

For Your Consideration
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Drama Workshop
page 3

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Beckwith Lumber receives $1 million USFS grant

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer



IT TOOK NEARLY a year for Beckwith Lumber Company, Inc. to rebound after an electrical fire in 2025, but the sawmill is back up and running now, and will receive more upgrades, thanks to a $1 million grant from USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations. *S. Stewart photo*

It was announced, earlier in August, that Beckwith Lumber Company, Inc., had received a $1,030,900 USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations program grant to install a vertical line resaw system.

This grant couldn't have come at a better time for the Pocahontas County company, which recently reopened after nearly a year of inactivity due to an electrical fire.

On May 31, 2025, a short from a power pole connected to the sawmill caused an electrical box to explode and set fire to an oil tank.

"We'd already been planning on doing this major rebuild of the sawmill," company president Daniel Woods said. "The actual fire was going to have us down for a month and it was going to be fairly expensive, but at that time, we decided – or I decided and just sold everybody that needed to be on the same page – that we were going to build it back."

The employees got to work cleaning up the sawmill and demoing everything that was to be replaced. Contractors came in and helped get the sawmill back up and running. The sawmill was back to work on May 6 this year, nearly a year after the fire.

Now with phase one of the rebuild and refurbishment done, the grant will be used for phase two – an addition to the existing mill to house a new vertical line resaw system.

"We're putting in a resaw system that should at least double production," Woods said. "It's another saw line, but all the logs have to go through one saw before they can go over to the other machine. You can keep turning the log and peeling the grade off the outside of the log when you're doing that. A lot of mills that we looked at are set up that way.

"We went with this vertical line bar system," he added. "We're pretty excited about it."

see Grant pg 5



AT THE WEST Virginia State Fair last Sunday, Michelle Wilfong, left, of Dunmore, received a Women in Agriculture Award from Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Leonhardt. *Photo courtesy of Michelle Wilfong*

Wilfong receives Women in Agriculture Award

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Many people in the agriculture industry today are multi-generational farmers and growers. They are following in the footsteps of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Such is Michelle Wilfong, of Dunmore. She was born a farmer. The daughter of Michael Biser and Connie Biser, Wilfong was raised on the family farm in Fisher, outside of Moorefield in Hardy County.

This past Sunday, Wilfong was recognized by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture as one of five Women in Agriculture at the State Fair in Lewisburg.

As a third generation farmer, Wilfong has agriculture in her blood.

"We raised broiler chickens for Pilgrim and we also had maybe 20 cow/calf pairs," she said. "Then I started showing market lambs through 4-H."

To Wilfong, she officially became a farmer when she was nine years old, when her granddad, Albert Crites, saw her love of sheep and handed down his flock of sheep to her.

Growing up on the farm and helping out never felt like a chore. It was part of Wilfong's everyday life, and she enjoyed every moment of it.

"It was just the way I grew up," she said. "I knew that we had to go to the chicken house every morning and every evening. I never really knew any other way. My mom stayed home and took care of the chickens, so I was always out with her."

As a child, Wilfong joined 4-H as a Clover Bud and continued in the club until she aged out. She also joined FFA in middle school and began participating in livestock shows and the ham, bacon and egg show and sale.

"I was very blessed because in Moorefield, we had a middle school FFA chapter, so actually I was able to join FFA when I was in seventh grade. I showed market lambs, market goats, market hogs, market steers and breeding heifers. Oh, and horses. I had Tennessee walking horses."

In FFA, Wilfong rose through the ranks and was elected to a state office. As a state officer, at the age of 18, Wilfong met her future husband, Charles, who grew up a fourth-generation farmer in Dunmore.

see Wilfong pg 8

Murphy finds calling in education

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer



Debra Dean Murphy

They say all roads lead to home, but they never say how long that journey might take. For Debra Dean Murphy, it took a couple decades for her to find her way back to West Virginia.

A 1980 graduate of Pocahontas County High School, Murphy attended West Virginia Wesleyan College where she earned a degree in biology with a minor in English. After graduation, she got married and her husband, Jim, moved to Durham, North Carolina.

Murphy found jobs using her biology degree while her husband attended Duke Divinity School. It was during this time that Murphy found her calling.

"Duke kind of spurred my own imagination," she said. "We had our first child, Drew, when my husband was in school there and then when Drew was a couple years old, I went to Duke Divinity School and got a master's in theological studies."

Murphy went on to a doctoral program at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. The family moved to the area and Jim worked in the church as Murphy continued her education and entered her new phase – a teaching career.

"When we moved back to North Carolina, I taught at Duke Divinity School for a couple of years," she said. "I also taught at Meredith College. But we had two young children [Drew and Sean Patrick] and my looking for full-time employment didn't always jive with when my husband was moving to a new church."

That's when West Virginia Wesleyan College came calling. Murphy had been asked by the dean of her alma mater to teach there a few times, but things didn't line up properly until 2009, when the boys were grown and starting their lives in North Carolina.

So, the couple moved again – this time back to West Virginia and Murphy took a faculty position in the Philosophy and Religion department.

"We don't have a lot of students who major in religion or philosophy, but I do teach a lot of students because we're a liberal arts college and students take courses from a wide range of disciplines," she said. "In my seventeen years, a few of our religious studies majors have gone on to places like Princeton and Duke and Vanderbilt, so it's been a program that's prepared students well and that's something we're proud of."

Murphy has also had students who had a similar ex-

see Calling pg 6





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ARC Broadband Project nearly complete – Citynet accepting service applications

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

Melissa O'Brien, of the ISP Citynet, reported at the August 13 Pocahontas County Broadband Council meeting, that Citynet currently has crews in the field collecting data for laterals in order to start permitting. She also reported that the project is proceeding as planned and on target for a December 2026 completion. Citynet is now advertising its availability to accept applications for hook-ups from customers in the project area to receive broadband service. That project area is east from Marlinton to Minnehaha Springs and north to Dunmore.

Cory Nipper, of the ARC Project's engineering company, Thompson and Litton, added that the strands which will support the actual fiber optic lines have now all been installed, and 45 miles of the actual fiber has been strung and is now being tested. Nipper also said that all the "make ready" utility pole issues they had been dealing with have now been resolved and the needed work on the poles completed. A change order will be made that will allow them to hook-up fiber in Marlinton.

A substantial completion inspection of the project is scheduled for October 2, with the final payment to be made on November 30.

Regarding the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Broadband project, which was awarded to Citynet in Pocahontas County, Citynet's final agreements with the state are nearly ready to be signed. Once that is done, Citynet will have four years to have the infrastructure built to connect broadband to residents who desire it, but who were left out of any other broadband programs or grants. BEAD will be completed by 2030, although some addresses may have it available sooner as the work progresses.

Citynet's Melissa O'Brien also reported on the Line Extension Advancement and Development (LEAD) program, which is a West Virginia state grant initiative. She said that project is proceeding as planned and on target for the required December 2026 completion. Citynet has also started taking orders for LEAD service.

Regarding communications, Sarah Riley suggested a "story map" of sorts to illustrate the availability of fiber in the county over time. Amanda Smarr stated that Region 4 may be able to put this together pending data availability

Mike Holstine told the council that he will write an article or press release providing general information to the public on the services that Citynet provides as well as to how broadband customers with CityNet can best keep current landline phone service with Frontier if they so desire. Holstine recommends that people consider keeping their landlines for emergency use; however, he warned that Frontier is beginning to pull down some of their copper landlines and will likely raise their rates a lot for those legacy landlines that they do maintain.

Exploring Rate Costs

Charlotte Lane
PSC Chair

Why are our power bills are so high? is a constant question we face at the Commission.

And there are no simple answers nor easy solutions.

Time Magazine (JAN 21, 2026 3:28 PM ET) told me earlier this year that from 2021 to 2025, electric rates in this country rose nearly 30 percent, far outpacing inflation.

See: "5 Big Reasons Why Electricity Prices Are So High Right Now"

From January to October last year, average electric bills increased by nearly 13 percent.

And *Time* says there is little expectation for changes in the future.

Like you, I am concerned about my power bill. All of us are. I search for ways to reduce my bills, as I am sure you do. I also look for answers.

Inflation is one problem. Things just cost more now than they did five years ago.

Time also credits aging transmission lines and auxiliary structures. The infrastructure of most electric lines in the United States was built in the 1960s and 1970s, and sometimes much before that in West Virginia. Some transmission lines are more than a quarter-century old. They are approaching their life cycle's end, and they need to be replaced.

The various transmission grids – the largest of which serves West Virginia – are in the same shape. Most of the cost of those upgrades is going to have to be passed on to ratepayers.

Another, and recently acerbated, problem is tariffs. Many of these upgrades will have to rely on steel and aluminum, most of which we import.

With the administration raising tariffs on several imports, that is going to add to your electricity bill.

According to *Time*, and I quote here:

"A report from Payless Power, a Texas electricity company, found that increasingly hotter summers have contributed to a 400 percent increase in utility rates since the mid-1970s. The report found that the average American household paid about $784 for

see Rate pg 8

Community Care earns Top National Quality Honors

Community Care of West Virginia (CCWV) has been recognized among the nation's highest-performing health centers, earning seven Community Health Quality Recognition and Compliance badges from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for 2026.

Leading the honors is the prestigious Gold Health Center Quality Leader award, which places Community Care in the top 10 percent of health centers nationwide for overall quality. The distinction reflects CCWV's commitment to delivering exceptional, patient-centered care and achieving outstanding health outcomes, further solidifying its reputation as one of West Virginia's leading healthcare providers.

In addition to the Gold Health Center Quality Leader award, Community Care received national recognition in the following areas:

- National Quality Leader in Behavioral Health
- National Quality Leader in Heart Health
- National Quality Leader in Diabetes Health
- Preventive Health
- Advancing Health IT for Quality
- Operational Site Visit

These awards highlight Community Care's dedication to clinical excellence across a wide range of services. From preventive care and chronic disease management to behavioral health and innovative technology that enhances patient care, CCWV remains focused on helping individuals and families achieve better health.

"Our mission has always been to help our communities live their healthiest lives possible," said Trish Collett, CEO of Community Care of West Virginia. "Receiving these national recognitions is a testament to the hard work, compassion, and unwavering commitment of our providers and staff. Every day, they go above and beyond to ensure our patients receive the high-quality care they deserve."

The HRSA Community Health Quality Recognition and Compliance program annually honors health centers that demonstrate full compliance with Health Center Program requirements and excellence in improving patient outcomes, expanding access to care, advancing health equity, and delivering high-quality healthcare.

Community Care of West Virginia (CCWV) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located in West Virginia serving over 50,000 patients from 30 West Virginia counties with twenty (20) community health center locations, thirty-nine (39) school-based health sites, ten (10) 340(b) pharmacies, and one (1) dental office. Community Care of West Virginia employs a dynamic team of more than 600 health professionals including MD, DO, FNP, PA-C, adult and adolescent psychiatrists, licensed and master's level behavioral therapists, RPH, and DDS's. www.ccwv.org

Planned Power Outage

Mon Power advises that the power outage, originally scheduled for August 20, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will affect the southern portion of Pocahontas County.

