

Reason and Romanticism
page 3



Fall Events
page 9

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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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Burns Motor Freight

Celebrating a West Virginia Trucking Legacy

From the West Virginia Trucking Association



BURNS MOTOR FREIGHT in Marlinton was founded in 1949 by Fred C. Burns, Sr. After 77 years in business, the company will cease operations September 1, bringing to a close an extraordinary chapter in West Virginia trucking history. *S. Stewart photo*

Few companies have left a mark on West Virginia's trucking industry quite like Burns Motor Freight, Inc. of Marlinton.

Founded in 1949 when Fred C. Burns Sr. purchased a used 1948 Mack LJ, Burns Motor Freight grew from a one-truck operation into a respected interstate motor carrier and one of West Virginia's most recognizable family-owned trucking companies. For generations, those familiar dark green Burns trucks have traveled the highways of West Virginia and beyond.

Now, after 77 years in business, Burns Motor Freight will cease operations effective September 1, 2026, bringing to a close an extraordinary chapter in West Virginia trucking history.

For the West Virginia Trucking Association, this is much more than saying goodbye to a longtime member company. It is an opportunity to recognize a family whose leadership and service helped shape our Association and whose influence reached all the way from Marlinton, West Virginia, to the national trucking industry.

Fred Burns: From West Virginia Leadership to the National Stage

Fred C. Burns Jr. has been one of West Virginia's most influential trucking leaders, with a lifetime of service to the industry at both the state and national levels. Fred's leadership began close to home. A longtime supporter of the West Virginia Trucking Association, he served as President of WVTA in 1978. His commitment to the Association continued for decades, and he is recognized today as a Life Member of the WVTA Board of Directors.

That dedication to West Virginia trucking eventually carried Fred onto the national stage.

see Burns pg 6



JORGE HANSCHU TAKES the reins of both Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park and Beartown State Park.

Jorge Hanschu new superintendent at Droop Mountain

Ken Springer
Contributing Writer

It would be easy to understand how the magnificence and size of Watoga State Park could easily overshadow Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park and nearby Beartown State Park. If Watoga wears the crown, and it does, then Droop and Beartown are the jewels in that crown.

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is West Virginia's first state park, dedicated in 1928. Within its 228 acres, one finds a historic Civil War Battlefield, a log tower overlooking the Greenbrier River Valley and beyond, and many trails with scenic overlooks.

see Droop pg 5

WV GFWC members continue support of PSB

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer



PEARL S. BUCK BIRTHPLACE docent Phyllis Lubin-Tyler, far left, greets members of the West Virginia chapter of General Federation of Women's Clubs on the porch of the birthplace last Saturday. More than 60 GFWC members and guests enjoyed a day of entertainment, good food and camaraderie at the annual event. *S. Stewart photo*

When Jim Comstock purchased the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace in 1965 to preserve it, he raised $4,000 from the readers of his newspaper, *West Virginia Hillbilly*. He then asked the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs to take over the purchase.

Women's Clubs from all over West Virginia worked together to raise funds for the purchase and restoration of the birthplace.

Since then, the West Virginia chapter of GFWC – General Federation of Women's Clubs – has continued its support of the birthplace, which was dedicated as a museum in 1974.

For the past five years, the GFWC has held a special event at the birthplace with members of West Virginia Women's Clubs to enjoy a picnic, a presentation and camaraderie at the historical site.

Last Saturday, members of the Marlinton Woman's Club hosted more than 60 guests at the Birthplace.

see PSB pg 5

Crace can paint anything

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

When you have a natural talent and a drive to turn an artistic flair into a job, you just have to take the plunge and give it a try.

That's what Morgin Crace, of Buckeye, decided to do a few months ago with her painting skills.

It all began with making a banner for herself. After posting a picture of it on Facebook, she got a lot of compliments and inquiries about projects she could do for others.

"When I first started, I thought I'd be happy if I got one or two jobs," Crace said. "Now, I'm booked up to my eyeballs. It was only going to be a couple times a month type thing, but it has really grown in a way I did not expect just in the past three months alone."

This summer, Crace's artwork was popping up every-

see Paint pg 5



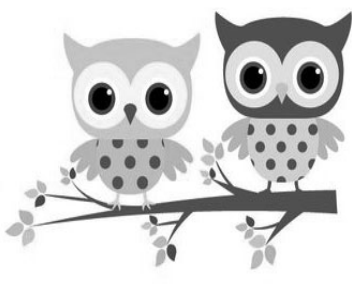
BUCKEYE ARTIST MORGIN Crace puts finishing touches on one of the many paintings she has completed around Pocahontas County. Crace paints logos and designs on windows for businesses, as well as banners for celebrations and special events. *Photo courtesy of Morgin Crace*

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In This Issue

Local News 2
Calendar 4
Opinion 4
Crossword 5
Obituaries 6
Preserving Pocahontas 7
Legals 12
Classifieds 13

Commission asks agencies to schedule meetings no later than 6 p.m.

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

Sheriff Troy McCoy appeared at the August 18 Pocahontas County Commission meeting and expressed his concern about overtime for Courthouse Security Officers because of evening meetings by non-commission agencies. McCoy said that these evening meetings, mostly by the Solid Waste Authority, are sometimes held as late as 7 p.m., and his Courthouse Security Officers go off duty when the courthouse closes at 4:30 p.m. but must return to duty on overtime just before the evening meetings begin. This causes them to wait around for more than an hour without being paid, before reopening the courthouse for the meetings.

McCoy said that the only two agencies that hold evening meetings are the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) and occasionally the 4-H Extension Service. He said that between May 2025 and July 2026, the SWA held 18 evening meetings, which start at either 6 p.m. or 7 p.m., and that has cost about $3,000 in overtime while the Extension Service only meets about four times a year.

The commission discussed several options, including requiring all meetings to be held during regular courthouse hours. However, Commissioner Jamie Walker pointed out that that is impractical because most members of the SWA have other jobs during the day. They also discussed asking those agencies to meet at another location such as at the Wellness Center or library, but it was pointed out that these are public meetings that should be held at the courthouse. The commission decided to send letters to those agencies, asking them to schedule their meetings to begin no later then 6 p.m. and they passed a motion to allow the security officers to remain on duty with overtime pay from 4:30 when the courthouse closes until the evening meeting ends. The motion also included doing a budget revision to provide the extra overtime funds when and if the Sheriff's Department expends its allotted overtime funds.

The commission also held a lengthy discussion about relocating the Health Department out of the courthouse.

Sheriff McCoy said his deputies need to be out of the jail building because of mold and other air pollutants which are causing health issues, but they need to be in a new location very close to the jail and courthouse.

County Clerk Missy Bennett said that having to move the voting machines out of the ARC building and to the courthouse for public testing before each election, then move them back for a week or so then move them out to polling places is a

see Meetings pg 5

BOE discusses strategic plan for new school year

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Schools Superintendent Dr. Leatha Williams presented the 2026-2027 strategic plan to the Pocahontas County Board of Education August 18. With students and staff returning to school, Williams wanted to share the goals for the new year.

Williams said she worked with the central office directors to create the strategic plan that has three goals on which they want to focus.

"By the end of the 26-27 school year, Pocahontas County Schools will focus on reducing chronic absenteeism by four percent or five students at each school through proactive communication, student and family engagement activities, data monitoring and school specific interventions," Williams said.

The next goal is that the schools will demonstrate measurable growth in each proficiency category of standardized testing by 10 percent. This includes growth in student achievement in English/language arts and mathematics.

The final goal is increasing family engagement by 20 percent over the prior year levels by establishing at least four active community and parent partnership events that build family and community understanding of academic expectations and standards.

"We've done extensive training on what family engagement is versus family involvement," Williams said.

Williams also gave a report on the balanced score sheet and shared with the board how they can access the information online. The score sheet is broken down by school and shows the percentage of students who exceeded the standard, met the standard, partially met the standard and did not meet the standard on the statewide standardized testing.

For each school, the scorecard is broken down by grade, as well as into categories for socioeconomic standing and children with disabilities.

Williams said the middle school level was selected for targeted support because the upper-level students were scoring so high and the lower level students were scoring so low that there was a gap.

When discussing testing standards, the term "bubble student" is used often and board president Connie Rose asked Williams to explain what that term means.

"One of our things we worked on last year and this year is relationships with each kid," Williams said. "We find a kid that is within ten or fifteen points of meeting standards. We develop a relationship with that kid, talking to them, trying to get them to school, talking about their performance, looking at their individual assessment results and what they need.

"Then we put them in targeted intervention to move them to the next level," she continued. "So, we identify how we can increase our overall proficiency by looking at individual kids."

A bubble student is a student who is on the cusp of going from meets the standards to exceeds the standards on their testing. Those students need an extra push to get over that hump and into the top tier, which will in turn raise the proficiency rate of the school they attend and the county as a whole.

In old business, the board approved:

• making revisions to the Hope Scholarship Policy to place it on the next agenda for approval.

• the WVSBA assistance of the cost of the five-year audit and RFP process.

• re-entry of students who were expelled. They returned to school for the 2026-2027 school year.

In new business, the board approved:

• Policy Review of Regulations for Education Programs, Attendance and Graduation Requirements.

In personnel management, the board approved the following:

• Employment of Ann Marie Thackston as interventionist/MTSS coordinator at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Employment of Emily Sharp as long-term substitute teacher of science at Pocahontas County High School, for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Employment of Susan Ray as long-term substitute teacher of science at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Employment of Michelle Wilfong as long-term substitute teacher of special education/multi-categorical/autism

see BOE pg 5

Circuit Court

The following hearings were recently held in Pocahontas County Circuit Court before the Honorable Judges Robert E. Richardson and Patrick I. Via

An in-person plea hearing was held in the case the State vs Jeffrey Thomas Rose, 29, of Hillsboro, wherein defense counsel advised the court that the defendant will not be changing his plea and wishes to go to trial. Jury trial is set for October 21. Rose was indicted on one count, strangulation; one count, kidnapping; two counts, domestic battery; three counts, domestic assault; one count, interfering with emergency communications.

Bond for Austin Keith Fultz, 31, of Cass, was modified to $15,000 surety with the added condition of home confinement, drug screening and GPS monitoring upon release from incarceration. Fultz was indicted on one count, possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, a Schedule II, controlled non-narcotic substance; one count, possession with intent to deliver marijuana, a Schedule I, controlled non-narcotic substance; one count possession with intent to deliver Xanax, a Schedule IV, controlled non-narcotic substance; one count, possession with intent to deliver Gabapentin, a Schedule V, controlled non-narcotic substance.

A hearing on petition to revoke probation was held in the case the State vs Casey Crabtree, 30, of Marlinton, wherein the court found the defendant was in violation of the terms of her probation. The court ordered a first-time sanction of 60 days in the Tygart Valley Regional Jail. Crabtree is to resume the conditions of probation after the 60 days.

Earl Ray Adkins, 56, of Renick, was sentenced to not less than one year nor more than five years to the West Virginia Department of Corrections. Sentences to run concurrent with the sentence the defendant is now serving. Adkins was given 154 days' credit for time served. Court costs were assessed and Adkins was remanded to custody.

In an August 6 status hearing, Cassey Marie Beverage, 34, of Marlinton, contested the allegations in a petition and challenged the results. A motion for home confinement was denied. In an August 18 hearing, Beverage agreed to the allegations, the court reinstated PR bond with home confinement with all the previous terms and conditions. The court also ordered substance abuse assessment and day report.

A remote hearing to set trial date was held in the case the State vs Travis Rider, 39, of Marlinton, wherein the State asked to continue the hearing because a witness (police officer) was on medical leave. The court denied the motion and set bond at $5,000 cash or surety or personal recognizance with GPS monitoring. Trial is set for August 24-25.

In arraignment hearings:

Burt William Harmon, 44, of Marlinton, did not appear for his arraignment hearing as he is incarcerated in Virginia. Hearing is continued.

Austin Keith Fultz, 31, of Cass, pleaded not guilty to all charges in the indictment and asked for a speedy trial. The court denied a motion for bond modification. Two-day trial is set for October 28-29.

Burt William Harmon, Jr., 29, of Marlinton, pleaded not guilty to one count, burglary; one count, destruction of property; and one count, receiving or transferring stolen goods. Two-day trial is set for October 28-29. The court set a blanket bond of $50,000 for this and another case against Harmon.

Regis H. Markl, 49, of Valley Head, pleaded not guilty to one count, burglary; one count, grand larceny; and one count, unlawful taking of a vehicle. Bond was set at $5,000, cash or surety, with the condition of home confinement if Randoph County agrees to supervise.

Christina Mae Geise, 44, of Arbovale, pleaded not guilty to two counts, fraudulent use of an access device; and 10 counts, fraudulent possession of an access device. The court did not set bond because of pending sentencing in another case. Two-day trial is set for October 15- 16.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
Thursday, Aug. 27,
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Food will be available for purchase.
Auctioneer: Jerry Nelson
All funds raised will help pay current and future medical expenses.
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Saturday ~ Baked Ziti, side salad and garlic bread
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Big things are accomplished in small steps

By Bryan Golden

The largest brick building is constructed one brick at a time. A long journey by foot is completed one step at a time. A home is built one board at a time. The most monumental accomplishments are achieved through a series of small, manageable steps.

Any goal is achieved by taking enough small steps. You start where you are and then take just one step. Taking action initiates your forward progress. If you want a new job, begin by applying to one job posting. If you want to get a college degree, sign up for one course. If you want to become a chef, cook one meal. All successful journeys consist of small steps.

Smaller steps are more manageable. A common strategic error is attempting steps which are too big. This leads to frustration, and possible abandonment of a goal which then seems unattainable. For example, a person sets a goal of losing 20 pounds in one week. Accomplishing this goal is virtually impossible. The inability to lose the desired weight in one week has the strong potential of having someone abandon their weight loss objectives altogether.

Motivation grows with success. Developing the necessary skills enhances success. Setting and achieving small goals builds both motivation and skills. For someone embarking on a diet, a starting goal might be eating a quality breakfast each day. Once this goal is accomplished, lunch could be the next improved meal.

