he said. "We were inching closer to being really competitive with the state police, but now they're getting another pay increase,

which is great. They deserve that pay raise. My deputies deserve that pay raise, as well."

It's been tough going for the sheriff's department with one chief deputy and two deputies. Their schedules are difficult and there are times they are working two shifts in one day because of the calls they get.

In addition to patrolling and answering calls, the deputies are also bailiffs for the circuit, magistrate and family courts of Pocahontas County. They are also the only agency that can respond to mental hygiene cases.

"Being shorthanded, it's stressful for all of us," McCoy said. "The public may not have noticed as much because we're still handling calls. You still see deputies here and there. May not see them as much because there are not as many of us, but we're still out there."

Fortunately, the sheriff's department has a good relationship with the state police and is able to work together to lighten the load a little on the deputies.

That doesn't help with the mental hygiene and bailiff duties, however.

There was an instance, McCoy explained, when a deputy was out doing an in-

vestigation when a mental hygiene call came in. He had to leave that investigation to go to the mental hygiene call. The deputy then had to drive the individual to Charleston to the hospital, which is required by law.

"The thing is, you have to have somebody available, every single day, to take that call should it come out," McCoy said. "The reason I say that, there are seven days in a week and three deputies. I have to give them their two days off. There's not enough to go around. I've had to put people on call specifically for mental hygiene only."

There was another instance where all three levels of court were in session with each one needing a bailiff. McCoy covered one court, the chief deputy covered another, and he had to call in a civilian bailiff for the third to keep another deputy available for calls.

It just so happened a mental hygiene call came in. If it wasn't for that civilian bailiff, it could have been a big issue.

McCoy welcomes anyone interested in becoming a deputy to contact his office and fill out an application. He has five openings at this time and will advertise when the Civil Service test will be scheduled.

From, from page 4

There will be times when I must make clear and decisive decisions as superintendent to ensure the health, safety and effectiveness of our school system.

Recently, I addressed spending processes within our schools. We were not consistently following state guidance related to procedures and accounting. These concerns were presented to the Pocahontas County Board of Education during a special meeting on January 9. I am also currently evaluating vacant positions across the county. Some positions have remained unfilled for the entire school year—and in certain cases, for two or more years because there were no certified teachers to hire. As a result, long-term substitutes or uncertified educators have been placed in these roles. While I am grateful for every retired teacher and substitute who supports our schools, this situation means that students may not be receiving instruction from a highly qualified, certified teacher in that subject area. Additionally, using substitutes in long-term roles creates daily staffing shortages, resulting in classrooms being covered by other staff members. This reality requires me, as superintendent, to examine our programs and job postings and ask, "What can we do better to serve our students?" That is exactly the work I am doing.

I have also been reviewing opportunities that are currently unavailable to our students, particularly in terms of course offerings. For example, we do not have a full-time high school counselor due to a lack of applicants. Rather than continuing to post a position we cannot fill, I have abolished that position and replaced it with a full-time graduation coach. This change will help alleviate the workload of our part-time counselor while providing students with strong support in planning their future and navigating college applications.

Looking ahead, I hope to implement additional opportunities next year, including a Practical Nursing Pathway, a Medical Assisting Pathway within our Career and Technical Education programs, and a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program. Some of these offerings will allow students to graduate with an associate degree and directly enter high-need fields within our community. This means our high school will produce career-ready graduates who do not have to leave the community to pursue higher education. I believe this is an exciting step forward for our students, our schools and our community.

To make these opportunities possible, I must carefully review school schedules, staffing and finances. I began this process by examining positions that are currently vacant or have been vacant for multiple years. These unfilled positions will be abolished for the 2026-2027 school year. No one has lost a job as a result of these changes. By repurposing these positions, we are creating the financial flexibility needed to expand programs while maintaining responsible stewardship of our finances. This approach will ultimately strengthen our school system and broaden opportunities for our students.

In closing, I encourage our community to stay engaged by attending or watching Board of Education meetings (<https://boe.pocahontas.k12.wv.us/page/board-of-education-links>) where I regularly provide updates on our progress. I also urge everyone to remember that

secondhand information shared on social media is not always accurate. My door is always open, and you are welcome to stop by my office at any time. My email address is lgwillia@k12.wv.us and my office number is 304-799-4505. I will respond to you as appropriately and timely as I can. As I continue getting to know the community, I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about our school system and the work we are doing together.