Areas expected to be affected include Droop, Hillsboro, Watoga, Mill Point, Raintown and Buckeye.

If you have questions regarding the outage, please contact Mon Power at 1-800-686-0022.

BOE holds hearing on suspension

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

Pocahontas County Board of Education held a special meeting August 10 to conduct a personnel hearing on Superintendent Leatha Williams' recommendation to suspend Joanna Burt Kinderman for 30 days without pay as a disciplinary action. Burt-Kinderman was represented by local attorney Michael Doss, while the Superintendent and the school district were represented by Attorney Trey Marrone of the law firm, Bowles Rice, LLP.

This personnel matter, which had been investigated over a several month period, involved two allegations.

1. That Burt-Kinderman, Math Coach for Pocahontas Schools, had pressured teachers and principals to not follow the state's transcript policy, but to remove some grades from the transcripts of students taking, then withdrawing from the Eighth-Grade Math 1 course

2. And that she used county school money without authorization to purchase T-shirts for adult volunteers at the Math Field Day.

Burt Kinderman has denied both allegations.

At Burt-Kinderman's request, it was an open hearing, and about 25 members of the public attended.

The hearing began with opening statements by the attorneys. Attorney Marrone, in his opening statement, said that just as the superintendent was avoiding a special circumstance state takeover of the schools in January of 2026 by assuring the State Board of Education that all the transcript issues they had identified at Pocahontas County High School had been fixed, three staff members at the schools alleged to her that Burt-Kinderman had been involved in transcript violations. They said Burt-Kinderman had defied the transcript policy by using her expertise and influence to pressure teachers to allow eighth grade students who were taking the ninth grade Math-1 course, but whose grade for that course was below a "B," to withdraw from that course and then to remove those student's nine-week and/or semester grades for that course from their transcripts. This, according to Attorney Marrone, violated state policy and a directive by the superintendent. Marrone also brought up the T-shirt/Math field Day issue.

He said that an independent investigation by Charles Everet Kingery, a retired police investigator, substantiated the allegations, after which the Superintendent made her recommendation

see BOE pg 8

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A COMPOSITE IMAGE of West Virginia-made products, clockwise from top left are: Blenko Glass Co.'s 384 water bottles, Holl's candy, Fiesta Dinnerware and Mister Bee potato chip.

'Coolest Thing Made in WV' contest celebrates local products; nominations open

By Kendra Gilchrist
For HDMedia

West Virginia companies are battling it out in a people's choice contest to decide who has the coolest product.

The West Virginia Manufacturers Association is hosting the "Coolest Thing Made in West Virginia Tournament," an online voting, bracket-style tournament that will showcase products manufactured in the state.

Similar competitions are held across the country, but this is the first time the Manufacturer's Association is holding one in West Virginia.

"We often worry, as West Virginians, not that we have a bad reputation, but that we have no reputation around the country," West Virginia Manufacturers Association President Bill Bissett said. "We want to put West Virginia more on the map."

see Coolest pg 9

Spangler and Ritter step up

Margaret Baker
Contributing Writer

When Brynn Kusic, director of the Pocahontas County Opera House, told James Spangler that the Drama Workshop was one character short in casting it's Fall production of "Catch Me If You Can," he strolled over to the Marlinton Post Office to talk to customer service supervisor and play director Jeff Marcum, hoping to get a bit more information. After a reading in Jeff's office, he left with his mail and a part.

James began his acting experience as a child performing in Episcopal nativity pageants in his native Texas where he often portrayed shepherds, wise men and multiple Josephs. In high school he learned that the Drama Club traveled out of town for competitions and got out of class to rehearse, so he figured, "I'm in!" He landed a role in Neal Simon's "Plaza Suite" and still remembers every word of his dialogue. Well, both words, "cool it." There must have been something in the perfection of his delivery because he then landed the part of the narrator in John Steinbeck's "The Pearl," a role that also showcased his talents at playing "fake Spanish guitar." Once bitten by the theater bug, James continued performing as the narrator for a traveling circus production called "The Dream Machine." Currently, you can hear James on alternate Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. hosting "All the Stops" on Allegheny Mountain Radio.



Ashley Ritter and James Spangler

In "Catch Me If You Can" James will play two characters, Sidney, who he describes as "a comedic foil, bumbly and cartoony" and the smarmy and smug head of an ad agency, Everett Parker. James says he has about 15 seconds to switch from one character to the next requiring a quick change of both costume and personality. In any case, James says he will be "turning up the clown."

see Step pg 9



Science in Small Bites

"Two things are infinite, the universe and stupidity, and I'm not sure about the universe." Albert Einstein

Segment one:
Is it necessary to walk 10,000 steps a day to stay in shape?

Although originally an idiom coined by astrophysicists, "A body in motion stays in motion," it aptly applies to humans as well.

If you're a person who walks, runs or hikes to stay in shape, you may base the gold standard of such exercise on achieving at least 10,000 steps per day.

Fitbits and most pedometers are designed to give you a pat on the back when you have reached 10,000 steps - my pedometer emits a victory tune much like that of Rocky Balboa when he runs up the 72 steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

But did you ever stop to wonder why it is 10,000 steps? Is there some special significance to this specific number of steps? Maybe, like me, you assume the number of steps came from a scientific study. But that's not the case at all.

The 10,000-steps-a-day doctrine originated in Japan in 1964 during the Tokyo Olympics. Apparently, the Japanese government was concerned that their citizens were not getting enough exercise - the historically thin Japanese were starting to gain weight and having associated health problems.

So, they designed a pedometer called the manpokei, which translates to "The 10,000-Step Meter." And the number of steps comes from a Japanese character that looks like a person walking and also means 10,000 (See illustration pg.8).

OK, all that's quite interesting, but let's get off the health myth highway and check in with the science community.

So, what does scientific research have to say about this magical number that will ensure we are healthy? Well, it's not necessarily 10,000 steps we must take to avoid poor health.

No fewer than 57 controlled studies involving 160,000 adults have examined the number of steps that confer the greatest health benefit, and the science-backed number is 7,000 steps.

If you walk at a moderate level for 7,000 steps, you can expect the following results:

A 47% reduction in the chance of premature death.

A 25% lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

A 14% lower risk of Type II diabetes.

A 38% lower risk of dementia.

A 22% lower risk of depression.

see Your pg 8



IT ONLY REQUIRES that you walk 7000 steps at a moderate pace to get the maximum health benefits. *Photo courtesy of flutie8211/Pixabay*



Reason and Romanticism

by Joe Miller

In late May, Google announced a whole suite of changes to its core product: Google search.

The biggest of those changes is that the company is further integrating AI into search results. The company is doubling down on its efforts to answer your questions directly, rather than simply giving you links to websites where you can find answers to your questions.

AI skeptics were vocal in their displeasure – my social media feeds were full of variations on "remember when you could type your query into Google and get 10 links to answers written by humans?"

The critics have a real point. I tried using Google search to research this column, but it just sent back pages of AI-generated You Tube videos. I finally asked Claude to help sort through the clutter.

That research confirmed what I'd vaguely remembered – low-quality content isn't a new problem.

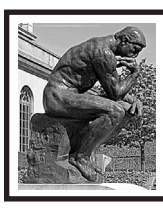
Between 2009 and 2011, the web was overrun with content farms – companies whose entire business model was to identify search terms that were not well-served by newspapers or e-commerce. These farms then paid writers a few dollars per article to draft copy that would rank highly on those searches. They then stuffed the pages full of advertisements.

If you've been around the web a long time, you might remember eHow or Associated Content. As media researcher and professor Dave Karpf pointed out, these sites didn't need to provide good answers; they merely needed to provide relevant answers.

Google eventually updated its search algorithm to deprioritize content farms. Sites like eHow lost somewhere between 20 and 40% of their visibility within months of the change.

In 2012, Google made another big update aimed at improving information quality, adding what it called "a

see Reason pg 8



TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. What is the largest planet in our solar system?
2. What is the first Miranda right?
3. What is the national animal of Canada?
4. Which European country was the first to set up trading posts and forts in Wisconsin?

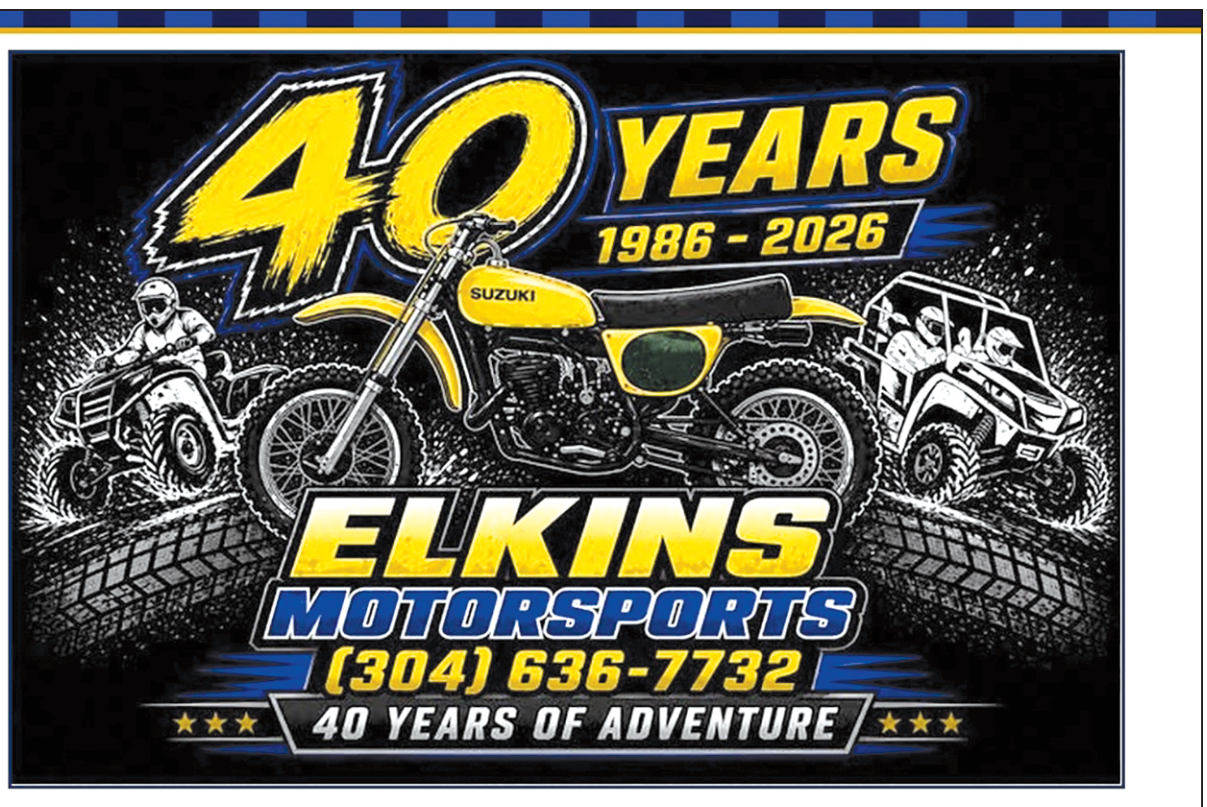
Burma-Shave — A Blast from the Past

Courtesy of the Ruth Friel Estate

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Letter to the Editor

Editor,

House Bill 2014, which invites and encourages Data center development in West Virginia, is yet another example of using and selling the state's natural resources at the expense of the people and as a blind misuse of the one enduring and most valuable state resource "the green and rolling hills."