For someone who wants to engage in more reading, an initial goal could be reading one page a day from a book they have been putting off. Success at this reachable objective would lead to one or more books being completed within a year. The progress would be easily doubled by only reading two pages a day.

A person who wants to engage in more exercise can start small with one 15 minute walk each week. Although this alone would have minimal impact on one's physical conditioning, it will get someone successfully started. With the accomplishment of the initial goal, the frequency and distance can then be increased. Doing something is always preferable to doing nothing.

Incorporating the action steps needed for each small goal into your daily routine is another effective strategy. You could read one page in your book before or after a meal or before going to bed. When food shopping, avoid those foods you don't want to be eating. Get up 15 minutes earlier to go for a walk.

Take the stairs instead of an elevator. When going to a store, park away from the entrance. These examples demonstrate how you can adapt new behaviors into your normal routine. Goal achievement does not require a major revamping of

see Steps pg 8



Reason and Romanticism

by Joe Miller

West Point was one of the few colleges in the United States to hold classes on September 12, 2001.

No one covered material from the syllabus, though. Who can focus on logic proofs when you can still see the smoke rising to the south?

I remember that one of the professors in the social sciences department put together a slide with a very simple little graph. It showed that security and liberty and inversely correlated – as one goes up, the other goes down.

The slide was meant as a reminder to cadets – that overreacting to a security threat can be every bit as dangerous as underreacting.

The point is well-grounded in political philosophy.

Thomas Hobbes, the 17th century British political theorist, argues that in a world without government at all, everyone has perfect freedom. Unfortunately, that freedom results in a war of all against all, one where cooperation is pretty much nonexistent and where the rational thing to do is to get the other guy before he can get you.

Hobbes famously describes life in this state of nature as "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

The tension between liberty and security sits at the heart of Veronica Roth's 2022 novel, "Poster Girl."

Roth is best known for her "Divergent" series of young adult novels, but "Poster Girl" is a work of adult dystopian fiction.

Roth introduces readers to Sonya, who as a teenager, was the face of a propaganda poster for the Delegation, a government that has since been overthrown. Sonya has spent much of the previous decade serving out a lifetime prison sentence with the Delegation officials who survived the uprising that overthrew them.

The Delegation ran a surveillance state so pervasive that Orwell's Big Brother might look on with envy.

The entire economic system of the Delegation ran on good behavior. Every single behavior was fully commodified – citizens could receive payment for things like good posture or playing specific types of music, marrying the approved partner or giving their child a common name.

Citizens also levied fines for bad behaviors, which included things like talking too loudly in public, dressing in ways that call attention to oneself or having sex outside of marriage.

The entire system was enabled by the Insight, a small, semi-organic computer implanted into everyone's right eye. The Insight is effectively an always on, always present smartphone paired with a camera that sees everything you see.

All that data was fed into a set of computers that calculated payments and fines in real time.

One of the behaviors forbidden by the Delegation: Having a second child without a permit. The Delegation would seize illegal second children and "rehome" them with parents unable to have biological children.

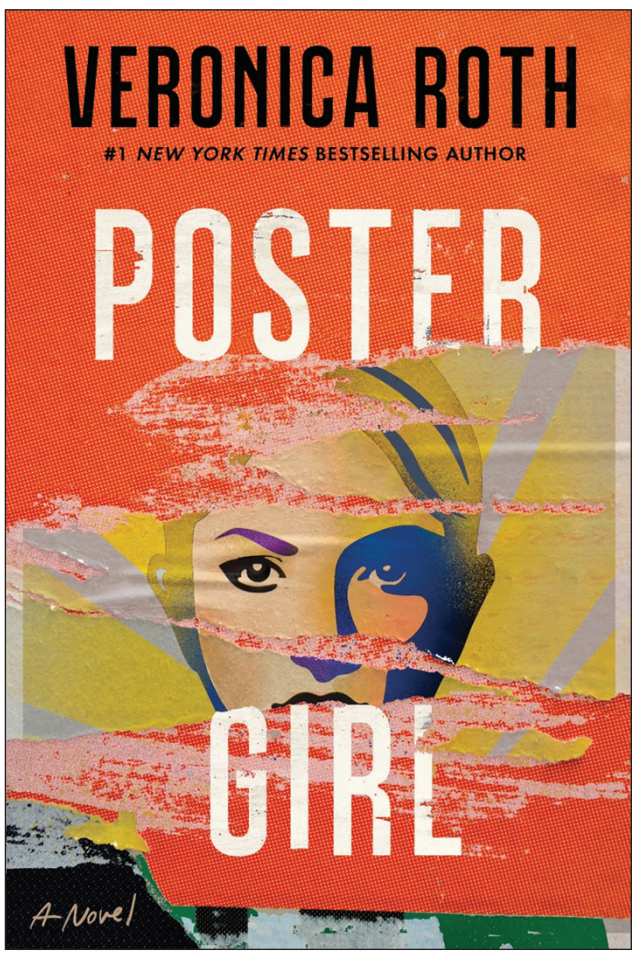
The new government has removed everyone's Insight, destroyed all the data collected by the Delegation and (mostly) returned children to their birth parents. Only one child remains unaccounted for.

When we meet Sonya, she is offered a chance to earn her freedom. Find the missing child and return her to her birth parents, and she will be released from prison and given a new identity.

"Poster Girl" doesn't give us any easy answers.

There's no President Snow or Aunt Lydia to root against. The dystopian Delegation has already been overthrown. What we're left with is a world with more freedom but also much more disorder.

Crime is up. Infrastructure is in disrepair. The new government is sometimes



wise, sometimes capricious. It's holding things together, but no one describes the new regime as thriving.

Sonya discovers that the government has lied about having removed everyone's Insight. They in fact cannot be removed.

Moreover, the Delegation data still exists. It's in the hands of a dissident group that wants to eliminate all technology.

In the end, Sonya uses some of the data she finds to right some wrongs—at least one of which comes at great cost to her family's reputation. She then destroys all the data.

"Poster Girl" is about evil, but not the sort that twirls its mustache and laughs maniacally. It's about the sort of evil that can happen when everyone is just going along because it's easy and then find themselves inside systems that do horrible wrongs.

The philosopher Hannah Arendt coined the phrase "the banality of evil" to describe such situations. The Holocaust isn't the result of uniquely sociopathic individuals.

The Holocaust happens when enough people just do their job and follow the law without really thinking about the system of laws they are following.

For Sonya, the Delegation data is much like the One Ring from "The Lord of the Rings." It's simply too powerful to be used. The power will ultimately corrupt anyone who attempts to wield it, regardless of the purity of their motivations. The only stable solution is to destroy it entirely.

Defeat the bad guy and everyone lives happily ever after is a satisfying narrative arc.

It's a lot messier when the bad guy turns out to be all of us.

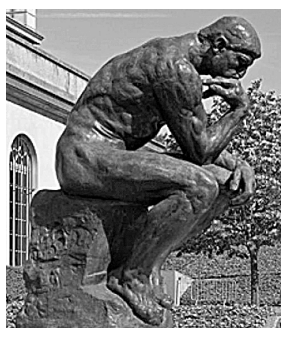
The deadline for **Letters to the Editor** is Monday at noon. Writers may use a maximum of 600 words. Letters should be issue-oriented and never personal. Send letters to jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com

Burma-Shave — A Blast from the Past

Courtesy of the Ruth Friel Estate

He asked…
His kitten…
To pet and purr…
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And screamed "What fur!"
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Scratched YOUR cheek…
You would…
Send her out…
To seek…
Burma-Shave



TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. Who is known as the liberator of South America?
2. Who is sometimes credited with inventing the hang glider, parachute and diving suit?
3. Who was the first person to win multiple Nobel prizes?
4. Who was president of the U. S. from 1913 to 1921?

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Marlinton Stockyards
701 Fairground Road
8 - 10 a.m. - Weigh In
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - 4-H Exhibits on display
11 a.m. - Noon - Hotdogs and Walking Tacos
(Provided by Brushy Flat 4-H Club)
Noon: Livestock show Showmanship followed by market class. Show order: hogs, goats, cattle, lambs. Youth skillathon for one hour immediately following the show. Youth ag games follow the skillathon.
All are welcome to join the fun!
4:30 p.m. Novice Sheep Showman Contest
Novice Lamb Show open to any youths new to showing sheep. Come try your best at exhibiting a 4-H or FFA member's lamb.
5 - 6:30 p.m. - Pork Barbecue Dinner
(Sold by Marlinton Lions Club)
7 p.m. - Livestock Sale
4-H and FFA members will be selling steers, hogs, lambs and goats.
We look forward to seeing you and greatly appreciate your support of our youth.
If you are unable to attend but would still like to support our youth, bids and premium donations can be arranged by contacting the Extension office by Friday, August 28.
Questions? Contact the Pocahontas County Extension Office, 304-799-4852

MON FOREST TOWNS
MON FOREST FIRST FRIDAY!
September 4 • 5 - 7 p.m.
Discovery Junction, Marlinton
• Old-Time Music by the Browns Creek Nightcrawlers
• Pocahontas Trails will have bicycles available to ride and decorate - or bring your own!
• WV Rivers will be here
• Farmers Market and other activities
Join us for the season finale!
Hosted by in collaboration with our wonderful partners in the community, including The Town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs & Festivals, Pocahontas County CVB, private donors and so many more.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In the weekly column of The Hillsboro Opinion, aka, Letters to the Editor, dated August 20, 2026 edition of *The Pocahontas Times*, Martin Saffer put his negative spin on the possibilities of data centers in West Virginia. He highlighted a fundamental divide in how we view the future of Pocahontas County and our State. While some residents prefer our area to remain quiet and untouched, we must confront a harsh reality: standing still economically is the same as dying on the vine.

For decades, Pocahontas County, and the State of West Virginia, has struggled with a lack of economic prosperity. Young people leave after high school because career opportunities are scarce, and local families carry a heavy tax burden to keep basic public services running. Welcoming data center development offers our community a modern, viable path toward economic revitalization without compromising the rural character we all hold dear.

First, let us address the immediate and profound economic benefit: jobs. The construction and build-out phase of a modern data center require hundreds of skilled tradespeople – electricians, carpenters, heavy equipment operators, concrete technicians, and engineers. These are high-paying, family-supporting jobs. For local workers who currently have to travel out of county or out of state to find consistent work, a major project here means earning a great living while coming home to their families every night. Furthermore, the operational phase brings permanent, technical, and facility-management roles, creating long-term career paths right in our little corner of West Virginia, and the world.

Second, the tax revenue generated by these facilities would be transformative for our local governments and school districts. Data centers represent massive capital investments in real estate, infrastructure, and equipment. The property and utility tax revenues generated by a single facility can inject millions into local budgets. That means funding for updated school facilities, better equipment for our volunteer fire departments, and improved services all around – all achieved without raising taxes on local homeowners and small business owners. Our county and town commissioners are constantly forced to stretch tight budgets; data center revenue would be a crucial lifeline.

Critics raise concerns about land use, resources, or environmental impact. While healthy debate and proper oversight are vital for any infrastructure project, modern data centers are designed with strict efficiency, quiet operation, and environmental compliance in mind. They do not produce smoke, industrial waste, or heavy traffic once built. In fact, many tech companies actively partner with local communities to invest in regional infrastructure, grid upgrades, and broadband expansion – benefits that ripple across the entire county.

It is easy to advocate for keeping things as they are when your own economic situation is secure. But for the small business owners, the working families, and the next generation of West Virginians looking for a reason to stay, economic growth is not optional; it is essential. West Virginia's state leadership has rightly recognized that our abundant land and strategic location make us a prime candidate for the digital economy. We should not push these opportunities away out of fear of something that's not real. Don't you think we can enjoy our mountain environment, and still welcome responsible economic progress? Data centers offer a balanced, low-impact, high-reward opportunity to secure our county's financial future. Let us choose opportunity over stagnation and work together to bring good jobs and strong tax revenues to us all.

We should encourage our local government leaders to be doing everything possible to make this new opportunity look our way.

Joel Srodes,
Marlinton

Editor;

It has been alleged that SNL is taking legal action against the Democratic Socialist Party for stealing their material without compensation. I say this in jest, but listening to interviews with

see Letters pg 11

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

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

REUNIONS

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

MHS-Class of 1961 – Annual get-together Saturday, September 12, at the old Campbelltown School beside the Campbelltown Church. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. For more info, call 304-799-4177.

PCHS Class of 1976 50th Year Reunion Saturday, September 26, at the 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 LEPC meeting will be held on 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

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. No registration required.

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

Linwood Little Librarians – Thursdays 10:30 to noon.

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

CHURCH NOTICES

Marlinton Presbyterian Church – Bible Study 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.

New Hope Lutheran – Minnehaha Springs – Sunday Outdoor Worship 3 p.m.

Mt. Olivet Church near Beartown – Worship Sunday 9 a.m.

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

see Calendar pg 8

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What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Fried Green Tomatoes

3 large green tomatoes
Pinch salt
1/3 cup flour
2 eggs
1/2 cup cornmeal
2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
Pinch red cayenne pepper, optional
3/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. black pepper
1/3 cup vegetable oil

Core Tomatoes; slice each into four 3/4-inch-thick slices. Drain slightly on paper towel. Season with salt. Place three shallow dishes on a work surface. Spread flour in one dish. Lightly beat eggs in second dish. In third dish mix, cornmeal, Parmesan cheese, red pepper, salt and black pepper.

Heat oven to 200°. Line 2 baking sheets with paper towels. Dip each tomato slice first into flour to coat lightly, shaking off excess, then into egg and last into cornmeal mixture to coat.

Heat 3 Tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Working in batches add tomato slices to skillet; cook 3 to 4 minutes per side or until coating is golden and crispy and tomatoes are tender. Add more oil as needed to prevent sticking. Transfer cooked tomato slices to prepared baking sheets; keep warm in heated 200° oven until all slices are cooked. Serve.