There is no greater resource in Pocahontas County than our children. The children we serve are our priority in all regards. As my team and I manage our school system, in all ways, our constant focus will always be on how to meet student needs and to help each child succeed. The sacred service to children is a constant commitment and focus of the school system in collaboration with our supportive communities. We are STRONGER TOGETHER!

Advertising deadline is Monday at noon. Call 304-799-4973



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

WANTED TO BUY OR RENT - Home or acreage. Ten mile radius of Green Bank Observatory. 917-749-4422. 1/22/8p

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

Classifieds

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PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Pocahontas County Senior Citizens, Inc., is now accepting applications for multiple part-time positions. These positions will include 10 paid holidays and 30 hours of paid time off after the first year of employment.

- **Assistant Cook, Green Bank location:** Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Job duties include, but are not limited to, food prep, food packaging, fundraisers, and meal route when needed. \$10/hr.
- **Direct Care Worker:** Monday – Friday, hours may vary. Job duties include personal care, traveling client to client (travel time and reimbursement included), and light housekeeping. \$12/hr.

Contact Kayla Shaw, Executive Director at 304-799-6337 x7 for further information about either of these positions. *Pocahontas County Senior Citizens, Inc.*, is an equal opportunity employer.

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304-799-6523
WWW.SOUTHERNSTATES.COM

BRING IN THIS COUPON AND SAVE \$100 OFF YOUR PURCHASE!

Shrine Club has successful fundraiser

The Mountain Valleys Shrine Club recently completed its first fundraising project of the year. Gene Cowgil was the winner of the \$500 cash drawing. Cowgil said he knew about the great work the Shrine Hospitals did and he generously donated his winnings to Shriners Children's Hospitals.

"I cannot properly express how appreciative I am to all the folks who purchased tickets," said Mark Phillips, Vice President and fundraising chairman of the Mountain Valleys Shrine Club. "True, only one person won the prize, but everyone, especially the kids at Shriners Children's Hospitals are winners when we all work together and give a little. It is always humbling to witness how the guys of the Mountain Valleys Shrine Club go to work and how the communities respond. I'm proud to be a Shriner and honored to be a part of this amazing group of men."

Owen Warner, of Durbin, drew the winning number.

Mountain Valleys Shrine Club has an active membership of 51 Shriners and is growing. The Club meets monthly in Durbin and is an affiliate of Beni Kedem Shrine Temple in Charleston.



OWEN WARNER, LEFT, is pictured with Mountain Valleys Shrine Club Vice President and fundraising chairman Mark Phillips.

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DEATHS

Mrs. Mary Ellen Alderman Butterbaugh, 82, died at her home near Dunmore. The funeral service was conducted from the home by her pastor, Rev. Quade Arbogast with burial in Arbovale Cemetery. The deceased was a daughter of the late John and Emily Bird Alderman. She was married to Alex Butterbaugh.

Harry W. Buzzard, aged 51, was found dead in his barn January 22. He had suffered an accidental gunshot wound. He was a veteran of the First World War. The funeral was held from Marlinton Presbyterian Church with interment in Mt. View Cemetery.

John A. Galford, aged 83 years, prominent citizen of the Dunmore community. Funeral service from the Dunmore Methodist Church with burial in the Dunmore Cemetery. He was married to Mary Kathryn McLaughlin and they had 10 children, nine of whom survive.

Danny Clinton Riley, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Riley, of Green Bank. The little body was laid to rest in Arbovale Cemetery, the service being held from the home.

CHRISTMAS IN KOREA

Sergeant Paul A. Pennington, sends the following poem to his sister, Mrs. Frank Puffenbarger, at Cass:

He crouches in his foxhole, cold,
And peers at mountains bleak and old.
Around, the snow lies thick and white,
It is a Soldier's Christmas night.
For angel's songs, a whistling shell,
For Peace on Earth, the hellish yell
Of killers drugged with assigned hate;
Dear God, did Christmas come too late?
"O Little Town," the thought is blurred
As childhood memories are stirred,
While well-fraught hands the death march
play
Against the foe, this Christmas Day.
The dead ask "Why?" at Christmas tide
Some strangers fought and some have died
For Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men,
A homesick boy cries, Where, Oh, When?