The world is overcrowded, in turmoil, and led by self-centered, short-sighted fools.

West Virginia still has what most of the world now lacks: water, forests, farmland, quiet and peace of mind.

Data centers bring nothing and will rob communities of quiet, water and useable land, and will enrich the already rich and politicians will try to gas light you while the beauty and peacefulness of our state ebbs away.

County Commissions and citizens take heed! Don't sell out West Virginia!

Martin Saffer
Hillsboro

Community Calendar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Marlinton Farmers Market Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the old French's Diner lot on Main Street.

Green Bank Market Wednesdays, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Green Bank/BFD parking lot.

EVENTS

The Dunmore Community Center Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, August 22, has postponed. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

FREE Community Dinner Thursday, August 27, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Marlinton Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by area churches and community volunteers.

REUNIONS

Alderman Family – Saturday, September 5, 11 a.m. at New Hope Lutheran Church pavilion. Covered dish.

PCHS Class of 1976 – 50th Year Reunion Saturday, September 26, at Central Union Methodist Community Center at 2521 Brush Country Road, Marlinton. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. for socializing. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. To RSVP or for more information, text or call Becky Simpson at 540-691-5042 or Sandy Beverage at 540-840-6389.

MEETINGS

Pocahontas County Solid Waste regular meeting Tuesday, August 25, 6 p.m. at the courthouse.

Pocahontas County LEPC meeting will be held Thursday, August 27, 2 p.m. at McClintic Public Library.

Pocahontas County Senior Citizens, Inc. public meeting Friday, August 28, 10 a.m. Everyone welcome. Comments from the public about programming will be accepted.

Pocahontas County Art Guild Tuesdays 10 a.m. to noon at the McGlaughlin Log Cabin on Fourth Avenue in Marlinton. Everyone welcome.

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

Pocahontas County Commission Tuesday, September 8, 8:30 a.m. in the commission room, first floor of the courthouse.

Marlinton Town Council Monday, September 14, 7 p.m. in the municipal auditorium.

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

WV Prayer Alliance at the Community Wellness Center in Marlinton for community prayer. Next meeting August 27.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Game Night at Green Bank Library, Friday, August 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Board, card and video games. Snacks provided.

Knit and Crochet group at Green Bank Library, first and third Wednesdays at 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your needles and spin a yarn.

Sit and Sew group at Green Bank Library, second and fourth Wednesdays1 to 3 p.m. Bring your own projects for social sewing.

Little Librarians reading program for the littles and homeschooled kids at Linwood Library Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Cemetery Notices

If you have loved ones who have been laid to rest in one of these small cemeteries in the county, please consider making an annual donation for mowing and upkeep.

The following people have stepped up to see that these burial grounds are maintained, but it is up to family members to provide the funds to ensure that maintenance continues.

Donations for the upkeep of the following cemeteries may be made to:

Arbovale Cemetery – Daniel Solliday, 1754 North Fork Loop, Green Bank, WV 24944

Beaver Creek Cemetery – Nancy McComb Smithson, 641 Violet Road, Marlinton, WV 24954

Bethel Cemetery on Back Mountain Road, Durbin – Jean Taylor, 13453 Back Mountain Road, Durbin, WV 26264-9012.

Boyer Cemetery Trust – Joan Barkley, 14 Alleghany Mountain View Trail, Arbovale, WV 24915

Bruffey Creek Cemetery – Dennis Vaughan, 4108 Lobelia Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

Buckeye Chapel Cemetery – Bill Graham, P. O. Box 249, Buckeye, WV 24924

Cochran Cemetery – Charlotte Alderman, Treasurer, 63 Farmhouse Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954.

Dunmore Cemetery – Greg Pritchard, 15249

see Cemetery pg 10

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Saturday: Elkins, intersection 33E - 250/219, across from KFC - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
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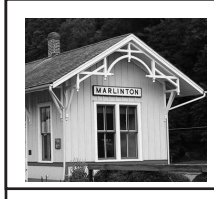
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

You may have wondered what happened to the Mayor's Corner last week.

As I write this explanation, my right eye has a patch over it, and I can see just enough out of my left eye to manage to write this short message to provide a heads up for those who miss *The Mayor's Corner.*

I have had a relapse from my February ordeal following an allergic reaction to an antibiotic I was given for orbital cellulitis.

So, from last week, and certainly this week, and probably again next week – I have a lot of things to say, but you will have to wait for whatever is next.



What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Beef Green Chili Stew

1 pound ground beef
1 medium onion, diced small
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
3 medium potatoes, cut into 1" cubes
14.5 oz. diced tomatoes
16 oz. chopped green chilies
4 cups beef broth

In a large pot, cook beef until done, breaking it up as it cooks. Drain excess fat. Add onions and garlic. Cook until softened. Add remaining ingredients. Cook 30 to 40 minutes until potatoes are tender. Check for seasonings. Add cayenne pepper or red pepper flakes, if heat is desired.

Corny Cheesy Cornbread

2 eggs, beaten
1 cup frozen cream style corn, thawed
3/4 cup self-rising flour
1 cup self-rising cornmeal
1/2 cup bacon drippings or vegetable oil
1 cup sour cream
1 cup grated cheddar or jalapeño cheese
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper, optional
3-4 oz. chopped green chilies, optional
1/4 cup bacon drippings or vegetable oil for seasoning skillet

Preheat oven to 375°. Generously season a 10-12" cast-iron skillet with 1/4 cup bacon drippings or vegetable oil. Preheat skillet in oven or on top of stove. In a large bowl, mix all ingredients together, stirring with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until combined. Pour batter into the preheated cast-iron skillet. It should sizzle when poured in. Place skillet in preheated oven and bake until browned, about 30 minutes.

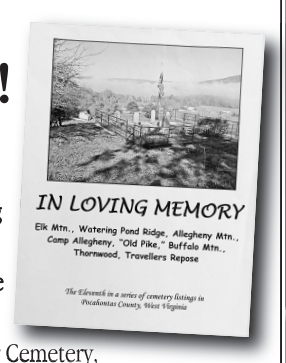
Note: frozen creamed corn is sold in frozen vegetable section of grocery stores. It is much better than canned.

The deadline for **Letters to the Editor** is Monday at noon. Writers may use a maximum of 600 words. Letters should be issue-oriented and never personal. Send letters to jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com

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The Pocahontas County Genealogy Group has a

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Volume 11 documents 29 cemeteries – Lambert Cemetery Elk Mtn; Halterman and Watering Pond Ridge, Mullenax, Collins, Jacob Yeager, Varner, Confederate Civil War Cemetery, Mt. Hobert Church, John E. Wilfong, Yeager Cemetery, Wilmoth, Spencer, David Wilfong, Wooddell Family, Frank Wilfong, Judy, Emanuel "Manny" Sharp, William Mullenax Grave, Waybright, Vandevender, Thornwood Community Church, Italian, and Starks Family, at Travellers Repose - Arbogast-Yeager, Confederate Civil War Cemetery at Camp Bartow, Rose, Slaven and Yeager Cemeteries.

The book is $12 plus tax. Add $5 for shipping. Available at The Pocahontas Times office or by contacting Jan Orndorff (rjorndorff@htcnet.org).

Super Crossword

TOOTIN' MAD

ACROSS
1 Lie down in rest
7 Pedometer unit
11 Trial fig.
14 Pig in a kids' series
19 A bit coarse, as humor
20 — sapiens
21 Informal talks
23 Personae non — (unwelcome sorts)
24 At the summit
25 Nielsens, e.g.
26 Start of a riddle
29 Granola bit
30 Goose of Hawaii
31 Many a craft brew, in brief
32 — center (play area)
33 Thu. follower
36 "That's — blow!"
38 Riddle, part 2
43 Suffix with billion
45 High-IQ crew
46 Harp relatives
47 Uncouth sorts
50 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
52 City near Seattle
56 Riddle, part 3
62 Hat for Indiana Jones
63 Esther of "Good Times"
64 China's Chou En- —
65 Uncertainties
68 Very last part
70 Opus
72 Freaks out
75 Gore, Roker and Pacino
76 Relative of .edu or .org
78 Base for head hair
80 Like many Coast Guard rescues
81 Riddle, part 4
86 Feature of the word "jot"
87 Execs' mag
88 Idea sources
89 Skylit lobbies
92 Project deets
96 James of "Alien Nation"
98 End of the riddle
103 Pirate's drink
107 Bunch
108 "Deck the Halls" contraction
109 Mined stuff
110 Egyptian canal
112 Year, in Brazil
113 Riddle's answer
119 Like the work of insurance risk calculators
121 "Bye-bye!"
122 Walk really quietly
123 Lambastes
124 Pre-'91 empire
125 "7 Rings" singer Grande
126 Applesauce brand
127 "Fancy that!"
128 Chinese dog, in brief
129 Became taut

DOWN
1 Singer Belle or Spektor
2 Lengthy reprimand
3 Beseech reverently
4 Preminger of film
5 Former teen idol Cassidy
6 Glasses and contacts
7 Unselfish sort
8 Carry around
9 Like theatrical behavior
10 Appear like a jack-in-the-box
11 Last part of some plays
12 Saloon
13 Castle tower
14 Org. against leather
15 Estrada of "CHiPs"
16 Miss terribly
17 Tent stake
18 Hoofed beast
22 Nickname for Louis Armstrong
27 Make beloved
28 Sculling tools
34 Comic Issa
35 SSNs, e.g.
37 Artist Andy
39 Iconic "Dragnet" line
40 Granola bits
41 Often-tickled Muppet
42 With 48-Down, "Barry Lyndon" star
44 French river or department
47 U.K.'s counterpart to an Oscar
48 See 42-Down
49 A bit strange
51 Neither's partner
53 Ocean east of Ga.
54 Mined stuff
55 Columbus citizen
57 Mexican general Villa
58 Donovan of "Clueless"
59 Decide (to)
60 Decompose
61 "— Cousins" (Elvis Presley film)
66 Grazing area
67 Doesn't leave
69 Mail slot spot
71 Plaza Hotel girl
73 Rho follower
74 Botching it up
77 "Rocky III" co-star
79 Wordplay bit
82 "That so?"
83 Persian ruler
84 Like a snoop
85 Build up, as interest
89 Piercing tool
90 Even if, in brief
91 Snare drum sound
93 Inadequate
94 Annual basketball contest on the Continent
95 Silk nightdress
97 Proficient in
99 Pong maker
100 Clamping down on
101 Lordly home
102 Beachward
104 Believers in Jah, informally
105 Common soccer score
106 Conk out, as a machine
111 Old name of the Congo
114 "Hooper" star Reynolds
115 Junior miss
116 Big ice mass
117 Bit of work
118 Revolve
119 It's pressed for cash
120 Co. big shot



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Warrior Football Schedule

All games are played Friday night.
All games begin at 7 p.m.