Stuffed, Saucy Banana Peppers and Pasta

8 banana peppers
2 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup diced onion
1/2 cup diced celery
Diced banana pepper tops
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 can (28 oz) crushed tomatoes
1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
1 tsp. dried basil or 1 1/2 Tbsp. fresh, chopped
1 tsp. dried oregano or 1 Tbsp. fresh, chopped
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper

Cut tops off peppers and dice tops. Remove seeds with a knife being careful not to puncture peppers. In a medium saucepan, Melt the butter and add banana pepper tops, onions and celery. Sauté till tender then add rest of ingredients. Simmer for 10 minutes, uncovered. Set aside.

Stuffing

I egg
1/2-1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 cup tomato sauce mixture
3/4 cup breadcrumbs
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1/2 tsp. salt
Dash black pepper
1/2-pound hot Italian sausage
½-pound sweet or mild Italian sausage

In a medium bowl, beat the egg. Add rest of ingredients except for the sausages. Mix well. Add the sausages and mix well.

Generously stuff each pepper with sausage mixture. In a 3-quart casserole dish, pour about one cup of tomato sauce mixture to cover bottom of dish. Place stuffed peppers on top of sauce. Cover with balance of sauce. Bake one hour. While peppers are baking, prepare your favorite pasta. Serve peppers over pasta and top with extra grated Parmesan cheese and red pepper flakes, if desired. Serves 4-6.

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highlandcountyfairva.com
info@highlandcountyfairva.com
August 29 - September 5

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
8 a.m. Fair Set-Up
9 a.m. Horse Show (Grandstand)
4 p.m. *NEW* 75th Annual KICKOFF Event
4-6 p.m. *NEW* Accepting Specific Exhibit Entries & Pre-Registration (Elementary School Gym) Arts & Crafts; Art & Photography; Preserved Foods (Not Baked Goods); & Hunter-Fisher Entries Pre-Registration for: Parade, Kiddie Show, & Dog Show (No dogs permitted on grounds during pre-registration)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
7-10 a.m. 4-H & FFA Weigh-in & Entry of Livestock (Barns)
4-8 p.m. Accepting All Exhibit Entries (Elementary School Gym)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
"Family Night" – Valley Amusement rides at reduced rates
8-9 a.m. Accepting Flower Exhibit Entries
9 a.m.-7 p.m. Judging Exhibits (Gym CLOSED)
10 a.m. 4-H & FFA Goats & Sheep Livestock Show (Livestock Show Barn), Pet Goat & Lamb Contest, following Livestock Show
6 p.m. Parade (Spruce St, Main St, Myers-Moon Rd.)
7-9 p.m. Kimberly's Kreations Face Painting
7:30-10:30 p.m. *NEW* High Carbon Steel, Classic Country Music (Under Big Tent)
9-9:15 p.m. (approximate)*NEW* Orion Skys Drone Show (West Side of the Grounds)
ROAMING THE GROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE EVENING
NEW Ariana Does Stilts

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
10 a.m. 4-H & FFA Hogs & Beef Livestock Show (Livestock Show Barn), Pet Calf Contest, following Livestock Show
Noon & 2 p.m. *NEW* Sunflower Hours
3 p.m. & 5 p.m. *NEW* Gospel Harmony Boys (Under the Big Tent)
7 p.m. *NEW* Begoon Brothers Bucking Bulls LLC. Rodeo (Grandstand). Show includes: Mutton Bustin', Junior/Mini Rodeo, Barrel Racing, Rodeo Clowns and Bull Riding
9-9:15 p.m. (approximate) *NEW* Orion Skys Drone Show (West Side of the Grounds)
ROAMING THE GROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON
NEW Brian B. Magic

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
10 a.m. Kiddie Show (Under Big Tent)
4:30 p.m. Livestock Costume Contest & Obstacle Course (Livestock Show Barn)
5:30 p.m. Rabbit Race (Livestock Show Barn)
6-7 p.m. Little Switzerland Cloggers (High School Gym)
6 p.m. Power Wheels Derby, Thomas Motorsport LLC. (Grandstand)
7 p.m. Demolition Derby, Thomas Motorsport LLC. (Grandstand)
9:30-9:45 p.m. (approximate) *NEW* Orion Skys Drone Show (West Side of the Grounds)
ROAMING THE GROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON
NEW Wishing Well Entertainment

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
9 a.m.-Noon Dog Show (Grandstand unless raining)
11 a.m.-1 p.m. *NEW* The Conner Family and Caleb Bailey & Paines Run, Bluegrass Music (Under Big Tent)
1-8 p.m. Kimberly's Kreations Face Painting
1:30-3:30 p.m. *NEW* Jacob Tolliver, Multi-Genre-Rock & Roll Pianist (Under Big Tent)
2 p.m. Commemorative Quilt Auction & 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale (Livestock Show Barn)
2 p.m. Corn Hole Tournament (High School Gym)
4-4:45 p.m. *NEW* David King, Tribute to Elvis 1950s-1960s (Under Big Tent)
5 p.m. Truck, Tractor, & Diesel Truck Pull by *NEW* Dragon Motorsports Inc. (Grandstand)
5:15-6 p.m. *NEW* David King, Tribute to Elvis Concert Years (Under Big Tent)
10-10:15 p.m. (approximate) *NEW* Orion Skys Drone Show (West Side of the Grounds)
ROAMING THE GROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON
NEW Wishing Well Entertainment

Fairground Regulations: All barns close at 11 p.m. Gyms close at 10:30 p.m., including Saturday when exhibits must be picked up. Handicap bathroom facilities and a nursing and baby changing station is available in the elementary school. Only authorized personnel are allowed on the grounds after 12:30am unless grandstand event exceeds this time. NO blankets can be left overnight for reserved seating. Blankets left will be discarded by 8 a.m.NO pets, comfort, and/or emotional support animals allowed on grounds except dogs during the dog show and only at the dog show area. Service dogs are welcome. Handler is responsible for feces clean-up. NO camper parking on the grounds except for one barn manager and Amusement Company staff. NO ATVs, golf carts, UTVs, bicycles, skateboards, foot scooters or the like allowed on the grounds, including parking areas except authorized personnel. Motorized handicap scooters are permitted. Golf cart transportation provided by the Fair is available to all fairgoers. NO drones allowed without written permission from the Fair Association. NO firearms/weapons permitted on school property which includes the handicap parking lot and the high school and elementary school gyms. See VA Code § 18.2-308.1.Fair Office telephone number during Fair week is (540) 468-2639. The Fair Office is located beside the high school gym. ATMs are available on the grounds. The Fair is primarily cash only, to include admittance. ATMs are not located outside of ticket booths. Blue Grass Valley Bank and Burke & Herbert Bank are located in Monterey which both have ATMs. NO alcohol or drugs permitted on the grounds, including parking areas. Fair management reserves the right to remove violators from the grounds for the remainder of the day or week – see Grounds Access policy at highlandcountyfairva.com.

Meetings, from page 1

very burdensome task. She said they need a large office in the courthouse to store them, test them and also use as an early voting site. Both are eyeing the office space in the courthouse used by the Health Department.

Cindy Browning of the Health Department responded that they would be okay with moving out of the courthouse, provided the commission finds another location for them, as State Code requires the commission to provide a location for the Health Department but not necessarily in the courthouse

Options were discussed, without a decision being made. They included using the old 911 Center when it moves to its new building, buying several former law-office buildings across the street, or using the Edray Office Building which is vacant.

In other matters, the commission approved:

• A time Extension Request for the Broadband Project Grant from September of 2026 to September of 2027, and a change order for that grant, adding $10,187 to it to allow it to also provide service in Marlinton.

• EPA Tannery Project's Payment Resolution #24 to pay invoices.

• Day Report Center's new Schedule of Payments and a Resolution for the Community Corrections Program's 2026-2027 Grant.

• Authorizing the Sheriff's Department to advertise for bids for a new full-sized law enforcement vehicle.

• The purchase of a generator for the courthouse.

• The removal of the hedges surrounding the courthouse

Following an Executive session, the commission agreed to send a letter to an Animal Control employee to attend the next commission meeting on a personnel issue, and to allow Animal Control to advertise for one week for part-time help there.

BOE, from page 2

at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Employment of Tina Tracy and Jennifer McCarty as teachers of homebound instruction for Pocahontas County Schools, for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Resignation of Stephen Martin as assistant principal/supervisor of CTE at Pocahontas County High School.

• Employment of William Shafer as ECCAT special education/classroom/bus aide at Hillsboro Elementary School, for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Employment of Darlene Arbogast as $1 assistant girls' soccer coach at Pocahontas County High School.

• Employment of Crystal Keatley as head volleyball coach at Pocahontas County High School.

• Employment of Justin Dilley as $1 assistant boys' soccer coach at Pocahontas County High School.

• Employment of Nebraska Scotchie as middle school athletic director at Marlinton Middle School.

• Resignation of Corey McNabb as head girls' basketball coach at Marlinton Middle School, effective August 6.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, at 6 p.m., at the board of education conference room in Buckeye.

Droop, from page 1

Beartown State Park is often described as a unique geological site. Beartown features deep crevices, overhanging cliffs, and a half-mile boardwalk that wends its way through a labyrinth of 300 million-year-old Droop Sandstone.

And now, these two heritage parks have a new superintendent, one who has a lot to offer in protecting and improving both sites.

In talking to 25-year-old Jorge Hanschu, the new superintendent of Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park and Beartown State Park, it becomes apparent early in the conversation that he is intelligent and articulate. By the end of my interview with Jorge, it was clear that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources had picked the right person to oversee the oldest state park in West Virginia.

Jorge and his wife, Madison, are settling into their new home at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, leaving their previous home in Kansas far behind.

Jorge arrived first about a month ago and began working with the rest of the park crew. Madison suggested he "Fix up the house and I'll come." And, indeed, she drove all the way from Kansas, arriving in the wee hours of the morning to her new home - the rustic superintendent's residence. Madison is a marketing director for a construction company, a job she can do from home.

Jorge describes his background in Kansas, saying, "In rural Kansas, the land is something you learn to respect. People earn their living directly from the land under their feet. Farming is hard work; you learn how to work outside in extreme heat and cold, and you get your hands dirty."

He demonstrates his conviction to hard work by jumping right in and "getting his hands dirty." I often walk my dogs at the park, and each time I've seen Jorge working right alongside his crew.

Jorge brings considerable education and experience in the field of parks and recreation to the job. "As for college, I knew that I wanted to work in the outdoors. I received a full ride on academics at Southern Utah University, majoring in outdoor recreation, parks and tourism. And, to make my education more rounded, I minored in geography and biology," says Jorge.

An outdoorsman by any standards, Jorge is an experienced rock climber, backpacker, golfer, fisherman, hunter and most recently, an archer set on bagging a deer this year.

By happenstance, I had the opportunity to witness an interaction between Jorge and a park visitor from Pittsburgh. Considering that Jorge has only been here a short time, he provided the visitor with an explanation to his question about where the battle casualties are buried. I was quite impressed and informed, and so was the visitor.

Our discussion finally led to the big question: what are your plans for improving the park?

"I am currently focusing on cleaning out the various buildings here at the park office headquarters. We also need newer equipment and tools to keep up with maintenance issues. Although I've only been here a month, I have noticed that we get a lot of traffic for a relatively small park. Additionally, many come here for family reunions, and some locals come here regularly to hike the trails - they consider this their park," said Jorge.

"Also on my agenda is to repair and improve the Confederate cemetery and give these men who sacrificed their lives the respect they deserve. We need a security system as well to protect the buildings and equipment. Also planned are a new playground and vault toilets for the shelters," Jorge added. "I welcome suggestions from the public and have hopes for the formation of a Foundation dedicated to Droop and Beartown parks."

Founded in 1998, the West Virginia State Parks Foundation Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to "preserve, protect, and enhance West Virginia State Parks by providing leadership in communication, funding, and advocacy in partnership with individual Park Foundations."

At this time, there are plans to develop a Foundation, and I can assure you there are several talented locals within a stone's throw from the park that are enthusiastic about getting involved in helping to make Jorge's plans for the park a reality.

By the way, Jorge is pronounced "George," just in case you want to stop by and welcome him and Madison to their new home here in the endless mountains of West Virginia.

Ken Springer
ken1949bongo@gmail.com



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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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Support Local Businesses

Paint, from page 1

where. She painted windows on businesses in Marlinton – Kenny Woods Insurance and In Bloom – and in Durbin – Simply Sweet Cafe and the Laundromat. She's also made banners for the Pocahontas County High School FFA float for the Pioneer Days Parade and several 4-H students who showed animals at the State Fair in Lewisburg.

"I think it's great," she said. "It wasn't supposed to be a full-time job, but it has evolved into that."

For the windows, Crace said she uses latex house paint and if the window is out of the sun and elements, the painting can last for a long time. For those that do get exposure though, she said she recommends a touch up every three or four months.

"I wouldn't say it's a hundred percent permanent because it will eventually fade and chip off, but the entirety of the design is not going to come off until someone scrapes it off with a razor blade," she said. "I recommend a refresh every three or four months, like a seasonal thing."

As for the banners, Crace uses contractors' paper which is sturdier than regular butcher paper or art paper. She adds grommets to the corners so people can hang the banners with rope or zip ties.

Crace has a very large project coming up that she thinks will be a great addition to the Buckeye community.

"Roger [Pritt], who owns the Buckeye Hardware store, asked me to paint a giant American flag on the old drive-in theater screen behind the store," she said. "I'm super excited about it."

Windows and banner paper aren't the only things Crace paints. She can paint on anything, really. She's done rock slabs, wood panels and even jean jackets and jeans.

One of the projects she's excited to debut this fall is her senior jeans.

"Basically, I paint senior down one leg and then 2027 down the other leg and whatever they want on the back," she said. "If they want the WVU logo or the college their going to, or softball, baseball, whatever it is they're doing and then they can wear the jeans to Friday night football games, to school, to any of their senior functions.