Calendar, from page 4

Marlinton United Methodist Church – Worship at 11 a.m. Parking lot service on 90.3 FM radio or join us on Facebook. Office hours, Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Central Union United Methodist Church, Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m.
Arbovale United Methodist – Worship 11:15 a.m. Sundays; Bible Study 6 p.m. Wednesday.
First Baptist Church – Huntersville – Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday night service 7 p.m.
Marlinton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16741 Seneca Trail, Marlinton. Bible Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Church service, 11 a.m.
Seebert United Methodist Church – Sunday School every Sunday 9:20 a.m.; Worship second and

fourth Sundays at 10 a.m.
Catholic Mass: St. John, Marlinton – Sunday 9 a.m.; **St. Mark, Bartow** – Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Liberty Presbyterian, Green Bank – Worship at 11 a.m.
Dunmore United Methodist Church – Worship 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom 8 a.m.
Marlinton First Church of the Nazarene – Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m.
New Hope Church of the Brethren, Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Arbovale – Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Cochran Creek Baptist Church, Rimel – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Campbelltown Church, Marlinton – Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.
Cook Town Community Church, Rt. 219 – Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Edray United Church – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Marlinton Church of Christ, Lakeview – Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
New Vision Praise and Worship, 215 Fifth Street, Marlinton – Praise and Worship 10 a.m.; Preaching and Teaching 11 a.m.
Trinity Baptist Church, Rt. 219 Buckeye Hill – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Marlinton Church of God, Beard Heights – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 5 p.m.
Frank Church of the Nazarene – Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening service 6 p.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible Study; Thursday 7 p.m. Visitation.

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"The sky was so dark," Bauserman said, "I didn't realize it was already 7:30, time to phone my official Bartow weather statistics to the National Weather Service in Charleston. Shockingly, the rain gauge stick measured the maximum of 2.30 inches of overnight rain, and it was still raining! With the warm wind melting the blizzard of '96 snow, and nearly 5 inches of precipitation plummeting downhill, I was surprised and shocked. In disbelief, I told my wife, Julia, that we were in for a bad one..."

In Marlinton...
It is 1985 all over again and worse. With tempera-

tures in the teens and twenties, clean-up is a struggle for most victims.

Marlinton is by far the worst damaged area. Both banks, Marlinton Elementary School, McClintic Public Library and every downtown business sustained major damage as well as homes all over town.

Farther up the river, Durbin was without water for four days after a water main broke near the banks of

the Greenbrier River. In East Cass, houses were damaged as well as the Cass Scenic Railroad shop and the parking lot. Seven miles of railroad track from Spruce to Bald Knob were damaged in sections...

According to interim Emergency Services Director Tom Dunbrack, floodwaters crested in Marlinton around 2 p.m. at approximately 20 feet.

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History, from page 7

prone to spell it Marlinton as the sparks are to fly upward.

Arbovale is often spelled Arborvale; Linwood, Linwood and Lynnwood. Travellers Repose is often spelled with one "l" and an apostrophe.

There are 28 post offices in the county.

WEDDING

About noon January 16, 1901, an interesting society event transpired near Infra-monte Cottage, West Marlinton, when Rev. W. T. Price united in marriage, while seated in their buggy, Jacob Montgomery Dilley and Miss Amanda Cecil Coombs...

DIED

It becomes our mournful duty to record the decease of William Gibson at his home

on the old field fork of Elk January 22, 1901. By his death, Pocahontas County is bereaved of a model citizen, his neighborhood of one of the best of neighbors, and his family a kind, generous and judicious husband and father. By industry and fair dealing he accumulated one of the finest estates in west Pocahontas. He was known far and near for his open-hearted hospitality. One of the deeds by which he will be long and gratefully remembered by all good people was the inception and completion of a memorial house of worship sacred to the memory of his much-revered mother, Mary Gibson Chapel. ... His remains were interred near his dwelling and the funeral attended by one of the largest assemblies ever convened in that vicinity. The writer honors his memory as one of the best of his friends known and esteemed as far back as he can remember anyone. W. T. P.

Mrs. Ann R. Jordan died in Henry County, Missouri, November 17, 1900. She was a relict of the late J. A. Jordan, and a daughter of James Sharp, Jr. and Mrs. Mary Byrnsides Sharp. She was born on Beaver Creek August 3, 1850. She was married to J. A. Jordan in 1870 and in 1885 they moved to Odessa, Missouri. She survived her husband 18 months.

A correspondent for the Ulrich Herald, the local paper says, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan were both honored and faithful members of the Methodist Church at Lucas.

"In sister Jordan's death, the church has lost one of its most faithful and beautiful Christian lives, the community an agreeable accommodating and trusted neighbor, her children bereaved of a most tender and affectionate and loving mother whose example and influence will be a safe guide throughout their lives..."

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