August 28 ~ Away at Tucker County
September 4 ~ Away at Meadow Bridge
September 11 ~ Home vs Bath County
September 18 ~ Home vs Greenbrier West
September 25 ~ Away at Richwood
October 9 ~ Home vs Moorefield
October 16 ~ Away at Pendleton County
Octobre 23 ~ Home vs East Hardy
October 30 ~ Home vs Tygarts Valley
November 6 ~ Away at Webster County

School Menus

August 24 - 28

Monday, 24: Whole grain French toast stix, fruit, milk. Chicken Alfredo and broccoli with a twist, whole grain breadstick, carrots, fruit, milk.

Tuesday, 25: Whole grain pretzel with cheese, fruit, milk. Hot ham and cheese on whole grain bun, sweet potato fries, cucumber/tomato salad, frozen fruit cup, milk.

Wednesday, 26: Breakfast pizza, fresh fruit, milk. Pepperoni roll with marinara dipping sauce, spinach salad with tomato/cucumber, Italian vegetable blend, fruit, milk.

Thursday, 27: Breakfast smoothie, fruit, milk. Spaghetti with WV beef sauce, California vegetable mix, corn, whole grain roll, fruit, milk.

Friday, 28: Whole grain donut, fruit, milk. Salisbury steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole grain roll, fruit, milk.

WVU research aims to curb risky loss-chasing in online betting

By Sunshine Wiles
For WVU, Today

Because gamblers often up the ante rather than cut their losses when their online bets and parlays are a bust, researchers at the West Virginia University John Chambers College of Business and Economics are studying loss-chasing behavior in West Virginia to help protect Mountain State gamblers and their families from the associated risks.

"Some people are placing hundreds of bets on sporting events in just one month through online gaming operators," Chambers College economics professor Brad Humphreys said. "West Virginians who gamble irresponsibly need help. Our research is going to make it easier to get those people help."

Arnold Ventures recently awarded WVU a nearly $300,000 grant for research that analyzes real-time data collected from state gaming operators to identify trends in risky betting and the triggers that cause loss-chasing. Experts refer to it as loss-chasing when a person places bets to make up for a previous lost wager.

West Virginia is one of 38 states where online sports betting is legal. Two years ago, state lawmakers enacted the Responsible Gaming Research and Industry Development Act, which requires operators to share timely online gaming data with WVU.

That data offers a detailed picture of gamblers' decision-making for Humphreys, who serves as director of the Chambers College Center for Gaming Research and Development.

"If our research is right, that a near-miss parlay bet causes people to loss-chase and behave irresponsibly, operators can identify those people at the time they experience the loss and take measures like pausing accounts to prevent those people from doing financial harm to themselves," Humphreys said. "That's the definition of making life better for West Virginians."

Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy that supports projects rooted in evidence-based information that can lead to policy changes.

"As more states allow online gaming, the need for evidence-based research is growing," Milan Puskar Dean Joshua Hall said. "This grant from Arnold Ventures positions Dr. Humphreys and the Center for Gaming Research and Development to generate insights that help policymakers, industry stakeholders, and public health professionals make informed, data-driven decisions. We greatly appreciate the Legislature's recognition of our expertise in this area and this grant is a testament to their vision."

In West Virginia, nearly 90% of bets on sporting events are parlay bets. Parlay bets – wagers on two or more outcomes, called "legs" – only pay off when all predictions are correct. For example, a parlay bet that three NFL teams will win their games is a three-leg parlay. There is no payout unless all three teams win.

West Virginia is also among seven states where iGaming is legal. Gamblers can access a variety of internet-based games and betting opportunities. That may include casino-style games such as slots and poker.

"Most bets on sporting events or in iGaming have negative expected values," Humphreys said. "The shocking thing is the amount of money that's wagered on iGaming is an order of magnitude larger than the amount of money wagered on sports betting."

Humphreys has conducted research focused on gambling for more than 20 years. Georgia's Legislature, the National Council of Gambling Regulators, and lottery commissioners in Colorado are among the policymakers who have recently called upon Humphreys' expertise.

"That shows we have something starting at WVU that is unique," he said. "The idea is to become an international leader in this type of research."

Using information observed before and after bettors experience a triggering loss, researchers can determine the riskiness of the wagers. The goal for researchers like Humphreys is to promote responsible gaming and consumer protection in gaming markets.

The Arnold Ventures grant was awarded through the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University.

Grant, from page 1

Since it was founded in 1961 by Ralph and Glenda Beckwith, the company has seen many changes through the years and Woods has been there for everything that has happened in his lifetime.

Woods admits he was like a shadow to his Grandpa Ralph and learned the ins and outs of the business from a very young age.

"I lived for it," he said. "When I was a kid, me and Grandpa would go and look at land he was looking to buy and timber. When I was eight, nine years old, that's what I wanted to do with my weekends. I didn't want to hunt. I didn't want to fish. I wanted to go look at logs and log jobs, timberland and to the sawmill auctions and equipment shows. Everything you could think of that had to do with forestry products.

"This is home," he continued, meaning the business. "When I talk about home, I'm usually talking about Pocahontas County and the sawmill."

Woods literally grew up in the business and most school projects he did were centered around forestry and the sawmill itself. There was no question that he was going to follow in his Grandpa's footsteps, as long as the mill was there when he was ready.

"I wasn't always sure it was going to be there for me when I got there, so I had to have a backup plan, but I always wanted to be here," he said.

Beckwith's has seen a lot of change, with the current mill – the third since its inception – being built in 1992.

Woods took over as president of the company in 2016 and worked alongside Ralph until his passing in 2023. Ralph continues to watch over Woods from a portrait hanging behind his desk.

"Grandpa was my hero," he said. "Normally I was two steps behind him. When I was a kid, I didn't want anybody between us."

When the 2025 fire happened, Woods said he thought about what Ralph would have done and knew immediately that the only answer was rebuild. There was never an option to give up and close the sawmill.

"Still to this day, I still work for Ralph and Glenda," Woods said. "That's the way I feel, anyhow. He would have never wanted that. I watched when we had the mill fire back in 1992. They had the blueprints and drawings out that night. Just instantly, they started working on it.

"That's the way I knew how to do it," he continued. "My Uncle Ralphie, they had just gotten the [2025] fire out and he was in his office and already had the blueprints out. It was not a question. There wasn't an option. They were already working on it."

There was a time about a year-and-a-half ago when the question about the future of the business arose and Woods had to really consider what he wanted to do. The timber and forestry industry in West Virginia wasn't what it used to be, and he had to really think about what was best for Beckwith's.

"I was completely disgusted with some of the machines that we could not keep running," he said. "It was just, every time you turned around, something was going wrong. I'd already discussed it with a lot of key employees here. It had already been discussed in the board meetings."

At one point, Woods said they considered shutting down the mill and just being a land and timber company.

But he knew, that's not what Ralph would want, and a higher power had a say, as well.

"We decided we were going to revamp our sawmill," he said. "We were making plans, trying to figure out the layout we were going to do just a couple weeks before [the fire]. We had just finally figured out the direction that we wanted to go with the mill layout, and I wanted to do it last summer and God forced my hand on it.

"Right there, the 31st day of May, he threw me a curve ball," he continued. "He forced my hand, which He's forced my hand the right way. He makes the plans and I'm just the worker."

Now with the first phase of the remodel done and the funds to support the second phase, the mill is back in action and ready to continue the family tradition.

"It's working really nice," Woods said. "We're still on a learning curve with the sawyer to some degree. They told me that would happen. We're about three months in. We'll probably work on putting this equipment in next spring."

Woods said he is grateful for the grant from the USDA and said it hasn't fully sunk in that it is real.

"I guess to some degree, I just feel like it's kind of surreal," he said. "People are asking about it. We've been working on it, and it hasn't sunk in, I don't think. It's day to day business for me."

Woods said he learned about the grant from Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Ruthanna Beezley who helped him with the grant process. Woods and Beezley met with Lynn McCreary and Patrick Rappold with the Forest Service and worked out which grant was right for the sawmill.

With the mill back up and running, and the addition on the horizon, Woods and his entire crew at Beckwith Lumber Company are prepared to continue the vision that Ralph and Glenda had all those years ago.

"We're committed to it," Woods said. "We're absolutely committed to it. We don't know anything else. We don't want to know anything else. It's just the life."

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Obituary

James Pyles

James Edward Pyles, 79, of Beaver Creek, passed away Thursday, August 13, 2026, at home, with his family by his side.

Born October 19, 1946, at Beaver Creek, he was a son of the late James Dale and Dorothy Pearl Underwood Pyles.

James was a farmer and worked and retired from Denmar.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Lonnie Wayne Pyles.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Boggs Pyles; sister, Sylvia Partington, and husband, Rocky, of Florida; brothers, Eddie Lee Pyles, and wife, Glenda, of Suffolk, Virginia, and Thomas Franlin Pyles, and wife, Lottie, of Beaver Creek; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Sunday August 16, 2026, at Lantz Funeral Home in Buckeye, with Pastor John Paul Burks officiating. Burial was in Pyles Promiseland Cemetery on Beaver Creek.

Online condolences may be shared at Lantzfuneral home.com

The Bread of Life

by Dawn Reed

Eating a bagel this morning, I pondered how many times Jesus gave, broke and shared bread.

He was born in Bethlehem – the House of Bread – a fact all of us carb lovers remember quite well.

I love that Jesus said He is the Bread of Life (John 6:48). He is a vital part, a crucial part, of our daily life. He didn't say He was the lettuce or meat. Makes sense. Let's be honest, we go days without eating a salad or may choose to be vegetarian.

Bread is a staple – an everyday part of our lives. These days I like cream cheese with my bagel, gravy for my biscuit, and fresh butter for my toast, please and thank you. I put cheese on breadsticks or oil and seasonings at the Italian restaurant. I cover up the bread with all manner of toppings, but it is always there: the foundation.

The Bible shares many stories of Jesus and bread. With five loaves of bread and two fish He fed thousands of people. At the Last Supper, He used the bread as a symbol of His body that would be broken. One of my favorites is told in Luke 24:13-35.

On the very first Easter, two men were traveling home to Emmaus. They were deeply disturbed at the goings on in Jerusalem. When Jesus, whom they did not recognize, walked up, He asked them what had them so downcast.