"I thought that would be a cool thing for their senior year," she added.

In addition to custom paint jobs, Crace said she also has paintings she hopes to have for sale soon at Handmade WV Market in Marlinton.

For now, those interested in getting something done by Crace can contact her on her Facebook page, but she hopes to have a website up and running in the next couple months.

With her hobby becoming a full-time job, Crace said she is excited to see the community embrace her artwork and use it for their businesses and personal milestones.

"I just said one day, 'I'm doing this; I might fail miserably, but I'm going to do it,'" she said. "It's been really nice seeing all the people support me and all the wonderful comments on my Facebook posts. It's been awesome. It makes me feel great. When the hard work I put into them is recognized and people compliment them, it makes me so happy."

PSB, from page 1

Logan County native Terri Diamond is the West Virginia State President this year and the theme for her presidency is music, so, of course, there had to be a musical element at the Hillsboro event.

During the luncheon, musical entertainment was provided by Erica Marks and her daughters, Asa and Sal. In the afternoon, Myra Morrison, Denis Severino, Caleb Powers and Noah Miller performed on the lawn in front of the birthplace.

While the event was focused on raising funds for the birthplace, Diamond also mentioned a special fundraiser she started to support West Virginia high school bands. All members of women's clubs in the state have a bingo card with monetary attachments to each square.

If the entire bingo card is filled, it will mean they have raised more than $300 for their local high school band. Diamond encouraged everyone in attendance to complete their bingo card to help their bands continue to participate in performances and competitions.

The afternoon also included a special treat, provided by Pearl S. Buck Birthplace docent and unofficial Pearl expert, Phyllis Lubin-Tyler. Exiting the birthplace in a white dress and sun hat, Lubin-Tyler transformed into Buck's mother, Carie Stulting Sydenstricker.

Lubin-Tyler shared the history of the house from Carie's point of view and was accompanied by Barb Siers on piano.

The guests also enjoyed tours through the birthplace and learned more about the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winner, whose life began in Hillsboro.

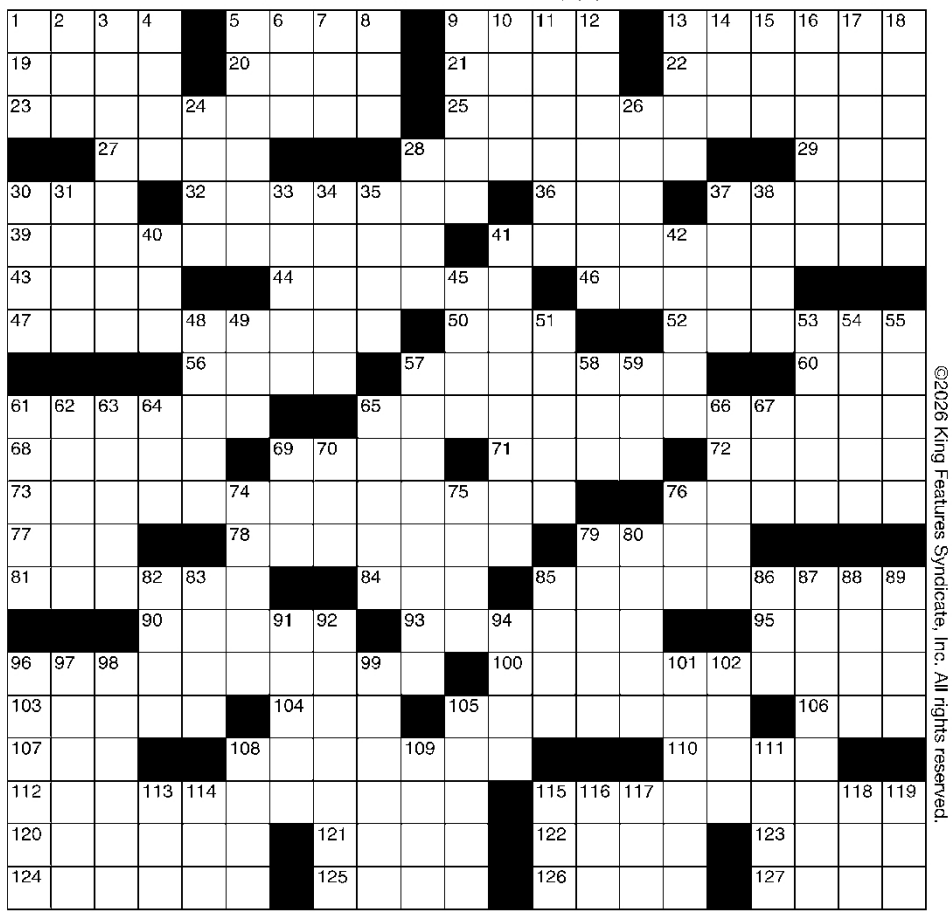
Suzanne Stewart may be contacted at sastewart@pocahontastimes.com



Super Crossword — SHORT MONTHS

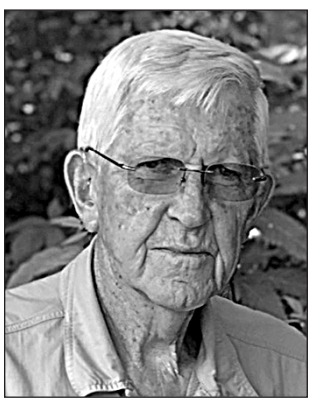
ACROSS
1 Gentle
5 Not active
9 Hockey great Gordie
13 Certain utility meter reader
19 "Pronto!"
20 Back end
21 Notion
22 Hun leader
23 "Klute" actress
25 Line of air fresheners requiring an outlet
27 Element #10
28 See 38-Down
29 Texting format, for short
30 Land in eau
32 Strong-arms
36 Lobbying org.
37 Singer Ross
39 "Let's Get It On" singer
41 Certain fruit stone
43 "— fair in love and war"
44 Stood to lose
46 Idyllic places
47 City official on "Family Guy"
50 Part of UCLA
52 Make tidy
56 Noted Deco master
57 Notion
60 Go in haste
61 Fogged up, as a sauna
65 School for associate's degrees
68 Caribbean resort
69 "Let it stand"
71 Goes after in court
72 Intended (to)
73 Bartending tool with holes
76 1841-45 first family
77 Primo pitcher
78 Cape Cod resort village
79 Dried up
81 Heptathlete Jackie Joyner- —
84 Railroad depot: Abbr.
85 Portend a good outcome
90 Dog's reward
93 Scored a major victory
95 Mine, in France
96 Brownish-toned picture
100 Stuff squirted by a cephalopod
103 Slow to react
104 NFL notable Manning
105 Some private planes
106 "Is that so!"
107 Univ. senior's test
108 Weapons depot
110 Tiger's sound, to tots
112 Halifax native
115 Poolside seat
120 Large moon of Uranus
121 "I'm buying"
122 Region
123 Rebuke from Caesar
124 Lie comfily close
125 Belgian river
126 Frat guys
127 Span represented by the first three letters of 12 answers in this puzzle

DOWN
1 — Mahal
2 "Hugo" title role player Butterfield
3 Polite
4 Sword variety
5 Patch variety
6 Animal lair
7 Young fellow
8 Time of note
9 Old LP players
10 Polish river
11 Program running in a browser
12 Topic of an otologist's instructions
13 Intent stare
14 Munched on
15 Fuel additive brand
16 Country singer Ronnie
17 School reunion-goers
18 Pesters
24 Central points
26 "Champion" of Spain
28 Overly docile
30 Muslim prayer leader
31 See 70-Down
33 Heron variety
34 Elevate
35 Sac in anatomy
37 "Finished!"
38 With 28-Across, church meeting cry
40 Abbr. on a brandy bottle
41 Dreamy guys
42 Italian for "hundred"
45 SpaceX head Musk
48 Chart anew
49 Ironic, as wit
51 Rub to clean
53 Main topic
54 "The — Sanction" (1975 film)
55 Must have
57 Halve with an ax, say
58 Prior to, to a bard
59 Mac rivals
61 "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat
62 Halting of hostilities
63 Leonhard of pure mathematics
64 Prez Lincoln
65 Denim pants
66 Cake tier
67 "— Abner"
69 Hog's pen
70 With 31-Down, lilting song syllables
74 Ovine animal
75 El — (ocean current)
76 —TV ("Tacoma FD" channel)
79 Armani offerings
80 Incite
82 Incite
83 Part of QED
85 Basic lessons
86 Once lived
87 Move to a new country
88 Individual
89 Similar to
91 "Billy, Don't Be —"
92 "Anna Karenina" novelist
94 Yule tune
96 Join the team
97 Get dressed
98 Irritates
99 Promotional connections
101 Ski jackets
102 Quadrennial games org.
105 Seat weaver
108 Clearasil target
109 Moniker
111 Curds and —
113 Craft
114 Pine- —
115 Small dollop
116 Make a gaffe
117 Co. top dog
118 Give — shot
119 Classic Karel Capek play



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Obituaries



Ben Gragg

Ben Austin Gragg, 87, of Williamstown, passed away Sunday, August 23, 2026, at Clarksburg Healthcare Center.

Born July 18, 1939, in Durbin, he was a son of the late Glenn D. Gragg and Jeanne H. Gragg.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Williamstown and Masonic Lodge #124.

A graduate of Green Bank High School, Ben attended Potomac State College and was an Army veteran. A true outdoorsman, he worked for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for 34 years, achieving the rank of Captain prior to his retirement.

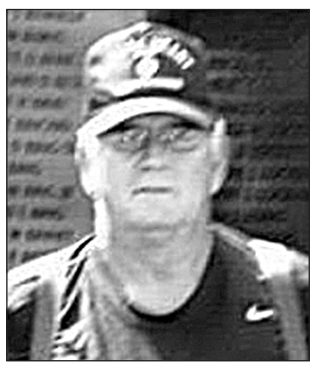
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Glenn "Blair" Gragg and nephew, Bryan L Gragg, of Durbin; and sister, Betty Jeanne Gragg Puffenbarger, of Buckhannon.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carolyn Jones Gragg; and daughter and son in law, Christy and David Stout, of Lost Creek.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Wallace and Wallace Chapel in Arbovale.

Graveside service will be held at Arbovale Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor David Rittenhouse and Rev. Tony Foreman officiating with rites by the Masonic Lodge #124.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.Wal laceandWallaceFH.com



Ernest Collins

It is with broken hearts that his family announces the passing of Ernest Berl Collins, 75, of White Sulphur Springs, on August 22, 2026, at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Berl was a proud combat wounded Vietnam veteran, with a Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster. He was a devoted husband and father. A man who deeply loved his family. He lived a life full of strength and love and always had a way of making everyone feel laughter and joy.

Berl was preceded in death by his beloved father, Benjamin Harold Collins; mother, Gracie Flo Shiflett Collins; and brother, George Franklin Collins, and wife, Janet Bostic Collins,

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Fitzgibbon Collins, of White Sulphur Springs; daughters, Heather (Chad) Williams, of White Sulphur Springs, and Angela (Tracy) Hughes, of Ronceverte; cherished grandchildren, Jana, Owen and Cora Hughes, and Addison Williams; sisters, Dorothy (Robert) Garland, of Frederick, Maryland, Erma (Richard) Hedrick, of Salem, Virginia; brothers, David (Diana) Collins, of Hampstead, Maryland, and Jack Shiflett, of Elkins; and many special nieces and nephews.

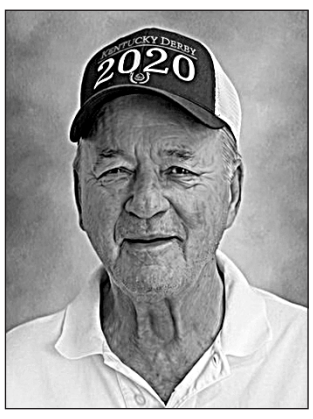
Above all else, he was the best Dad and Pops/Papa a family could ever ask for. His love, guidance and the memories he gave us will remain in our hearts forever. While we are heartbroken to say, "see ya later," we are so grateful for the time we had with him and the love he so freely gave.

Berl leaves behind a family who loved him beyond words and will miss him more than he could ever know. His memory will forever live on in their hearts.

Dad/Berl, we love you; we will miss you, and we will carry you with us always. Your love and legacy will live on in all of us.

In keeping with Berl's wishes the body will be cremated and a Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneral home.com



Warren Shears

Warren L. Shears, 85, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Born February 17, 1941, in Arbovale, he was a son of the late Bernard and Hazel Shears.

Warren lived a life marked by steady devotion, quiet strength, and a deep appreciation for simple, lasting joys.

Warren worked at GE for many years, doing anything and everything from assembly to maintenance. As the story was often told with a dry, knowing wit, he came to do what he considered the most important work of all - carrying around a broom. It was a fitting reflection of his practical nature and the dignity he found in showing up, pitching in, and taking care of what needed to be done.

Outside of work, Warren took pride in caring for his lawn, tending it with the kind of patience and attention that spoke to his steady character. He also valued friendship and routine, enjoying games of pool with friends every Wednesday and Friday. Most of all, he treasured traveling with his wife, Elizabeth, sharing miles, memories and companionship.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Clifford and Rosa Gillispie; and Luther and Sadie Shears; brother, Wallace Shears; and sister, Vicky Shears.

Warren is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ann Decker Shears; son, Ron Shears, and wife, Angie; daughter, Lynnette Shears Lang; grandchildren, Tiffany Mann (Jonah), Connor Shears, Hannah Lang, Jacob Shears, Jared Shears and Nathan Lang; great-grandchildren, Gracee Mann and Adalynn Mann; and siblings, Willard Shears, Charlotte Shears Ervine, Randall Shears and George Shears.

A funeral service will be held at Schoppenhorst Funeral and Cremation Services in Louisville, Kentucky, with burial in McGrew Cemetery in Anneta, Kentucky.

Richard Wanless

Richard A. Wanless, of Huntersville, went to be with the Lord Thursday, August 20, 2026, at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Richard was a disabled heavy equipment mechanic and the former pastor of New Vision Praise and Worship Center.

He loved working on and driving fast cars.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Judith Ann Wanless; son, Nicholas O. Wanless; and brother, Hal Wanless.

He is survived by his daughters, April D. Harper (Brad), and Amanda L. Dilley (Henry); son, Richard W. Wanless (Alyssa); seven grandchildren; and a host of friends.

Funeral service was held Sunday, August 23, 2026, at New Vision Praise and Worship Center with Richard A. Wanless II officiating.

Burial was in Beaver Creek Cemetery.

Airport security and Psalm 139

by Dawn Reed



Dawn Reed

By the time you read this, my beloved and I will be back in the Lower 48 or maybe even our treasured Bluegrass. We have been in Tok, Alaska, for two weeks on a mission/vision trip.

As we prepped for our trip, I asked the Lord to speak to me along the way. Boy, He did! It started at security in the airport.

Some answers to prayer seem to take forever. Weeks, months, even years pass as we seek Him and wait for His response or direction. Like a cake baking in the oven, He is working in the waiting for the right time. However…nothing moves Him into lightning speed so much as the dangerous prayer of "search me" that David spoke of in Psalm 139:23.

Security is important at any airport. And I want all y'all to go through it. I would personally rather skip it and wait for you on the other side. It makes me nervous, fearful that I have accidentally packed something sinister and will be dragged off to a scary place in the basement of the airport never to be seen again. Dramatic, I know. Years ago, I was caught with VBS scissors in my backpack in Paris. The angry security employee immediately took them from my possession.

At airport security, we are stripped of all possessions, scanned, and sometimes patted down. (I used to carry a copy of my hip replacement x-ray in case I set off a metal detector.)

This time there was a huge machine I stepped in, lifted my hands above my head, and something was blown all over me. Not sure what that was.

I am elated when I have been ushered through without complications.

As we lined up to be examined, I thought of Psalm139:23, written by David: "Search me, God, and know my heart…" The rest of it is: "…test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

There are countless Bible verses I love, post, and memorize. They encourage me and spur me on. This is NOT one of them. Psalm 139:23 is like a spiritual colonoscopy. When I pray it, my sweet Heavenly Father jumps right in to scan my innermost parts for unacceptable thoughts, feelings, worries, and behaviors. It is not fun.

Reading a devotion by Craig Groeschel before our trip, he encouraged the dangerous prayer of "search me," and then "break me."

Shew, Craig, I would rather not.

But as a follower of Christ, isn't that what I am supposed to courageously and dangerously pray each day? To take out the ungodly parts of me and fill every part with the Holy Spirit as Paul wrote in Colossians 3. As a follower of Christ, I want to be an example for Him in good times and bad. I need to be changed to be like Him.

Evaluations at the airport AND spiritually are important. Crucial for all of our well-being.

Finally through security, with personal items collected, my beloved took my hand. We were ready to begin our adventure, headed to Mukluk Land in Tok, Alaska.

When we follow God, oh the places we will go!

Burns, from page 1

In October 2003, Fred Burns became Chairman of the American Trucking Associations, the nation's leading organization representing the trucking industry, serving through October 2004. The significance of that accomplishment cannot be overstated. From a family-owned trucking company headquartered in Marlinton, West Virginia, Fred rose to lead an organization representing motor carriers throughout the United States.

Throughout his involvement with ATA, Fred was particularly committed to making sure smaller, family-owned motor carriers had a voice. He helped establish ATA's Small Carrier Committee and served as its chairman, while also serving on committees addressing safety, human resources and technology. Fred also became an important national voice on the growing cost of litigation and insurance. As founding chairman of ATA's Insurance Task Force, he advocated for tort reform and worked to bring attention to the impact that excessive litigation and rising insurance costs were having on trucking companies across the country.

His career represents a remarkable progression of service: President of the West Virginia Trucking Association in 1978 and, 25 years later, Chairman of the American Trucking Associations in 2003.

For WVTA, there is tremendous pride in that history. Fred demonstrated that the leader of a family trucking company from a small town in the mountains of West Virginia could become one of the most influential voices in American trucking. And through it all, he never forgot where he came from. Fred's decades of service to WVTA, his advocacy for smaller carriers and his national leadership have left a lasting mark on an industry that extends far beyond West Virginia's borders.

Remembering John Burns

The Burns family and West Virginia's trucking community experienced a tremendous loss with the passing of John Barlow Burns on January 1, 2026, at the age of 61. John represented the third generation of the Burns family in the business his grandfather started. After graduating from Pocahontas County High School in 1983 and earning an associate degree in business from Fairmont State University, John returned home and devoted his career to Burns Motor Freight. He worked as a dispatcher and ultimately served as President of the company.

Like his father, John also believed in giving back to the industry that had given so much to his family. He served on the West Virginia Trucking Association Board of Directors, continuing the Burns family's longstanding commitment to WVTA. In fact, WVTA's current board history still reflects both generations: John among its board members and Fred among its Life Members. John's service extended well beyond trucking. He was a member of Marlinton United Methodist Church and served the Marlinton Volunteer Fire Department for more than 30 years.

John understood the responsibility that came with carrying on the Burns name. He spoke proudly of the standards established by his grandfather and passed through the generations: taking care of customers, putting safety first, keeping your word and doing whatever you could to get the job done. His loss was felt deeply by his family, the employees of Burns Motor Freight, WVTA and the entire West Virginia trucking community. And now, only months after John's passing, the announcement that Burns Motor Freight will cease operations makes this moment especially poignant.

The End of an Era, But Not the End of a Legacy

On September 1, 2026, the trucks of Burns Motor Freight will stop running as a company after 77 years in business. But the Burns Motor Freight story will not end on that day. Its legacy lives in the generations of professional drivers who sat behind the wheel of a Burns truck. It lives in the employees who built careers with the company, the customers who trusted Burns Motor Freight with their freight and the communities the Burns family served.

It lives in the West Virginia Trucking Association, where both Fred and John Burns devoted years of leadership and service. It lives nationally through Fred's leadership of the American Trucking Associations and the role he played in giving West Virginia and smaller motor carriers a voice on the national stage. And it lives in the example established by Fred Burns Sr. in 1949 when he climbed into that first Mack truck and started a business built on hard work, determination and a handshake.

From one used Mack truck in Marlinton to the chairmanship of the American Trucking Associations, the Burns family's story is one of the great stories in West Virginia trucking. For WVTA, Burns Motor Freight has never simply been another member company. The Burns family has been part of the fabric of this Association.

As Burns Motor Freight prepares to make its final run, the West Virginia Trucking Association extends its deepest appreciation to Fred, Larry, Mike, Doug, the late John Burns, the entire Burns family, and the generations of employees and professional drivers who made Burns Motor Freight what it became. We especially remember John, whose loss makes the closing of this chapter even more meaningful.

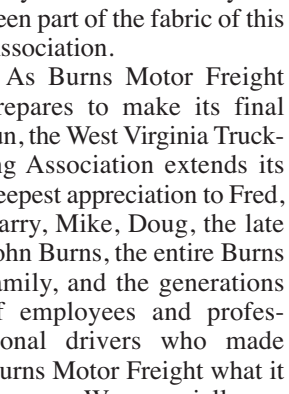
The trucks may stop running, but the Burns name and its contribution to West Virginia trucking will not be forgotten. Thank you, Burns Motor Freight, for 77 years of moving West Virginia and the trucking industry forward.

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The Pocahontas County Genealogy Group has a

NEW CEMETERY BOOK FOR SALE!



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).

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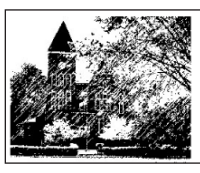
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Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Napolean Gragg Family – circa 1905



PORTRAIT OF NAPOLEON "Polie" Gragg with his wife and three children near Frost, West Virginia. He was one of ten children born to David and Mary Ann Sims Gragg and was a brother to James R. Gragg. (Oliver and Lucille Sprouse Collection, Courtesy of Karen Sprouse Walton; ID: PHP004259)

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.

Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday, August 26, 1976

CLASS REUNION

Green Bank High School Class of 1966 held a 10-year reunion over the Fourth of July weekend. They met at the Arbovale Community Building Saturday morning for coffee and doughnuts.

A delicious meal was served that evening at the Durbin Methodist Church for the classmates and their husbands and wives. After dinner, Don Vannoy served as master of ceremonies for some fun and frolic. He introduced two special guests, Marie and Minnie Parg, two of our former teachers.

Attending the reunion were Don Vannoy, Danny Sheets, Marie Parg, Minnie Parg, Mary Aldridge Alonzo, Nancy Workman Moore, Pat Waslo Williams, Mary Cook Prater, Beverly Taylor, Donna Greathouse Hommema, Erma Collins Hedrick, Dorothy Collins Garland, Janie Nottingham Thompson, Connie Mullenax Douglas, Henrietta Shinaberry Reigel. Nancy Waybright Keffer, Jeannie White Nelson, Charlotte Wilfong, Barbara Hill Mills, Jim Cassell and Janice Mullenax.

APPOINTED TOP ASSISTANT COACH

University of Cincinnati head basketball coach Gale Catlett announced the appointment of Gary McPherson as his top assistant coach replacing Ken Cunningham who previously had been named head coach at the University of Akron.

"We feel fortunate to be able to attract to our program a coach with the excellent credentials which Gary possesses," commented Coach Cartlett...

McPherson is a native of Cass.

QUEEN'S COURT

Pocahontas County resident Marla Dean Chestnut has been appointed to serve in the queen's court for the 40th Annual Mountain State Forest Festival at Elkins.

OPEN CHURCH WEDDING

Mrs. Ethel Vandevender, of Arbovale, wishes to announce the forthcoming marriage of her daughter, Rhonda C. Wenger to Steven M. Hamed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hamed, of Green Bank, on October 9, 1976, at two o'clock in the afternoon in the Church of the Brethren at Pine Grove.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray, of Dunmore, a daughter, Christina Gall.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fisher, of Frankford, a daughter, Margaret Dawn.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jackson, of Elyria, Ohio, a daughter, Jennifer Denise.

DEATHS

Mrs. Birdie A. Totten, 75, of Buckeye; born at Esty, a daughter of the late Andrew and Eugenia Snedegar Nelson. Funeral service from VanReenen Funeral Home with burial in Ruckman Cemetery.

- - -

Elizabeth Jane Workman, 83, of Buckeye; born at Millboro, Virginia, the daughter of the late Preston and Alice Curtis Madison. Funeral from VanReenen Funeral

see 50 pg 11

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, August 31, 1951

FARM NEWS

The Pocahontas 4-H Livestock Judging Team took first place in the annual State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the State Fair last week. The Pocahontas team scored 1,345 out of a possible 16,50 points.

The team is composed of Fred Johnson, Richard Cutlip, Robert Gay and Robert Cutlip.

The state winner will represent West Virginia in national competition in Chicago in November during the International Livestock Exposition.

Bob Gay, a member of the Buckeye Winners 4-H Club, won first place in the Greenbrier Regional 4-H Sheep Shearing contest held last week at the State Fair.

OUR ARMY AND NAVY BOYS

Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Woth, Texas – Dempsey L. Trainer, son of Mrs. Maude Evans, of Marlinton, has been promoted to the grade of Sergeant in the United States Air Force. Sergeant Trainer, a graduate of Marlinton High School, has a total of 18 months service with the USAF.

Robert Dilley of the Coast Guard, stationed at Wilmington, N. C., is home on furlough. He has been in the service two years.

Corporal Glen Varner, son of Mrs. Oleta Varner Baker, has been transferred to Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, California, where he will receive overseas training.

Corporal Luther L. Fowler, of Cass, was one of 52 soldiers from West Virginia to land at Seattle, Washington, last Wednesday. The transport Buckner brought 1,214 rotation troops from Korea.

W.A.C. Lenore McCloud, of the Air Force, who has been stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, returned to duty at Fort Myers, Virginia, Tuesday after spending several days furlough with her mother, Mrs. June McCloud.

FIELD NOTES

Friend James Workman, of Burnside, crossing on the Greenbrier, had his experience with poison snakes last week. The score was 14 rattlers and two copperheads. It all happened on the east side of the Greenbrier, about the Kennison curve. Mr. Workman was hunting bees, and he was following a course which took him up and over a steep rocky knife blade ridge spur from the Workman Ridge into the Rock Run Country. This ridge is so narrow on top there is danger of falling off on either side. It is steep with high rock cliffs jutting out every few rods with narrow benches in between.

Tracing a bee course in such rocky snake country is no contented pastime. Keep your eye on the bee line and you are liable to tramp on a snake or fall over a cliff. Keep a weather eye out for snakes and watch your step, and you have lost your bee course.

When Jim hunts bees, he hunts bees. So, the first thing he knew, the warning whiz of a rattler brought his eyes to earth. He was literally surrounded with a whole congregation of rattlers and copperheads. There was no way out, but if there had been, Mr. Workman has never backed off from a snake yet, so he laid about him in a proper manner and when the smoke cleared away there lay 12 good rattlers and a copperhead. The smell of snakes was sickening, and the experience was sufficient for one days' outing.

see 75 pg 11

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Price Brothers

Thursday, August 29, 1901

DANCING

We have discussed many of the moral and social topics so why not have a discussion in the Times as to the pros and cons of dancing. Down in Mingo County last spring, Preacher Wohl and Lawyer Stokes argued the case with revolvers. The result was a dreadful tragedy.

We may spill a few drops of ink, eschewing pistols, razors and other dangerous weapons. In this particular amusement, this writer will never give offense owing to incapability to commit the crime. There is no community between our ears and our feet, and we move in the mazes of the dance with the grace of the cinnamon bear. Our friends say we suffer from the "Presbyterian Foot."

So let those who have convictions on this subject take the text Ecclesiastes 3rd Chapter: "To everything there is a season... A time to mourn and a time to dance."

Let us have some five-minute talks on the subject and help some of our young friends to choose the better part.