If you've read the story, you know they were astounded He hadn't heard that the One they thought was the Messiah had been crucified. It's a dramatic story when you read it, picturing the whole conversation as they walked the seven miles to Emmaus.

After they told Jesus all that had gone on and their disappointment, Jesus spoke. Oh, yes, He did. My beloved once said in a sermon, "He didn't do a miracle, He pointed them to Scripture."

Jesus went all the way back to Moses, explaining to the confused and saddened disciples what the Scripture told about HIM. When they reached their destination, Jesus acted like He was going on, but they wanted more time with Him. So, they invited Him in.

Jesus was at the table with them, took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them. Then…this is the part that gives me chills every time…they KNEW it was Him and suddenly He was gone!

They asked each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while He talked with us and opened the Scriptures to us?"

I call that a delicious case of heartburn. And I hope you will have one, too. One that Nexium can't help. Here are other things I'm hoping:



Dawn Reed

• That you are reading God's Word. Every. Single. Day.

• That you wake up looking forward to your time of reading it.

• That you dig into it like never before, applying it to your everyday life.

• That you post it on your bathroom mirror so you will be encouraged first thing in the morning, post it on your kitchen cabinet, say it out loud, and are bolstered as you hear the words of God spoken.

• That you share it. It is alive and active. That means it's applicable to today and everyone you meet.

Shew, who knew so much was in a morning bagel?

Dawn Reed may be contacted at preacherswife7@yahoo.com

Don't miss a single Clif Bar

by R. A. Mathews

They caught him on video – stealing. This was several years ago in Yellowstone National Park, but it happens somewhere every day. And let me tell you, this thief was way too experienced.

Dressed in black from head to toe, clearly it wasn't his first heist. He knew exactly where to look and what to look for.

Speed was key. First, he isolated a lone snowmobile and immediately unzipped the backpack there, quickly searching through each item, head raised, eyes on the lookout for any threat. Soon enough, he was off with his treasure. A Clif Bar!

Yes, they're good. But why risk so much for a snack?

The thief was a raven.

These creatures are brave, quick-witted, and great problem solvers. In fact, God chose ravens to bring meat to the prophet Elijah when God sent him into the wilderness, on the run from the king of Israel.

The Lord's birds didn't make that meat. They stole it.

Thieving ravens are a great way to remember Elijah, a prophet who can get lost in the Bible. I just talked about him in a group I teach each week, which started more or less as a trial class after readers kept emailing me. I didn't think I had time, but those readers, who I call the PLUS group, now feel close and personal, and I've enjoyed sharing a bit more than will fit in a newspaper article. So, there's a "JOIN PLUS" tab now on my website, RAMathews.com, if you want to check it out.

Why is it easy to lose Elijah?

Because Scripture has five major books named for prophets, like Daniel and Isaiah. Then there are 12 minor ones, like Jonah. But there's no book of Elijah. The prophet appears for a few scenes in the books of 1 & 2 Kings, and then he's gone.

Don't let that fool you. These are remarkable scenes. In fact, Elijah may be the most important of the Old Testament prophets. Why?

First, because he never died. Elijah was swept into heaven.

Second, because his appearance was so well described that when John the Baptist began to preach in the New Testament, crowds ran to him. Had Elijah returned?

Third, as I told my PLUS group last week, Elijah was the first in Scripture to do something very, very big. Let me show you.

After the thieves fed Elijah in the wilderness, God led the prophet away from Israel to live with a widow and her son. It was a sad day when the boy died, yet also a day of wonder. Here's the passage.

"The son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him…

"And [Elijah] said to her, 'Give me your son.' And [Elijah] … carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. And [Elijah] cried to the Lord, 'O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?'

"Then [Elijah] stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, 'O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again.'

"And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.

"And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, 'See, your son lives.'" (I Kings 17:17-23, ESV)



R.A. Mathews

That scene is what I mean about this prophet. You really don't want to miss him. It's the first resurrection in the Bible.

But don't get confused. There's only one Resurrection in Scripture to eternal life. However, there was a group resurrection at the time of Jesus's death, when the tombs were opened and the saints came forth. (Matthew 27:51-52)

There were nine more. But all were raised to continue their lives on earth and to die again. Jesus's Resurrection, as I said, was to eternal life.

The nine are easy to remember: three in the Old Testament, three in the Gospels, and three in the writings that follow the Gospels.

If you remember our raven thief, Scripture is like that backpack. I'm here to help you unzip it and find the treasures. As I said, you definitely don't want to miss Elijah—a Clif Bar of the Bible.

The Rev. Mathews (BA, MDiv, JD) is the author of the "Reaching to God" series. Write to her at RAMathews.com where you can check out PLUS. Copyright © 2026 R.A. Mathews.

Calling,
from page 1

perience to hers – planning a degree in one thing and then changing to another after taking a few classes.

"That happened to me, too," she said. "I landed on biology because I took a couple intro courses and really loved it. I have had students decide to major in religion or philosophy because they took a class or two and thought, 'I'm really interested in this.'"

In her 17 years of teaching at Wesleyan, Murphy said she has seen changes in her students and the types of students who take religious studies courses. Obviously, there are those who want to learn more about their own religion or the religions of the world, but there are also students who are trying to relearn a tradition they may have experienced in a negative way in their childhood.

"I think one of the things that strikes me about many of the students I teach is that they've been wounded by religion – Christianity for the most part," Murphy said. "A lot of those students have given up on it."

"There are students whose conservative churches in rural Appalachia conveyed to them that they are not valuable as they are, so these students – rightly so, in my view – extricate themselves from that kind of situation," she continued. "I'm sympathetic to their pain but I also want them to see that the Christianity they've rejected is not the whole religion."

Murphy has seen a lot of students, who had given up on the Christianity they knew, come to her classes to learn what they were missing or to learn a new perspective.

"I've seen them sort of come to the realization of, 'oh, this is a bigger religion than I thought; what I've had was a distortion of it,'" she said. "That's gratifying as a teacher, that they can find something of value and also find that they are valued."

As a teacher, Murphy said her goal is to make sure all her students see their worth in this world.

In recent years, she's seen an increasingly number of "COVID era" students who often struggle with being prepared for college because of the educational isolation they experienced during their formative years.

"I've seen this happen over the last few years since the pandemic, as all colleges and universities have" she said. "And increasing levels of anxiety accompany this."

"So anything we can do, that I can do, in my classes to let people know that they are seen, they are of value, they have dignity and worth, simply as the beloved child of God they are, that's really how I see my work," she added.

Murphy doesn't just give assignments and grades; she strives to give her students perspective and a feeling of self-worth.

"Wesleyan is a small community and we're very student oriented, so I hope we communicate that to our students," she said. "I think at our best, we do."

In addition to teaching, Murphy is also the founder and co-director of the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) based at the college. Restorative Justice focuses on persons who have been harmed and those who have caused harm and seeks restoration where it can be found.

"Restorative justice says if a person causes harm of any kind, they should absolutely be held accountable. That can look a lot of different ways, but, when possible, restoration should be the goal, not throwing people away," she said. Restorative justice is complex and needs nuanced in a lot of ways, especially if you're talking about the criminal justice system.

"I think of restorative justice as a way of living in the world such that you are trying to bring health and healing to situations and relationships and communities and yourself," she added.

Murphy is also on the board of the West Virginia Restorative Justice Project (WVRJP) which works with communities all around the state and has even done some work in Pocahontas County. The contexts for these efforts range from K-12 education, addiction and recovery, juvenile justice, and organizations of all kinds who want to function in restorative ways.

"Almost every person we've worked with [the CRJ and the WVRJP] has experienced trauma in their lives – often in childhood," she said. "Our work is to be in community with them, to accompany them as they take responsibility for any harm they've done, or work through harm they have experienced, and to show them their worth.

"We've seen lives change," she continued. "It's been miraculous in a lot of ways. It's never perfect. There is failure at times, but we also get to see these friends restored to themselves and their communities. It's very moving."

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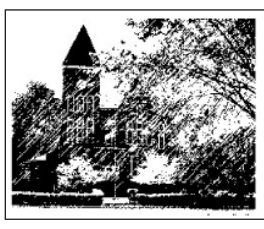
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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Central Service Station – Marlinton 1938



The Central Service Station, owned by E. H. Williams, located at the intersection of 8th Street (Rt. 39) and 4th Avenue in Marlinton, West Virginia. Ed Willaims was a respected business man and timber owner and was the founder of Williams Supply Company. (Grace Williams Sharpenberg Collection, Courtesy of Margaret Ann Bays; ID: PHP008559)

Selected photographs in the "Preserving Pocahontas" Digital Library may be found at pocahontaspreservation.org/omeka or 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.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, August 23, 1951

OUR ARMY AND NAVY BOYS

Karl Pritt is home on a 30-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Pritt, at Lobelia. Karl is home from long and hard fighting in Korea. His brother, Corporal Donald S. Pritt, of Fort Knox, Kentucky, was also home on furlough last week.

- - -

Sandy C. Rose, aviation machinist mate, third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Rose, of Marlinton, is attached to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron 21, at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California.

- - -

Marine Private First-Class Louis McClure, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McClure, of Marlinton, climaxed his recruit training by winning the marksman medal in the rifle range when he fired a score of 207 out of a possible 250 during his weapons training.

- - -

Corporal Russell S. Cassell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brice Cassell, on Back Alleghany, is home on a 20-day furlough. He is a member of the Air Force, stationed at Biggs Field, Texas. He is a graduate of Green Bank High School, class of 1947. He has had 15 months service. His brother is Corporal Alvin Cassell of the Army, now in Korea.

- - -

Private Royal Kershner, of Droop, has landed in the States after serving with the U. S. Army in Korea.

- - -

Private Lyle K. Birchfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rose Birchfield, of Huntersville, now of Co. B 110th Infantry 28th Division, has arrived at Fort Bragg to take part in the huge exercise "Southern Pine" now in progress on the sprawling maneuver area there... Southern Pine is the largest routine training maneuver of its type to be held in the United States since World War II.

DEDICATION SERVICE

The fine new parsonage of the Levelton Charge of the Methodist Church at Hillsboro will be dedicated with a fitting service 2 p.m. Sunday, August 26, 1951. Homecoming service at 11 a.m. Basket dinner; bring your lunch.

FIELD NOTES

D. S. Hamrick, of Monterville, was a caller at this office last Wednesday. He has just returned from a fishing trip to Michigan for pike and bass and up in Canada for trout. He has the distinction of killing the last big timber wolf in these parts as a boy of 18 years, back in 1908. This was a lone wolf which ranged the Gauley and Elk and Point Mountain country, taking heavy toll of sheep. Webster County offered a reward of $100 to kill the varmint. A hunt was organized and on the 8th day, young Daniel Stover Hamrick got the chance and killed the wolf. The Webster court refused to pay the reward under the too-thin point that the actual killing of the wolf was across the imaginary line into the county of Randolph. A lawsuit brought the money.