BASS FISHING AT MARLINTON

If the amount of money expended by fishermen who visited Pocahontas County this season to have a try at the bass in the Greenbrier could be estimated, it would show a total of thousands of dollars.

With a few exceptions, our visitors have done the bass very little harm. We want to note an hour's sport in the heart of the town last Friday afternoon, if anyone would like to read a little fishing literature.

At 4:45, I took a trout rod and trout flies and entered the river at the 8th Street county bridge. I fished down the river one square to 9th Street and caught 12 bass large enough to keep, having returned four small ones to the water. The catch filled my fish basket, and I took a bath in the swimming pool and returned at 6:10 o'clock having been out one hour and 25 minutes all told.

There was not a pool in the distance fished, the fish being found in the ripples.

If there is any other town where such conditions are possible, we would like to hear from the sportsmen.

AN OUTRAGE

We have just learned of a low-down dirty trick by which a boiler was tampered with which might have caused an explosion.

Some time ago someone, who is on the high road to the gallows, went to the engine of Isaac McNeel's mill at Millpoint and turned on the valve at the bottom of the glass water gauge and then emptied the boiler.

The fireman seeing that the glass indicated plenty of water, built a big fire. He discovered that the boiler was empty in time to prevent an explosion, but the boiler was greatly damaged. The engine has been repaired and is at work again.

PECULIAR ACCIDENT

The death of a young man at Alexander, Upshur County, is reported in a peculiar way.

Moses Bennington, the 18-year-old son of John Bennington, was shot and killed by a sheep, while he was squirrel hunting. He and his father were returning home and had seen a squirrel up a tree. While they were watching the squirrel, their dog scared up a flock of sheep and as they passed the boy, he stuck the muzzle of his gun out toward them to ward them off. One of the sheep jumped upon the gun, discharging both barrels, the charge lodging in his bowels and killing the boy almost instantly.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

Wallace Jackson's residence near Marlinton was struck by lightning last Friday night. The family had retired when a bolt struck the house, coming down through the room and badly shocking Mrs. Jackson and a little child. All were asleep. The damage done consisted in tearing away the ceiling in the room and filling the house with the fumes of sulphur.

The house is located in a cove which has been particularly free from lightning, the thunderbolts striking on the hills on either side. One of his neighbors says that Wallace thought an excursion train had struck him.

A CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE

Last Sunday evening, Rev. J. W. McNeil held services at the Driftwood church. There was considerable confusion on account of some misbehavior on the part of some young men who had been drinking, and the service came to a close early in the evening. The train crew of Conductor Courtney attended church and most of them escorted young ladies of the vicinity. James Tacy was under the influence of liquor to a considerable extent, and he seemed to take it as a personal afront that the train men should go with the girls of his neighborhood. He followed on and fired a shot so near that Captain Courtney's face was burned.

John Hennessey was with a Miss Turner, a daughter of James Turner. He was accompanied by Charles Adams, who was with a Miss Mclaughlin. They parted from the rest of the party in going home, and near the residence of James Turner were overtaken by James Tacy, who first stopped to pick a fuss out of Adams. Failing in this, he went on to Hennessey who told him very quietly that if he had anything to settle with him, he would meet him after seeing the young ladies home.

Thereupon Tacy snapped his pistol in Hennessey's face twice. The third time the pistol snapped, Hennessey warded it off with this hand, and drawing his own pistol, shot Tacy three times...

see History pg 11

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, August 26, 1926

The 1926 Pocahontas County Fair was the best ever. For four days it rained, but it takes more than the six inches of rain that fell to dampen the enthusiasm of the people at their Fair...

J. W. Sturgell, of Little Levels, is still the champion fiddler of the county. Edray's champion was Bill Clutter; Buster Bowers, of Huntersville, and Scott Darnell, of Greenbank.

The rain made the track impossible for racing and the midway was pretty well drowned out.

The showing of sheep was greater than ever, and the cattle were of unusually high quality.

Space fails to list the good things of the Fair that are so well worthy of mention. But the best thing about the Fair was the spirit the people showed in cooperating in putting on the entertainment programs of the various districts.

All in all, it was a great Fair of the people, for the people and by the people.

- - -

Sheriff Barlow, L. S. Cochran and other officers captured a big still on North Fork of Anthonys Creek one night last week. The still was still warm, showing that a run had been made that day, but there was no one about when the officers arrived. It was a most complete and able still of large capacity.

- - -

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Miller, at Buckeye, a daughter.

- - -

George W. Smith, of near Lobelia, was in Marlinton Monday to see his son, Clinton, who is at the Marlinton Hospital recovering from a desperate attack of appendicitis. This was Mr. Smith's first visit to Marlinton in nine years. He brought to this office three very interesting Indian relics, two fine spears and a flint battle axe. These relics were found on Hills Creek near where the last Indian shot in Pocahontas County was fired.

The tradition is that one day as Richard Hill, the pioneer, was working in his clearing, he saw an Indian sliding down a steep bank into the creek, trying to slip up on him. Mr. Hill grabbed his gun and shot the Indian. He said the wounded man slapped his leg. Mr. Hill then made to the nearest fort, which was at Millpoint. There he gathered a party to follow and fight the Indians. From the sign there were only four or five Indians. They could be trailed by the blood of the wounded brave. They were followed into Nicholas County but were never overtaken.

- - -

Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Fowler, of Marlinton, on August 23, celebrated their 50th Anniversary by having their five children with them: Mr. and Mrs. George Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Authors, and Miss Ella at home. Their grandchildren number 28 and one great-grandchild. This old couple spent most of their lives at Hillsboro and moved to Marlinton when farm life got too hard for them.

- - -

see 75 pg 11



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***The Pocahontas Times* will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.**

Early deadline for the September 10 edition is Friday, September 4, at 3 p.m.

Calendar, from page 4

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

Central Union United Methodist Church, Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m.

Arbovale United Methodist – Worship 11:15 a.m. Sundays; Bible Study 6 p.m. Wednesday.

First Baptist Church – Huntersville – Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

Marlinton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16741 Seneca Trail, Marlinton. Bible Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Church service, 11 a.m.

Seebert United Methodist Church – Sunday School every Sunday 9:20 a.m.; Worship second and fourth Sundays at 10 a.m.

Catholic Mass: St. John, Marlinton – Sunday 9 a.m.; **St. Mark, Bartow** – Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Presbyterian, Green Bank – Worship at 11 a.m.

Dunmore United Methodist Church – Worship 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom 8 a.m.

Marlinton First Church of the Nazarene – Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m.

New Hope Church of the Brethren, Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Arbovale – Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.

Cochran Creek Baptist Church, Rimel – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Campbelltown Church, Marlinton – Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.

Cook Town Community Church, Rt. 219 – Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Edray United Church – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

New Vision Praise and Worship, 215 Fifth Street, Marlinton – Praise and Worship 10 a.m.; Preaching and Teaching 11 a.m.

Trinity Baptist Church, Rt. 219 Buckeye Hill – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Marlinton Church of God, Beard Heights – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 5 p.m.

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

Steps, from page 3

your lifestyle.

Accomplishing small goals builds confidence while moving you forward. Achieving a small goal is significant. It's much more effective than failing to reach a large goal. Once you have reached one small goal, set another one. If reaching the completed goal was too easy, make your next one a little bigger. Success is what matters, not the size of the goal.

While working on a goal, consistency matters more than speed. It doesn't matter if arriving at your goal takes longer than planned. Taking longer than expected to become successful is always preferable to failing quickly.

Set at least one small goal today. Don't put it off. Procrastination is a goal killer. Start from where you are right now. Even small goals may require several restarts. Since quitting ensures failure – never ever give up. Achieving each goal is an exhilarating experience.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com

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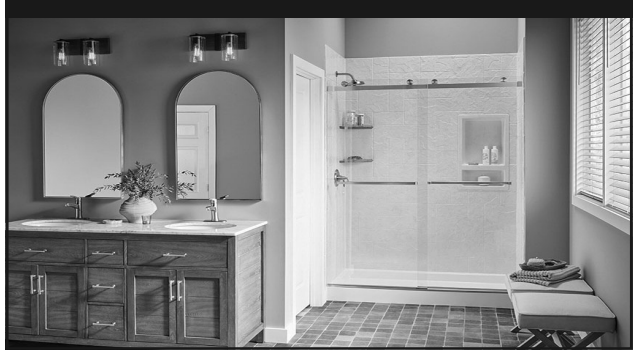
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First Friday at Discovery Junction ~ September 4

Discovery Junction is the place to be. This month's theme is "Mon Forest Friday." Pocahontas Trails will be on hand with bikes to ride, or bring your own to decorate for the Bike Parade. Music by Browns Creek Nightcrawlers. Farmers market and more. See you there.

Watoga Art in the Park ~ September 5 - 6

Browse local food and craft vendors, participate in art workshops and bring the whole family along for fun kid's activities and games at Watoga Art in the Park. There will be music each day featuring Jim Snyder and Shawn Owen on Saturday, and Mudhole Control and Richard Hefner and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys on Sunday.

Workshops and demonstrations on blacksmithing, beginning pottery wheel, floral arranging and art of all kinds.

Fair Lawn Farm 18th Century Trades Fair ~ September 4 – 6

The Fair Lawn Farm 18th Century Trades Fair takes place over Labor Day weekend from September 4–6, at Fair Lawn Farm, 3118 Mill Gap Road near Monterey, Virginia.

Put driverless cars and Uber Eats in perspective by taking a step back to a time when, to survive, you needed to have – or had to be – a blacksmith, gunsmith, stonemason, weaver, spinner, furniture maker, silversmith and more to survive – and you had to walk or ride a horse…and raise your own food.

The Trades Fair will offer an education in more ways than one. Check it out Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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The Annual Cranberry Mountain Shindig
Sunday, September 27
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Cranberry Mountain Nature Center
Located at the junction of Rts. 39/55 and Rt. 150 (Scenic Highway), 16 miles west of Marlinton, 23 miles east of Richwood.
Old-fashioned Square Dance - Noon - 1 p.m.
Calling and instruction by Lou Maiuri;
music by Juanita Fireball and The Continental Drifters
The Bing Brothers, featuring Jake Krack, Noon - 4 p.m.
Old Dominion Cloggers – 1:15 and 2:15 p.m.
Music by Juanita Fireball and The Continental Drifters
Roy Moose Snakes of WV Booth starting at 1 p.m.
Pocahontas Community Club Food Booth
Crafters - Demonstrations
Spend the day! Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the fall colors and music in the shelter and auditorium.
For More Information Call 304-653-4826

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11 am.- Snakes of WV live with Roy Moose
11:30 am.- Larry Two Rivers Brown
12 pm.- Bing Brothers with Jack Krack
1 pm.- Three Rivers Avian Center
2 pm.- Bing Brothers with Jack Krack
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West Virginia Road Kill Cook-Off 35th Anniversary Marlinton, West Virginia Autumn Harvest Festival
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‘Catch Me If You Can’ ~ September 11-13

Things are rarely what they seem in the Pocahontas County Drama Workshop’s fall production of “Catch Me If You Can,” coming to the Pocahontas County Opera House September 11-13.

The mystery-comedy begins when Daniel Corban, a Michigan advertising executive, honeymooning at a secluded mountain lodge, contacts police after his new wife suddenly disappears. Before investigators can make sense of the situation, a young woman arrives claiming to be the missing Elizabeth Corban. There is just one problem: Daniel insists he has never seen her before.

Catch the mayhem Friday and Saturday nights, September 11 and 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, afternoon, September 13, at 3 p.m.

Freshwater Folk Festival ~ Saturday, September 12

The 20th annual Freshwater Folk Festival will be held at the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day will be filled with live music, food and fun hands-on educational activities. The displays, demonstrations, educational exhibits and activities will be led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, Project Healing Waters, Roy Moose with Snakes of West Virginia and Jessica Levine’s Art-and-the-Environment Activities.

Bring the family for a fun-filled learning experience.

Cranberry Shindig ~ September 27

Come to the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center for the Cranberry Shindig, a one-day celebration of Appalachian culture. This popular event set against a backdrop of fall color will be held Sunday, September 27. There will be food, craft demonstrations, clogging and more. Bring a picnic lunch and lawn chair and spend the day. The Nature Center is located at the intersection of Rt. 39 and the Scenic Highway on Kennison Mountain.

Huntersville Traditions Day ~ October 2 -3

In 2001, Huntersville Historical Traditions was founded by a group of individuals who focused on restoring and recording Huntersville’s history and its buildings.

As a way to share that history and the town itself, the group organized Huntersville Traditions Days, a celebration where demonstrators and volunteers strip down their 21st century exterior and leap into the 19th century head first.

HHT opens its buildings – the Huntersville School House and cafeteria, Huntersville Jail and Clerks Office – as well as the local churches to visitors so they can experience history right before their eyes.

Music, beanpot dinner, pie auction and more Friday night. And demonstrations and music all day Saturday. No need to worry about parking. Horse drawn and tractor drawn wagons will ferry people into town for the festivities.

Greenbrier River Trail Marathon and Half Marathon ~ October 3-4

This year celebrates the 9th anniversary of the marathon and the 6th anniversary of the half marathon. Over the years, this beloved event has welcomed runners from all over the United States to the scenic Greenbrier River Trail for a race filled with peaceful river views, forested landscapes, and the unmistakable charm of Pocahontas County.

New this year, both races will feature out-and-back courses beginning and ending in downtown Marlinton. This updated route creates an exciting start-and-finish experience in the heart of the community while giving runners more opportunities to encourage one another along the trail. For more information or to register visit grtmarathon.com

The Friday Night Rockin’ Square Dance – September 25

Friday evening, September 25, 6 p.m. the annual square dance will kick off the RoadKill festivities at the Pocahontas County Opera House.

Juanita Fireball and the Clifftop Pickers will get your toes tappin’ and make you swing your partner and do-si-do. No previous experience needed.

West Virginia Roadkill Cook-off and Autumn Harvest Festival ~ September 26



The Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 35th Anniversary of the West Virginia Roadkill Cook-Off and Autumn Harvest Festival, which will take place Saturday, September 26, in Marlinton.

A beloved regional tradition, this milestone celebration will once again bring together residents and visitors for a full day of Appalachian culture, live entertainment, and one-of-a-kind culinary experiences.

Festival highlights include the renowned Roadkill Cook-Off Contest, where talented cooks compete by preparing creative dishes featuring non-traditional meats. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample entries and vote for their favorites.

The festival will also feature a wide variety of other food options, vendors, and the farmers market, offering everything from local eats to handcrafted goods, creating a vibrant marketplace atmosphere in downtown Marlinton.

Please note that the Biscuit Bake-Off, traditionally held in the morning, will not take place this year.

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Sunday, October 25, 2 p.m.
Hillsboro Library
No charge to attend. Sponsored by Hillsboro Library Friends
More info about Ned at: nedwritesthings.com

Fall Art Classes For Adults!
Pottery Classes
3rd Ave Studio, Marlinton
Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and
Oct. 6, 21, 28 • 1 and 6 p.m.
Slab and wheel projects available.
$25 per class. Includes clay glazes and firing.
Empty Bowls - October 15
Donate a bowl from your September pottery class and take $5 off the class fee.
Painting with Oils
Durbin Art Center, beginning
October 11, 18, 24
and Nov. 1, at 2 p.m.
$25 per session. Includes oil paints and canvases. Students need to bring their own brushes.
Call 304 456 4600 or text
304.997.2153 to register for either class.
Classes without registration are cancelled 24 hours before class time.
FAC Brought to you by Pocahontas County Arts Council

75, from page 7

The next day, friend Jim took up the bee line where he had been interrupted. Over the knife blade ridge it led. In descending the other side, the way was through a rift in a high cliff. The passageway was of a size for a man to comfortably squeeze through.

Friend Jim was making his way through this long crevice, when he smelled snake. On a ledge of stone, not much over a foot from his face lay a big old rusty rattler.

The snake was blind as it was just about ready to shed, and all snakes are deaf. However, it did appear the snake did sense the presence of the intruder and was continually licking out its tongue. The bee hunter eased back and brought his snake stick into deadly play.

Of course, this was enough for one day, but my friend was not to be buffaloed for long out of his bee hunting. Going back next day, he took up his bee line and was more intent on keeping his eye on the bees than where he put his feet. So down he stepped right plumb on a big, coiled rattler. Jim says this was actually the meanest, most ill-tempered snake he ever contended with. The snake struck and landed on the calf of a leg. No particular damage was done as the trousers were of heavy cloth and he has to tape his calves on account of varicose veins. The big snake measured a full four feet and was a black one.

The net result for the week in the woods was 14 rattlers, two copperheads and two bee trees.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Ray, of Clover Lick, a daughter, Sally Kay.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James Wilfong, of Clover Lick, a son.

DEATH

William M. Jones, aged 65 years, of Green Bank; funeral from the Dunmore Methodist Church with burial in the Dunmore Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Stella Kerr Jones and their foster daughter, Mrs. Hub Binton, of Durbin.

Letters, from page 4

leaders of this party recently is both funny and saddening and does resemble something out of an SNL or Saturday Night Live skit.

Their answers to simple questions resemble something a small child or drunk would come up with. Abolishing prisons, no borders, eliminating the Senate, nationwide rent control, taking over private property and private industry, defunding the military, the list of their insanity goes on and on and would make any hard-core communist smile with joy.

The fact that many mainstream Democrats do not disown them but welcome them to what has become the big Circus Tent of silly ideas that do not work in the real world and in many cases are dangerous is also concerning.

I have a low opinion of most politicians with a few exceptions, but the Democratic Machine is taking it to Olympic competition levels. Pure Socialism and Communism have never worked in the real world and yet these folks continue to sell this insanity as a solution to the many problems we face as a country. It's like believing that mutilating children for profit, i.e. so-called gender reaffirming care, to treat children who have emotional problems, most of which are transitory and part of growing up is an acceptable solution. Oh, yea, something that many in the Democratic mainstream support.

As someone who voted for Democrats in the distant past I wonder if the rot that has permeated this party will ever be fixed since it appears to only get worse with time.

Yes, Trump and many Republicans have their own issues, but insanity is not one of them so I will continue to the pick the least bad option and make sure I vote in the midterms since not doing so lets a small group of simpletons control the future.

Sadly, on average only half of all eligible voters turn out for the midterms.

Joseph Kaffl
Hillsboro

100, from page 7

Dear Cal;

After thinking the matter over, I have decided to comply with your request and repeat the story I told you the other day, hoping that it might help someone.

More than 30 years have passed since I, with a party of six hearty, healthy and as good men as ever lived, from Uniontown, Pa., arranged for a hunt up Cheat River, above the club about nine miles, at the camp known as Second Camp.

Their names, Charles Seaton, Albert Hutchison, Judge Frank Fuller, General Bailey, Charles Lynch and John Lynch. John Lynch was supposed to have heart trouble. In fact, he had an attack on his way into the club from Beverly, the nearest railroad point.

When we left the Club on our hike up the river to camp, they prevailed on John Lynch to stay at the Club. The rest of the party was afraid he might have an attack of his trouble and it would be hard to get his body out of the woods.

We went on to camp and prepared it to spend three or four days. About sunset that evening, we heard someone shout down the trail, and in, who comes, but John Lynch. It threw a damper on our otherwise jovial party.

He had barely gotten into camp when he had a heart attack, and I have never seen anything like it...

About 11 o'clock, Charles Seaton came out where I was and asked me if I thought I could get down to the club as Lynch was dead, or just about so. I told him I could try. He said Ike, the man in charge would be leaving at 4 a.m. for Beverly for another party, and he would be taking the team and we would have no way of getting Lynch's body out.

So, I started. It was very dark and I had no light. I got into the water and waded to the club. I got there between two and three a.m. I got Ike out of bed and reported to him what had happened.

We got the two horses with pack saddles and stretcher to carry out Lynch's body. We got to the camp about daylight that morning, and John Lynch was the first man to greet us.

The sequel is this – Charles Seaton, Judge Frank Fuller, General Bailey and Charles Lynch are all dead now.

Albert Hutchison and John Lynch are still living and both are in good health.

50, from page 7

Home with burial in the End of the Trail Cemetery near Lewisburg.

- - -

Mrs. Eloise Moore Smith, of Charleston; born at Dunmore, a daughter of the late Ernest N. Moore and Lelia Burr Moore. Burial in Cuningham Memorial Park in St. Albans.

History, from page 7

This adds one more to the long list of horrors due to speakeasy liquor. Jim Tacy, when at himself, was a good natured, kindly disposed boy, but mean liquor would make him quarrelsome. He is a son of Geo. N. Tacy, a respected citizen of our county, and a grandson of Allan Galford.

The father, mother and family generally have the sympathy of the whole community in the terrible affair...

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**ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS,
DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES**

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

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

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

First Publication Date: August 27, 2026
Claim Deadline: Monday, October 26, 2026

ESTATE NUMBER: **14897**
ESTATE OF: **MARY ELIZABETH GALFORD**
ADMINISTRATRIX: Emily A. Arbuckle
15455 Seneca Trail North
Lewisburg, WV 24901

ESTATE NUMBER: **14910**
ESATATE OF: **BESSIE DACIL HILL**
EXECUTOR: Larry Durwood Hill
437 Puffenbarger Road
Hillsboro WV 24946

ESTATE NUMBER: **14922**
ESTATE OF: **GLADYS M. BARRETT**
CO-EXECUTOR: Frank L. Barrett Jr
60 Edray Road
Marlinton, WV 24954
CO- EXECUTOR: John T. Barrett
P. O. Box 942
300 Church Street
Rupert, WV 25984

ESTATE NUMBER: **14924**
ESTATE OF: **LEROY R. WHITE**
EXECUTRIX: Lisa Caplinger
186 Hedrick Drive
Petersburg, WV 26847

ESTATE NUMBER: **14925**
ESTATE OF: **JAMES EDWARD PYLES**
ADMINISTRATRIX: Ruth Ann Pyles
7342 Beaver Creek Road
Marlinton, WV 24954
Subscribed and sworn to before me on August 21, 2026.
Melissa L. Bennett
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
8//27/2c

**NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING
WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION
TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES**

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at 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 27, 2026
ESTATE NAME: **NELLIE EULEEN HICKMAN**
2419 Calhoun Road
Rome, GA 30161
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR CTA:
Kenneth Spencer Walker
1071 Obey River Shores Ln
Byrdstown, TN 38549
Subscribed and sworn to before me on August 19, 2026.
Melissa L. Bennett
Clerk of the Pocahontas County Commission
8/27/2c

**NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING
WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION
TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES**

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at 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

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
POCAHONTAS COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT,
Plaintiff,
v.
MULVIE WILLIAM GRIMES, II, TROY MCCOY, SHELLY GILES, NATALIE SCHOOLEY, GLENNA GRIMES, ET AL.,
Defendants**

Civil Action No. 25-C-17
Judge: Robert E. Richardson

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

The object of the above-entitled action is a proceeding by the Pocahontas County Public Service District to condemn a temporary construction easement and a permanent easement across property in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, identified as Tax Map 14, Parcel 8, Deed/Book 407/392, currently assessed in the name of Mulvie William Grimes.

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that the addresses of the defendants Mulvie William Grimes II and Glenna Grimes named above are unknown, it is ORDERED that they do serve upon Christopher D. Negley, Esq., whose address is Shuman, McCuskey & Slicer, PLLC, 1411 Virginia Street East, Suite 200, Charleston, West Virginia, 25339, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before October 12, 2026, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against the above named defendants at any time thereafter.

A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of Said Court this the 12th day of August, 2026.

CONNIE M. CARR,
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County

NOTICE: You are required to appear within one month after the date of the first publication of this order and do what is necessary to protect your interests. Failure to appear and defend may result in a default judgment against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Shuman, McCuskey & Slicer, PLLC
8/27/2c

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION
IN THE FAMILY COURT
OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**NANCY ANN TAYLOR, Petitioner
Vs Civil Action No. 26-D32
SHELBY STARKS AND JUSTIN CAIN, Respondents**

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS FOR ALLOCATION OF CUSTODIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND/OR SUPPORT

To the above-named Respondents, SHELBY STARKS AND JUSTIN CAIN:

If appearing by affidavit filed in this action that the address of Shelby Starks is unknown. **The court orders the parties to appear on the 22nd day of September 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the location of Family Court, 818 10th Avenue, Marlinton, WV**, where a hearing will be held on the Petition for Allocation of Custodial Responsibility, at which time you may appear to protect your interest.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court August 20, 2026.
Connie M. Carr
Circuit Clerk of Pocahontas County
8/27/2c

see Legal Advertisements pg 13

**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**

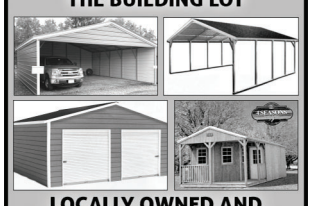
8/20/2c

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Vacation, sick leave, holiday pay, insurance and 401K is available. Retention bonus.
Contact Deanna Fincham, 304-550-4842 or Christie Hart, 304-222-8192.

The Pocahontas Times will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day

**ACCEPTING BIDS
Full Size Police Pursuit Vehicle**

The Pocahontas County Commission will be accepting bids for a **Police Pursuit SUV for use by the Pocahontas County Sheriff's Department.**

All bids should be submitted in writing and placed in a sealed envelope marked "Sealed Bid – Pocahontas County Sheriff's Department Vehicle" and **delivered by mail or in person to the Pocahontas County Commission, 900 Tenth Ave, Marlinton, WV 24954 no later than Monday, September 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

Bid specifications for Full Size Police Pursuit Vehicle:

New 2026 or newer FULL SIZE Police Pursuit SUV, black in color, PPV police package, 4-wheel drive, V8 gas engine, 10 speed automatic transmission, GVW Rating 7600lb, 3:23 axle ratio, trailering package, 20" wheels and P275/55R20 all-season pursuit rated tires, Police rated suspension, police brake package, remote engine starting package, remote keyless entry, assist steps, 250 AMP High output alternator, 900CCA battery, 760CCA auxiliary battery and auxiliary battery connection at rear cargo area, 100 Amp rear electrical center, engine oil cooler, transmission cooler, power heated mirrors, skid plate, recovery hooks, extra capacity cooling system, rear park assist sensors, theft protection unauthorized entry system, wiring for horn/siren, wiring for grille lamps and speakers, flasher system for headlight and taillight, tail lamp flasher red white, driver side power seat, cloth jet black interior, front license plate bracket, ground studs, radio suppression package, rear camera mirror washer, floor mats color keyed, surround vision HD, 120 volt electrical receptacle in cab, left side LED spotlight, multi-zone climate control

Must be available for delivery within 10 days of bid acceptance.

Bids will be opened in the Office of the County Commission located in the Pocahontas County Courthouse, on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 5:40 p.m.

For further information, please inquire at the Pocahontas County Clerk's Office at 304-799-4549, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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

John Rebinski, President
Pocahontas County Commission
8/27/2c

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that APPALACHIAN AGGREGATES, LLC, 171 ST CLAIRS CROSSING, BLUEFIELD, VA 24605 has submitted an application for Permit Number Q200698 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV, 26416-1600, in order to add 2.88 acres of additional mining area.