Five or six years before, John Gregory had killed the mate of this wolf and her two pups.

- - -

The following adventure with a rattlesnake did not happen this berry season, but it did happen some years since. The scene was in upper Pocahontas County and the time, berry season. A lady and her sister and her little daughter went a berry picking. The little girl came onto some especially fine vines overhanging a hole in the ground. She jumped down in the depression for to reach the berries. Her horror is better imagined than described when a great rattlesnake sounded his warning and tried to wiggle out from under her feet. However, she stood pat, with one foot just back of the snake's head. Mother and aunt rushed to her assistance. There was no room for to reach the snake and kill it. Taking a chance, the ladies each grasped a hand of the little girl. With a pull and jump the young lady came out of the depression like she was on a spring. It was all too quick for the snake to

see 75 pg 10

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, August 19, 1926

On Saturday evening, July 31st, as train No. 144 was traveling between Clover Lick and Stony Bottom, Mr. J. M. Myers and Dora Grace Ryder were united in the holy bonds of matrimony by Rev. H. Blackhurst in the baggage car in the presence of Conductor J. N. Redden, Brakeman J. E. Hall, Brakeman R. F. Clifford and Agent G. M. Bryce. The happy couple received the congratulations of the entire train crew, and their many friends wish for them a happy and prosperous life.

- - -

Miss Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Frank R. Hill, fell from the attic window of her home about midnight Tuesday night. She is painfully and perhaps seriously injured. She is hurt about the head and face and side. She was asleep and dreamed that her two little brothers were playing on the roof of the porch and she went to get some plaything they wanted in the attic, walking in her sleep. She fell from the window to the roof of the front porch and then onto a cement walk.

- - -

The Midland Trail is a restless place. It is a good deal like another trail in the north called Broadway, where people hurry to and fro. It is road number 3, cutting the State into two parts, after the manner of the New name-Kanawha River first overcame the mountain barrier. Later, the Indians marked a trail and perhaps the Kentucky buffalo made a trip through the rugged mountains to use the grasslands of the Valley of Virginia. Then the white men made a road called the James River and Kanawha Turnpike. Then the Virginians made the noble project of building a canal across the mountains, and they would have done so too, but for the fact that the modern invention of the steam railway decreased the economic necessity of a waterway from east to west. Then the C & O railway crept across the divide and took away the dividends of the stage companies and the old pike fell into disuse except for local purposes. The pike had tackled mountains on the proved proposition that a straight line is the nearest way between two points, but the railroad had its limitations and it sought the grades along the stream. The railroad fixed the status of the State, for it came at a time when the natural resources of the State, especially its coal, were needed for the upbuilding of the nation, and great cities like Huntington and Charleston and many other fine municipalities sprang up and flourished...

THE FAIR

Rain and mud marred the first three days of the Pocahontas County Fair, but there were a lot of people on the grounds Tuesday and Wednesday regardless. Judge Forrest Moore, of New York, made the Homecoming Address. He made one of his usual characteristic fine speeches and the people heard him gladly.

The track has been so wet and heavy that the track races have been handicapped.

In every department the entries are much more numerous and varied than ever before. The quality of the exhibits is better too. There is a keen rivalry between the four districts and exhibit of each district is a thing of wonder.

The special feature of the Fair this year is the entertainment furnished each day by the people of the four districts. Tuesday was Little Levels Day; Wednesday, Greenbank Day; Thursday, Huntersville; Friday, Edray; and Saturday, Pocahontas County Day. On last Friday night, nearly three hundred people from the Huntersville District came to the Fairgrounds to rehearse their program for the day. The people of the other districts were equally enthusiastic as the Huntersville folk in these matters, and they all are putting over wonderful programs.

ON THE MIDWAY

Lilla-Lee, the Fat Girl, stands the hot weather better than Nashville the Giant in the Big Circus Sideshow. The little congenial Japanese gentleman seen always on the hurry on the midway is not the manager of the Tea Gardens but, assisted by his wife, directs the big Ferris wheel and chair planes.

Alva, a real "Alligator boy" from Raleigh, N. C., sure is an interesting fellow to watch and talk to. He sure packs them around his attraction from early morn till late at night...

The Midway Café as the West Shows Cook House is known to all the visitors on the fairgrounds is a high-class reasonable place to set down to a good meal or lunch. The steward Mr. Stevens works night and day during the Fair season catering to the exacting appetites of the thousands of Fair visitors who have to be catered to while excitement reigns on the fairgrounds. … At the close of the Fair here Saturday evening, the big West's World's Wonder Shows go to the Greenbrier Fair for all next week.

Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday, August 19, 1951

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN 100TH ANNIVERSARY

New Hope Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Springs will celebrate its 100th anniversary August 22, 1976 with at service at 3 p.m.

In the summer of 1876, Henry White and his wife, Sabina, with their family, came to Pocahontas County. They were the first Lutherans in this section of the country. Occasionally, services by Lutheran pastors were held in homes, schoolhouses and nearby churches until the present building was erected and dedicated in 1893.

THE YEARS OF RETIREMENT

By Annie L. Cromer

If you are one who is afraid of or dreads the time when you must retire from the job you are doing, don't fret, but prepare yourself for the time of your life. To me, retirement means being able to do the things you want to do and not the things you have to do.

When we bought another farm after we left the jobs we were working on, several people remarked, "Are you crazy? Why don't you sit down and take life easy? You are not getting any younger, you know."

I answered, "True, we are working harder than ever, but no one is telling us we must." Besides, no one is giving us a warning stare if we go to work late or quit early. Did you ever notice for everyone who tries to put you down, there is one to encourage you rather unexpectedly? I like Leonard Curry. With his arm around my shoulder, said, "Annie, I have always admired you and Harvey for the way you have always kept busy at one thing and then another."

Isn't it wonderful how simple, but well-meant words can strengthen us for the years to come?

We know we are not getting younger or are as young as we used to be, but who is – I know no one.

The late John Hevener used to say," Work every day like you will live to be 100, but live every day as if you will die tomorrow"

I like to practice that.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. David McLaughlin, of Dunmore, a daughter, Jessica Lee.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Brent Moore, of Dunmore, a daughter, Sharon Anita.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Marion Madison, of Arbovale, a son, Joseph Allen.

DEATHS

Lettie Parker Jones, 84, died at Denmar State Hospital where she had been a patient since 1961. Graveside service at Mountain View Cemetery.

- - -

Tom Cecil Clutter, 74, born at Renick a son of the late Norman and Maggie McMillion Clutter. He was a retired State Department of Highways employee and a member of the Church of God.

- - -

Anna Florence Gibson, 82; born on Elk a daughter of the late Robert and Ella Sharp Gibson. Funeral from Mary's Chapel Church with burial in the Gibson Cemetery.

- - -

Floyd W. Galford, 64, of Green Bank, a son of Guy Waugh Galford and the late Marion Galford. Retired Department of Highways employee, a Methodist and a World War II veteran. Service from Arbovale United Methodist Church with burial in Arbovale Cemetery.

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Price Brothers

Thursday, August 15, 1901

BIG FIRE IN MARLINTON

Friday, near noon, fire broke out in the kitchen of Samuel Cooper's above the store of Samuel Cooper & Co. Cooking was being done by means of a stove heated by kerosene oil. Miss Rose Cooper was gone from the room some minutes, and when she came back, the room was a sheet of flame.

When the alarm was given the fire did not show on the outside, but a thin curl of smoke forced itself from the eaves of the building. There were no ladders or buckets available. And practically no water. Men jumped around like shot on a shovel and yelled different orders. A few buckets were obtained and one ladder, but the flames were bursting through the windows, and it was plain to be seen that the block would be burned.

It consisted of a Marlinton skyscraper 20 x 80 feet, a residence annex occupied by the owner, an icehouse and large stable. Boyd Bartlett's house was 20 feet to the north, the fine three-story brick block of the Bank of Marlinton 70 feet south.

The large stores of A. Harrison & Co. and B. F. Hamilton were about the same distance on either side.

The nearest exposure was the acetylene gas plant of the Bank of Marlinton, 10 feet of the burning wall of the building. The retorts were full of gas. The lock was knocked away with an ax, and a ton of calcium carbide was carried out, and the plumber, B. B. Slaven went in and cut the pipes liberating the gas. The building was burned down shortly.

Hundreds of people collected and carried out store goods and furniture. The day was still, and the fire and smoke ascended, and, while the heat was stifling, the flames did not spread. A number of persons were prostrated by the heat and their exertions.

Boyd Bartlett's house was nearest and caught time and again and was given up by all except Track Supervisor Anderson of the C & O Railway. He returned to the fight and succeeded in saving the cottage by a fine display of pluck.

A one-armed man by the name of Charles Maher brought six kegs of explosive powder out of the store.

The fire did not spread. It began at 11:45 and by 1 o'clock it was dying down...

PRISONERS GET GAY

Last Wednesday night before the customary time for the jailer, J. A. Sharp, to lock each one of his charges up in his little cell and hear him say his "now I lay me," word was brought to him that the prisoners were breaking jail. He has a little class of eight which he pronounces as being the worst combination he has ever had to work with. He took Will Burns with him and stationed him at the door and went in.

The prisoners had punched a hole in the cement floor between the first and second stories of the cells and had gathered upstairs where Jerome Kellison and Houston Fogus are confined. When so ordered, the proper ones crawled down through the aperture they had made, and they were locked in their respective cells...

see History pg 10

Rate, from page 2

electricity during the summer of 2025, 6% higher than in 2024.

I found this article by *Time* to be both upsetting and interesting. It at least gives us some idea of what has happened and what we can now expect.

Even with all of these trends, your Public Service Commission does its best to make sure that electricity is affordable.

Your, from page 3

A 28% lower risk of falls.

I don't think anyone could ask for more health benefits from just walking 7,000 steps. My 7,000-step walk at a moderate pace takes approximately one hour and 10 minutes. If I push myself, I can reach 7,000 steps in less than an hour and get an even better aerobic workout. That is just a fraction of our 24-hour day, and it's very little to ask of our bodies, considering the health benefits you reap.

That said, even if you walk at a moderate pace for 2,000 to 4,000 steps, you still get some health benefits.

Likewise, if you walk faster, you will burn more calories and, therefore, lose weight. However, the health benefits listed above will plateau at 7,000 steps.

If you are a middle-aged or older person reading this article, one more thing can benefit your health that many fail to appreciate: anaerobic exercise. As we age, our muscles become even more important for protecting us from falls and helping us stay active. We should begin resistance training in our 30s, when we begin to lose muscle mass, which amounts to a 3% to 5% loss per decade.

Around age 60, we begin losing muscle mass at an accelerated rate, but you can stop this unnecessary loss with weightlifting. Of course, you'll want to consult your doctor first. Still, you have several options for maintaining muscle mass, including lifting weights, using resistance bands, or using muscle-building machines like those found in gyms.