The operation is discharging into an unnamed tributary to Stamping Creek and is located and is located near HILLSBORO in LITTLE LEVELS District of Pocahontas County, Longitude 80° 10' 59" and Latitude 38 ° 10' 2" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

Surface of the area associated herewith is owned by:

Name	Address
Appalachian Aggregates	171 St. Clairs Crossing, Bluefield, WV 24605

and the mineral associated herewith is owned by:

Name	Address
Appalachian Aggregates	171 St. Clairs Crossing, Bluefield, WV 24605

Surface of the area within 500 feet of the permit area is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
Appalachian Aggregates	171 St. Clairs Crossing, Bluefield, WV 24605
Crystal Dean	425 Gum Cove Road, Buckeye, WV 24924
John L. & Charles R. (Life) McNeel	511 Dick McNeel Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946
Kristy M. & Daniel T. Hunnewell	20341 Moss Branch Court, Lutz, FL 33558
Red Oak Meadows, LLC	18102 Seneca Trail, Marlinton, WV 24954
WV Coastal, LLC	18102 Seneca Trail, Marlinton, WV 24954
Cosmotheist Community Church	950 Sunken Springs Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946
Stephen J. Angeloff Living Trust	726 Stamping Creek Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946
Lynn R. Cochran Revocable Trust	294 Gum Cove Road, Buckeye, WV 24294
National Alliance	105 Racoon Ravine Road, Mountain City, TN 37683
Randy Lee Boggs	435 Gum Cove Road, Buckeye, WV 24924
Braxton L. & Amanda R. Buzzard	425 Gum Cove Road, Buckeye, WV 24924

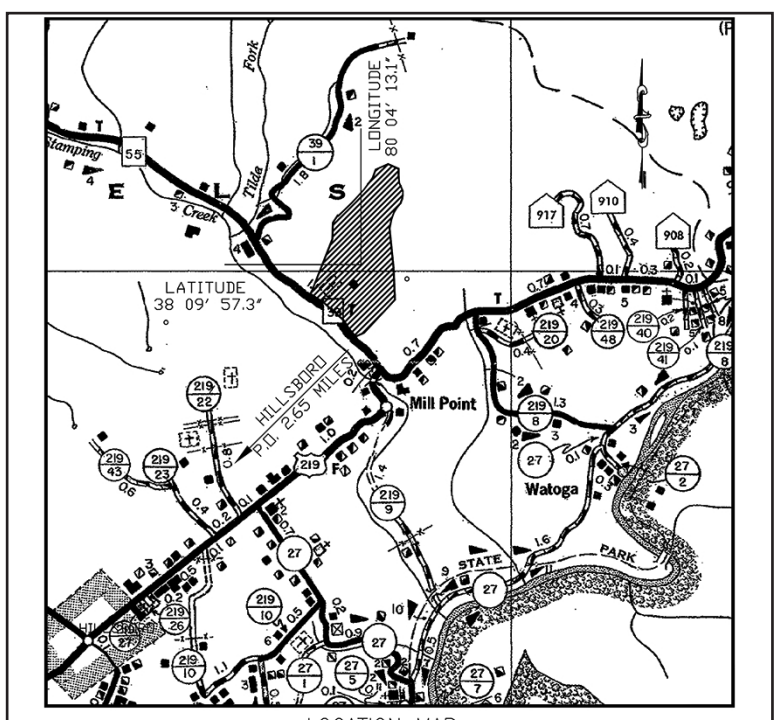
Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by August 8, 2026, or thirty (30) days from the date of initial date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available until August 8, 2026, or thirty (30) days from initial date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is located at: http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm.

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia Public libraries.

DEP Telephone No. 304-457-3219

8/27/1c



LOCATION MAP
WV HIGHWAY MAP – SCALE 1"=1 MILE
LITTLE LEVELS DISTRICT, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA WVDEP
NPDES NO. WV0092339/PERMIT NO. Q2006-98
HILLSBORO, WV 7.5 USGS QUADRANGLE
RECEIVING STREAM: UNT OF STAMPING CREEK OF GREENBRIER RIVER
NEAREST POST OFFICE: 2.65 MILES NORTHEAST OF HILLSBORO.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vesting in it by that certain Deed of Trust recorded on January 17, 2014, in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in Book 351 at Page 640, Russell Cane did convey unto Robert L. Schuman, as original Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Elk River Trustees Inc., as Substitute Trustee by virtue of a Substitution of Trustee recorded on July 30, 2026, in Book 433 at Page 92 in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; the undersigned Substitute Trustee has been requested, in writing, by the beneficiary of said Deed of Trust to sell the real estate described below, as there has been a default under the terms and conditions of said Deed of Trust. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by NewRez LLC to foreclose thereunder **will offer for sale, at a public auction at the front door of the Pocahontas County Courthouse in Marlinton, West Virginia,**

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 12:00 Noon

the following described real estate, together with its easements, improvements, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in Little Levels District, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE LITTLE LEVELS DISTRICT, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, JUST OFF U.S. ROUTE 219 AND STATE ROUTE 39, AND NEAR THE LITTLE SETTLEMENT OF MILL POINT, IN THE AREA BETTER KNOWN AS COOK TOWN, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A 17" WHITE OAK IN A FENCE CORNER ON THE SIDE OF A HILL, A CORNER TO ETHEL DEVER, THENCE WITH DEVER AND FOLLOWING A OLD FENCE LINE DOWN A STEEP HILLSIDE

N 87-01-22 E 289.94 FEET TO A FOUND POINTED ROCK IN A STONE PILE WITH A 1 INCH ANGLE IRON BESIDE IT, ON THE EAST SIDE OF A HOLLOW, A CORNER TO ETHEL DEVER AND KENNETH WILFONG, THENCE LEAVING DEVER AND WITH THE AGREED LINES OF WILFONG DOWN THE HOLLOW FOR THE NEXT 3 LINES

S 9-12-39 W 172.84 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTER OF A DRAIN, THENCE

S 15-49-38 W 462.94 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTER OF A DRAIN, THENCE

S 25-59-51 W 290.64 FEET TO A 21 INCH MAPLE FOUND MARKED IN THE HOLLOW, A CORNER TO KENNETH WILFONG, THENCE LEAVING THE HOLLOW AND RUNNING UP A STEEP HILL FOLLOWING A FENCE LINE WITH KENNETH WILFONG FOR THE NEXT 2 AGREED LINES

N 57-51-05 W 407.26 FEET TO A 24" CHESTNUT OAK IN A FENCE CORNER, NOW MARKED, THENCE

N 28-41-44 W 175.62 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON PIPE SET IN A FENCE CORNER, A CORNER TO HENRY SCOTT AND ON THE LINE OF KENNETH WILFONG, THENCE LEAVING WILFONG AND WITH SCOTT FOR 1 LINE

N 38-38-26 E 224.37 FEET TO A FOUND CAR AXLE IN A FENCE CORNER, AT THE BREAK OF THE RIDGE, A CORNER TO OKEY MCCLAIN, THENCE LEAVING SCOTT AND WITH MCCLAIN FOR THE NEXT 2 LINES

N 33-39-01 E 200.77 FEET TO A 11 INCH GUM TREE IN A FENCE CORNER, AT THE BREAK OF THE RIDGE, THENCE FOLLOWING A FENCE LINE WITH MCCLAIN

N 45-32-31 W 391.16 FEET TO A 1 INCH IRON PIPE FOUND, ON THE LINE OF MCCLAIN AND A CORNER TO KAROL PUFFENBARGER, THENCE LEAVING MCCLAIN AND WITH PUFFENBARGER FOR THE NEXT 2 LINES

N 57-25-11 E 103.54 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON PIPE SET, THENCE

N 44-28-27 W 15.50 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON PIPE FOUND, AT THE END OF A LANE, THENCE LEAVING PUFFENBARGER AND WITH THE SOUTH SIDE OF A LANE FOR THE NEXT 2 LINES

N 58-27-29 E 73.57 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON PIPE SET AT A CORNER FENCE POST, THENCE

N 71-52-43 E 99.61 TO A 2 INCH IRON PIPE FOUND ON THE WEST SIDE OF LANE THE SOUTH SIDE OF ANOTHER LANE, THENCE LEAVING THE LANES AND WITH ELMER TINCHER FOR 1 LINE

N 67-21-40 E 150.76 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON PIPE SET AT A FENCE CORNER, A CORNER TO TINCHER AND ON THE LINE OF ETHEL DEVER, THENCE LEAVING TINCHER AND WITH DEVER AND FOLLOWING A FENCE LINE FOR 1 LINE

S 13-21-54 E 328.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING **CONTAINING 10.88 ACRES** MORE OR LESS AS SURVEYED BY WILLIAM E. DILLEY L.L.S. OF DUNMORE, WEST VIRGINIA IN SEPTEMBER 1991, AND AS SHOWN ON A PLAT AND ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

A.P.N. MAP 21 PARCEL 11 AND MAP 21 PARCEL 11 AND MAP 21 PARCEL 11

The property was reported to have an address of: 140 Burks Road, Buckeye WV 24924.

The above referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty and subject to any and all easements, rights of way, conditions, covenants, restrictions, exceptions, reservations, leases and other servitudes, which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground. The sale of the referenced real estate will also be subject to all prior liens and including any and all other deeds of trust, judgments, liens, and all other encumbrances of any nature whatsoever, if any, having priority over the subject Deed of Trust.

The subject property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee makes no representations and warranties of any kind or character including, but not limited to, the condition of the real estate or the title to the real estate to be conveyed. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

In the event that there are federal tax liens against the property, the United States has the right to redeem the property within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the sale. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to adjourn the sale for a time, or from time to time, without further notice, by announcement at the time and place of the foreclosure sale described herein.

TERMS OF SALE

$8,000.00 (Eight Thousand Dollars) in cash and/or certified funds made payable to "Elk River Trustees, Inc." due as a deposit at the time of sale, with the balance due and payable within thirty (30) days of sale. Personal checks will not be accepted.

2. The purchaser at the sale shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

3. The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the recording cost of the deed and also for payment of the tax on the privilege of transferring the real property (transfer tax) imposed by West Virginia Code § 11-22-2.

4. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at the foreclosure sale.

5. The purchaser, if applicable, shall be responsible to provide all necessary information, including but not limited to entity full legal name and DBA, dates of birth and EIN/tax identification numbers, entity owner information, trust information including date of execution, trust beneficial owner information, etc., to the Substitute Trustee to ensure compliance with any necessary United States Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) reporting requirements. Failure to provide the information will void the sale.

ELK RIVER TRUSTEES, INC.
714 Venture Drive, #132 Morgantown, WV 26508
Telephone: 304-241-6962, Fax: 330-436-0301
Reference file # 26-02043
8/27/2c

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

NOTICE OF PART-TIME POSITION POCAHONTAS COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Pocahontas County Commission is accepting résumés for an individual to work part-time at the Pocahontas County Animal Shelter.

Duties will include daily routine care of animals, maintenance of the shelter, and assisting with other duties as needed.

Applicant must be comfortable working with and/or handling animals.

The position will be for a total of 1,039 hours per year. Hours may be adjusted as necessary to meet the needs of the shelter and will include weekends and holidays. This position does not include benefits.

Interested persons may **submit résumés to the Pocahontas County Clerk, P.O. Box 209, Marlinton, West Virginia 24954, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2026.**

For further information, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 304-799-4549.

Pocahontas County Commission
8/27/1c

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

Advertising deadline is Monday at noon.
Call 304-799-4973 to place yours now.

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POPES Pocahontas Outdoor Power Equipment Service
1/4 mile east of Rt. 219 on Denmar Road, Hillsboro
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday by appointment
304-653-4988

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.



For Sale

FOR SALE - 2017 Go Kart Hammerhead Mudhead. Excellent condition. Lightly used, $1,500. 304-545-7720. 8/20/2p

For Rent

TRAILER FOR RENT - Outside Marlinton. Call 304-799-7162. 8/27/2p

FOR RENT - Office space, 818B 10th Avenue, Marlinton. 304-799-6243. 8/13/8c

Wanted

WANTED - Volunteer needs old barbell weights to counterbalance walk-behind tractor for building mountain bike trails at Watoga. Low price or donation, if possible. Gas prices have blasted my budget. Contact David Elliott 304-497-3526. 8/27/1p

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

POSITION AVAILABLE - The Pocahontas Communications Cooperative Corporation Board of Directors is currently seeking applications for a general manager for Allegheny Mountain Radio. A full job description, as well as an application form, and instructions for applying, can be found at our website, www.alleghenymountainradio.org. The deadline for applications is Monday, September 7, 2026. Allegheny Mountain Radio is an Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability and veterans. 8/27/2p

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

Services

SERVICES - Commercial and residential cleaning. Windows, offices, whole house cleaning. 419-889-4281. 8/13/4p

Estate Sale

GEIGER ESTATE SALE - Friday, September 4 and 5 , 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 6, noon to 5 p.m.; Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 219 North of Marlinton, 2 plus miles. Cash only. 8/27/3p

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.

BIG YARD SALE!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Rain or shine.
YEAGER HOUSE
49 Old Pike Road, Bartow
(intersection of Rts. 28/92 and 250)
You'll never know what you'll find!

BOSLEY EXCAVATING



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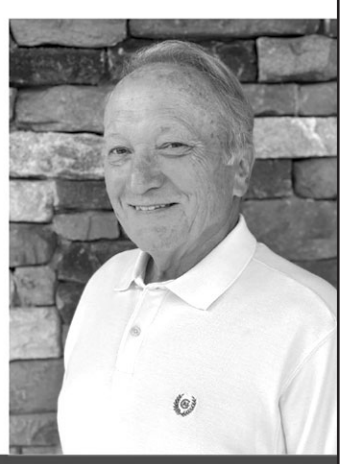
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Answers

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Bryans Battery Re-enactment ~ October 10 and 11

The re-enactment will be held on the battlefield of the 1864 Battle of Droop Mountain located at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park off of Rt. 219 south of Hillsboro.

There will be a skirmish Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m., and the re-enactment of the Battle of Droop Mountain will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Spectators are welcome and may attend for free.



BRYANS BATTERY WILL take to the battlefield with cannons in tow. *Photo courtesy of crazycrow.com*

An Afternoon with Ned Dougherty ~ Sunday, October 25

Writing Your West Virginia Story: an artist talk and reading with local playwright and poet Ned Dougherty Sunday, October 25, 2 p.m. at the Hillsboro Library.

Attend for inspiration and bring tools to write your own stories in the rich literary tradition of West Virginia and Pocahontas culture. Sponsored by Hillsboro Library Friends.