If you decide to improve your strength with weight training, regardless of the form, please consider your increased need for protein. And don't get sucked into the current protein craze - I'm sure you have noticed that nearly everything at the grocery store now contains oodles of protein. You can get too much protein, so consult your doctor about how much and when you should consume it.

The previous bite of science is a good segue into a related health topic. If you're currently sitting, please stand up and walk around a bit before continuing.

Segment Two: Sitting is the new smoking, so get up and move around, please!

Science Friday is a weekly radio show and podcast about all things science, including technology, space, nature, medicine, recent discoveries and scientific research. As it happens, this week's show on the effects of sitting fits neatly with the theme of this episode of *Science in Small Bites*.

Sitting can be deadly, and that is no exaggeration. Sitting at a desk all day staring at a screen is a consequence of modern technology, and inactivity comes at a cost.

B.J. Gudmundsson's Preserving Pocahontas is a weekly feature in *The Pocahontas Times*. One thing that stands out in those black-and-white photographs, going back more than 100 years, is that they depict people who are clearly fitter than many of today's residents.

In those days, people generally did physically demanding jobs and, equally apparent, ate real food. As Michael Pollan said in his book, *In Defense of Food,* "Don't eat anything your great-grandmother wouldn't recognize as food."

Beginning as far back as the Industrial Revolution and continuing with each new form of technology right up to the present day, labor-saving inventions increased productivity and reduced human activity. We went from swinging a scythe to sitting at a desk, staring at a screen. It was bound to have a profound and deleterious effect on our health.

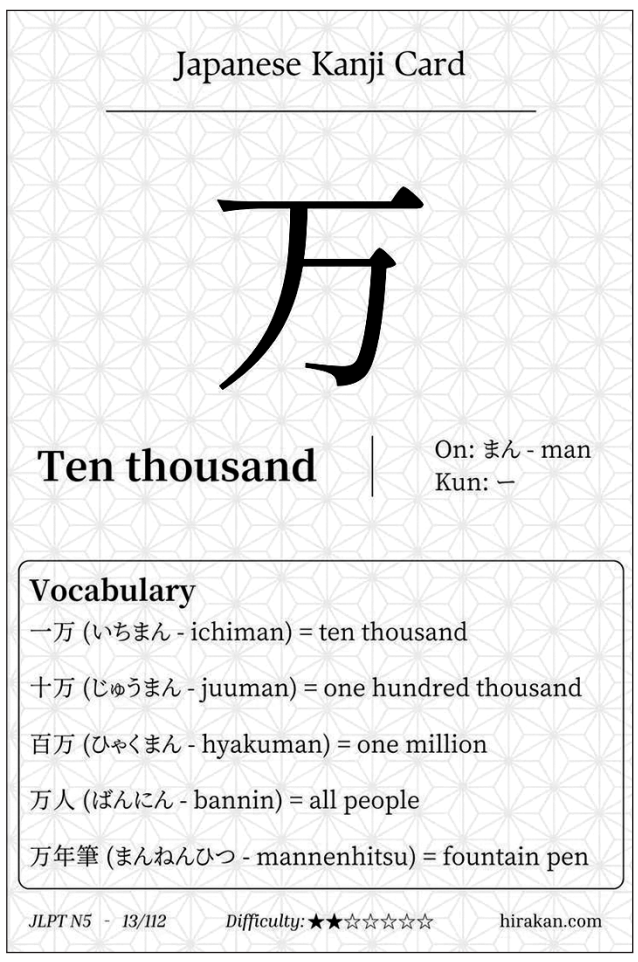
In Manoush Zomorodi's book, *Body Electric: The Hidden Health Costs of the Digital Age and New Science to Reclaim Your WellBeing,* she says, "We know that the average 19-year-old, it's estimated, sits as much as the average 60-year-old. And that's not because they're lazy. We've built this world around sitting in front of screens. And it requires sitting on our butts."

Zomorodi suggests taking a five-minute walking break every half hour. If this is too disruptive, take your break every hour or every other hour, with a caveat. The first suggestion will garner you the most health benefits, while the latter two provide less.

Research at the Columbia University Medical School is focused on determining the least amount of movement the body needs to avoid an early death. And the recommendations, once again, suggest a regimen of five minutes of activity for every half-hour of sitting in front of a computer screen. In a controlled, large-population study, this resulted in lower glucose and lower blood pressure. Additionally, subjects reported improved focus on their work and less fatigue at the end of the shift. Give it a try; what do you have to lose?

And those trendy standing desks from a few years ago; they carry risks too. A recent study confirmed that standing for more than two hours per day increases the risk of muscle pain, varicose veins, and circulatory issues, and it does nothing to protect your heart.

Ken Springer
ken1949bongo@gmail.com



THE MYTH OF 10,000 steps started in Japan in the 1960s when a pedometer was manufactured to give you a pat on the back when you reached 10,000 steps. This figure actually came from the Japanese character for 10,000, which resembles a person walking. *Illustration courtesy of Pinterest*

Wilfong, from page 1

"I was a state FFA officer when Charles received the State Farmer Award," she said. "That's how we met, at the state FFA Convention in Cedar Lakes."

Charles grew up on a cattle and sheep farm and when the couple married in 2014, Wilfong moved her livestock to Dunmore and the farm grew.

"Once we got married, of course, I moved all of my cattle and sheep up and we just kind of combined our flocks," she said.

The farm has continued to grow in the past 12 years to include 1,100 ewes, 800 brood cows and 1,000 yearling cattle, as well as CW's Corn Maze and their store at near Cass.

The couple is now raising the fifth generation of Wilfong farmers, their son, CW, who took to the farming life like a fish to water – although he has taken a slightly different path than his parents.

"His favorite animals, currently, are goats and pigs, which is something neither one of us really grew up around," Wilfong said. "He's really liking the pigs. I'm super excited because he just bought his first pig. He'll be able to raise it for the ham, bacon and egg sale come spring."

As she reflects on her life in agriculture, Wilfong is humble about her many contributions to the industry.

"I don't feel like I'm doing anything special," she said. "I'm just doing what I love, what I always wanted to do which is farm and raise our family on a farm."

When it comes to women in agriculture, Wilfong said there's always room for more as far as she's concerned.

"I think that a woman can do anything a man can do," she said.

"A woman should never be afraid to take a chance."

BOE, from page 2

of the disciplinary 30-day suspension for Burt-Kinderman. He said 23 students had been encouraged to drop the course and any reference to their grades while taking the course would be removed from their transcripts.

In response, Attorney Doss complained that he was not allowed access to the investigation findings until this hearing, and he emphasized that Burt-Kinderman had no power or ability to change transcripts or to direct anyone else to do that.

Investigator Kingery testified, summarizing witness statements, in which some people said Burt-Kinderman did use her respected position and expertise to pressure that the transcript changes be made. However, he did not present their exact statements.

Superintendent Williams testified as to why she recommended the suspension and was cross examined about that. Burt-Kinderman also testified and was cross examined, saying she never changed any transcripts, did not have the ability to pressure teachers to do so, and that she ended up paying for the four adult T-shirts for volunteers herself.

After the testimony and closing statements by both attorneys, the board members went into a nearly hour-long executive session.

When they returned to the open hearing, they passed a motion by a 4 to 1 vote to not approve the superintendent's recommendation of a 30-day suspension.

Burt-Kinderman will now be able to return to work as normally scheduled later this month.

Reason, from page 3

knowledge panel" to the right of search results. That box surfaces all sorts of factual details about your search topic.

That was part of a move that Google called "things, not strings." Computers notoriously do not understand the meaning of text – a bunch of text is, in tech-speak, a string, and Google's algorithms consisted of elaborate sets of rules for matching the string entered into a search query with strings that appeared on webpages.

Google's change was part of a larger project called the semantic web. Semantics is the study of the meaning of language. The semantic web is about helping computers understand the meaning of words.

Take, for example, something like the hours of operation for a business. A human can just read a chunk of text that says, "Monday to Saturday, 10–6" and know what that means. A computer does not.

So, a bunch of big tech companies got together and developed a set of standardized tags that developers could use to markup webpages. If you were to open up the source code of a webpage, you'd see a bunch of code, some of which would say stuff like "Opening Hours Specification" and "Day Of Week."

That markup tells computers that the text strings that follow will specify the days of the week that an establishment is open.

The result is that if you Google "Rivertown cafe Marlinton WV" you'll see the hours of operation in the knowledge panel to the right. Google gets that information from the cafe's website, and it knows which string to use because the website structures its markup in a standardized way.

The big drawback to the semantic web is that it's incredibly labor intensive to implement. You need a tag for every concept you want to express and then you need a way to apply those tags. It's possible to do that for an ecommerce website. It's just not feasible to tag every idea in an essay.

Large language models – the technology behind what we think of as AI these days – are a different approach to the same problem.

Instead of relying on a bunch of standardized rules for looking up the meanings of strings of text, LLMs apply sophisticated statistical algorithms to huge bodies of text – and by huge, I mean a sizable percentage of everything ever written.

That process allows LLMs to interpret and use natural language in meaningful ways.

Google isn't really doing anything new in rolling out AI into search. The semantic web is simply a different approach to AI, and Google added that in 2012. It's part of Google's attempt to understand what its users are trying to do and then help them accomplish that task.

And it turns out that what most people want isn't a link to a webpage that will answer their question. They just want an answer to their question.

The trick today – much as it was at the peak of the content farm era – is how to sort out meaningful content from low-quality stuff whose creators spend far more time optimizing to show up high in search results than they have in providing useful information. Google is betting that AI mode is a solution to the current flood of AI-generated content.

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NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING
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TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 209, 900 Tenth Avenue Suite C Marlinton, WV 24954-0209, and no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 44-1-14b.

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

First Publication Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026

ESTATE NAME: **RICHARD ALFRED WILLIS**
571 CRIPPLE CREEK LANE
MAIDENS VA 23102
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR
VANCE WILLIS
571 CRIPPLE CREEK LANE
MAIDENS VA 23102

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 8/10/2026
Melissa L. Bennett
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
8/20/2c

NOTICE

The Pocahontas County Commission is **seeking an individual interested in serving as a citizen representative on the Pocahontas County Fire Board representing the Central Magisterial District.**

Individual must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and a resident of Pocahontas County. Per West Virginia Code, one individual has to be selected from each magisterial district of Pocahontas County and must not be affiliated with any fire department(s) in Pocahontas County in order to be eligible to serve.

If interested in serving, please respond to the County Commission in writing.

For more information, please contact the Pocahontas County Commission at 900 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954, 304-799-6063 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email the Commission at pocaclk@clerk.state.wv.us

John Rebinski, President
Pocahontas County Commission
8/20/2c

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
MARLINTON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Marlinton is currently seeking applications from community-minded individuals who are interested in serving on the Marlinton Planning Commission. If you care about the future of our town and would like to help guide its growth and development, you are encouraged to apply.

The Planning Commission plays an important role in shaping the future of Marlinton by:

• Reviewing and making recommendations on land use and development.

• Assisting with long-range planning and community improvement projects.

• Helping preserve the character of our community while encouraging responsible growth.

• Providing recommendations on parks, trails, infrastructure, sidewalks, public spaces and other community enhancements.

• Advising Town Council on planning-related matters and helping develop a vision for Marlinton's future.

This is a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact and help ensure Marlinton remains a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

Applications are now being accepted, and must be submitted to The Town of Marlinton, 709 Second Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954, before the next regular Town Council meeting, which will be held September 14, 2026.

Anyone with an interest in the future of our community is encouraged to apply.

Together, we can help shape the next chapter of Marlinton.

Town of Marlinton

8/20/2c

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Office of the Pocahontas County Clerk is now accepting résumés for the position of Deputy Clerk.

Résumés will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Wednesday,September 2, 2026.

Key Responsibilities

• Support the County Clerk in maintaining and managing county records, including vital records (birth, death, marriage), property documents, county commission records, and election administration.

• Work closely with the County Commission preparing agendas, recording minutes and attending meetings.

• Prepare, proofread, and format correspondence.

• Handle incoming calls, emails, and inquiries with professionalism.

• Assist the public, prepare daily deposits and perform daily office duties.

Qualifications:

Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Applicants must possess good oral and written communication skills and be willing to work with the public and other co-workers in a polite and acceptable manner.

A background check and drug test will be required prior to employment.

The starting salary for this position will be determined by experience and will include PEIA Health Insurance, Public Employees Retirement, vacation, and sick leave after a 90-day probationary period.

You may apply by filing a résumé with the County Clerk:

Melissa L. Bennett, Clerk
900C Tenth Avenue
Marlinton, WV 24954
Phone: (304) 799-4549
pocaclk@clerk.state.wv.us

8/20/2c

Coolest, from page 3

The competition will be entirely the voters' choice. The public can nominate their favorite products and vote for them as the competition progresses. Any product manufactured in West Virginia is eligible to be nominated.

The mission of the tournament is to share the story of West Virginia manufacturing, Bissett said. Local manufacturers take pride in their products, and the Manufacturers Association wants to shine a spotlight on their cool creations.

"At the end of the day, it's the products that touch our lives and make life great, not only in West Virginia but in this country," Bissett said.

How the competition works

Nominations are open to the public until Saturday. Nominated products will be announced, and voting will take place from August 17 to September 7. Fourteen products will advance to the bracket, which will include four elimination rounds. The top five products will be announced September 21, and the winner will be announced on October 2.

Competition rules include:

• Nominated companies can use social media, local media and other channels to promote their product, but paid advertising is prohibited.

• Companies can have multiple products nominated, but only one product per company can advance to the tournament.

• The winning company can't compete in the tournament for one year after winning, and the winning product can't compete again.

A national competition – where states across the U.S. submit their coolest products to compete against each other – may be held in the future, according to Bissett. If that tournament is held, the West Virginia Manufacturers Association will submit the winner of the Coolest Thing Made in West Virginia Tournament to compete at the national level.

The Manufacturers Association plans to host the tournament in West Virginia annually.

Article provided by the West Virginia Press Association

Steps, from page 3

Growing up in Marlinton, Ashley Ritter also got her theatrical launch in church plays at Central Union Methodist Church. She has attended many Drama Workshop productions, often serving refreshments as part of the Brushy Flats Bushwackers 4-H club. She can see similarities between acting and her current job selling cars at Mitchell Chevrolet.

"I could be in my office when a customer pulls in and boom, it's showtime! The world really does become my stage at that point. I get one chance to captivate my audience when I introduce myself."

Ashley saw the audition notice for "Catch Me If You Can" on Facebook, decided to ignore the butterflies in her stomach and "go and have a good time." Her positive attitude landed her the part of Mrs. Parker, a character with more beauty than brains, the classic trophy wife.

"Catch Me If You Can" is a period piece occurring in 1965 when the frequency of dumb blond roles in TV and movies made the type iconic if a bit under-celebrated by actual smart blonds. Ashley looks forward to delving into the character's comic potential, "bringing Mrs. Parker to life."

Catch James and Ashley in "Catch Me If You Can" at the Pocahontas County Opera House Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, September 13, at 2.

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

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WANTED

WANTED - Stone Mason with at least 20+ years' experience. Retirees welcome. 917-749-4422. 8/20/4p

HOUSES AND REAL ESTATE

HOUSE FOR SALE - 911 Second Avenue, Marlinton. Major renovations needed. Call for details. 304-799-6690. 8/20/4p

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

POSITIONS AVAILABLE - Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. Store Clerks for Company Store and Campground Store. Pick up an application at Park Headquarters. Call 304-456-4300 or email cassrail roadsp@wv.gov with any questions. 8/13/3c

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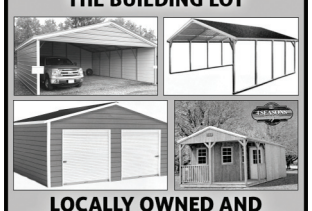
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Pocahontas County Libraries & Visitor Information Centers
AmeriCorps
An AmeriCorps position is available with the Pocahontas County Libraries & Visitor Information Centers for 2026-27, with a focus on library programming, service and promotion. The program begins in September and includes a monthly stipend and an education award. Applications are due August 31. For more information and application instructions, contact the library at 304-799-6000 or director@pocahontaslibrary.org.


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FULL-TIME ASSISTANT COOK WANTED

Pocahontas County Senior Citizens, Inc., is accepting applications for a full-time assistant cook at the Marlinton location, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

A background check and drug screening. is required, and you must have reliable transportation.

Benefits are annual leave, sick leave, and 10 paid holidays. Please call 304-799-6337 x7, to speak to Kayla Shaw, Executive Director. PCSC is an equal opportunity employer.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Full-time Office Clerk

The Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority is accepting applications for a full-time Office Clerk. High school diploma or equivalent required. Accounting experience and knowledge of QuickBooks and Microsoft Office preferred. This is an hourly position with benefits. Pay is commensurate with experience.

Applications and a job description may be obtained from the Solid Waste Office at Pocahontas County Courthouse. Completed applications with an attached résumé must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 28, 2026, to: Mia Bennett, Office Administrator, PCSWA, 900-H Tenth Avenue, Marlinton, WV 24954. EOE

Super Crossword
Answers

M	A	L	L	O	C	U	P	■	G	O	A	■	E	S	L	■	A	M	M	O
A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A	■	U	R	L	■	D	E	A	D	L	I	E	R
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O	N	E	D	■	D	Y	E	■	S	O	N	■	S	T	E	R	N	E	S	T

75, from page 7

coil and strike. The rattler was killed and it proved to be one of the largest of its kind.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clawson Sheets, of Bartow, a daughter, Donna Faye.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin McCarty, of Frost, a son, Lanty Franklin.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tincher, of Mill Point, a daughter, Carolyn Sue.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Burks, of Mill Point, a son, Gary Ray.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Simmons, of Hillsboro a daughter, Kathy Ellen.

Born to Major and Mrs. R. K. Moore, a daughter, named Marianne. The Major is the son of Mr. Elihu Moore, of Huntersville.

DEATHS

Steve Nick Barnasky, 63, of Frank. Funeral service from the Brethren Church.

- - -

Lana Varner Curtis, aged 68 years, widow of the late Charles L. Curtis, died at her home in Blue Jay August 12. Burial in the Blue Jay cemetery, the service being conducted from the Methodist church. The deceased was a daughter of the late Rev. John P. and Dianna Varner, of Bartow.

History, from page 7

LETTER FROM BALTIMORE

Dear Pocahontas Times:

I wish I knew how to write you a real nice, good letter to tell how I thank you for your weekly visit to 438 E 22. Street. You take me up out of this hot, dry, dusty conglomeration of asphalt, red and yellow bricks, enlivened by the music of numberless flies and the now famous mosquitoes and other semi-tropical luxuries, to the sweet cool green mountains, with their soft azure background, their silvery cascades, their rich embroidery of many-hued flowers. Oh, it is a luxury to breathe that delicious atmosphere, even in imagination!

SNAKE COMMITS SUICIDE

The fine black rattlesnake which was taken by means of a dull and put on exhibition in the window of Echols' drug store, tired of a life of confinement last week and struck itself with its fangs and died.

It has been an open question with naturalists whether snakes deliberately commit suicide. It is well known that when desperately wounded, they strike themselves in the paroxysm of pain or fright. This, however, is a case in which the snake, kindly treated and in good quarters, killed itself. It was found with its fangs still in the wound.

TRIVIA ANSWERS: (1). Jupiter (2). The right to remain silent. (3). The Beaver (4). France

Cemetery, from page 4

Browns Creek Road, Dunmore, WV 24934.

Edray Cemetery – Ben Gay, 87 Edray Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

Emmanuel Cemetery, Bruffeys Creek – Dennis Vaughan, 4108 Lobelia Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

Fairview Cemetery – Cheryl Cain, 2978 Brush Country Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

Grogg Cemetery on Pine Grove Road – Joseph and Doris Reed, 26 Lambs Run Road, Arbovale, WV 24915.

Gum Cemetery, Back Mountain Road – Alan Wright, 14640 Back Mountain Road, Durbin, WV 26264

Hill Top Cemetery, Cass – Richard Ryder, 707 Chert Lane, Beckley, WV 25801

Kee Cemetery – Tink Gum, 713 Spruce Flat Road, Buckeye, WV 24924; or Mike Hollandsworth, 26 Lonesome Hollow Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954.

Kellison Cemetery, Jacox – Timothy W. VanReenen, 758 Denmar Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

McNeel Cemetery – Skeeter Workman, 841 Rose Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

Oak Grove Cemetery – Timothy W. VanReenen, 758 Denmar Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

Old Droop Cemetery – David B. Cochran, 27192 Oriole Road, Princess Anne, MD 21853.

Richard Hill Cemetery – Mr. Melvin Hill, 1815 Selvin Dr. Unit 203, Bel Air, MD 21015-1693

Sharp's Cemetery on Jerico Road – Doris Sharp, 2315 Jerico Road, Marlinton, WV 24954

Sharp Cemetery on Stamping Creek – Donald K. Sharp, 2703 Locust Creek Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

Sunset Cemetery – Lyle Ware, 752 Jacox Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

Wanless Cemetery – Margaret Cassell, 4232 Back Mountain Road, Cass, WV 24927.

Wesley Chapel Cemetery on Galford Run Road – Nancy Rexrode, 4949 Wesley Chapel Road, Green Bank, WV 24944.

Wilfong Cemetery – Kay Wilfong King, 211 Caribbean Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954

William Sharp, Jr. Cemetery, Back Mountain Road near Fairview – Tommy D. Sharp, 2744 Brownsburg Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

Wilmoth Cemetery, Allegheny Mountain, Bartow – Bill Kramer, 305 Valley Pike, Lexington, VA 24450

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Jill Cochran, PhD, APRN-BC, FNP
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