



Appalachian Beekeeping Collective Voted Best Honey in WV

Hinton, W.Va., (Hinton News) – The Appalachian Beekeeping Collective (ABC), a project of the non-profit Appalachian Headwaters, was recently voted as the “Best Honey in West Virginia” in West Virginia Living magazine’s 2022 “Best of West Virginia” contest.

Since its creation in 2017, Appalachian Beekeeping Collective has helped hundreds of people in distressed Appalachian counties learn how to raise bees, harvest honey and sell their products in an environmentally responsible way. Terri J. Giles, a Hinton native who returned home for this venture, has been involved from the beginning and sees the multiple benefits of this social enterprise.

Two years ago, ABC launched its sales website – ABCHoney.org – to sell the natural honey its beekeepers have harvested from their 850 hives. The ABCHoney.org website

features a selection of ABC honey in addition to products from partners Benko Glass, J.D. Dickinson Salt, Walter Hyleck pottery, and Rishi teas.

“When you shop with us, you support beekeepers, bees and environmental programs that help restore ecosystems in Central Appalachia,” said Giles. “All proceeds are invested back into the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective to expand our geographic reach, assisting more people, communities and the environment.”

Giles indicated that Central Appalachia is an ideal location for natural beekeeping, and honey produced from this region is distinct from other brands. “The abundance of diverse forest and undeveloped land in our region helps keep our bees healthy,” she said. “Our native Appalachian forests host an abundance of nectar-rich species such as tulip poplar, black locust, sourwood, and wild-



flowers. Most agricultural land with our hives are devoted to livestock, meaning that much of the area is covered is excellent bee forage, like clover.”

“Appalachia Beekeeping Collective has also grown into a thriving jobs program in West Virginia and Southwest Virginia that is producing natural honey that is free from pesticides and pollution,” said Giles.

Vape shop employee arrested on drug charges



Ibrahim Saleh Alkaati

Rebecca Stalnaker

One drug-related arrest led to another after an investigation from local law enforcement. After an officer arrested the initial perpetrator, an investigation allegedly revealed communication between that person and the vape shop located at 211 Main Street.

According to the criminal complaint, officers went to the aforementioned shop on December 10 in reference to an ongoing investigation. Upon arrival, they spoke to Ibrahim Saleh Alkaati, 24, of Hinton, who worked in the shop and resided on the premises. The complaint goes on to say that Alkaati gave the officers consent to search the premises, which

led to the alleged discovery of a “green leafy substance” consistent with marijuana.

During the search, officers also found what the criminal complaint describes as “multiple candy bars that appeared to include psychedelic mushrooms.” Additionally, officers reportedly found several packages with counterfeit Delta 8 stickers, with the contents supposedly containing an illegal amount of THC. A large amount of cash was also found in Alkaati’s personal effects.

After further investigation and questioning, officers arrested Alkaati. As of the time of writing, Alkaati resides in Southern Regional Jail with a bail amount of \$25,000.

Alderson’s Store celebrates 135 years of operation

Rebecca Stalnaker

ALDERSON (Hinton News) - Alderson is home to what is considered the oldest, continuously operating, family-owned and operated retail store in the state, Alderson’s Store. This year, the establishment is celebrating 135 years of business.

According to current General Manager Sarah Alderson, the story of Alderson’s began with her great-grandfather, John Marshall Alderson II, in 1887. At that time, he opened the store as J.M. Alderson General Merchandise. As the name implies, the business carried a wide variety of items. Sarah said, “It sold many of the necessities of the time, always with its customers’ needs and wants in mind.”

When the next generation’s John Marshall Alderson III began running the store in the 1920s, the merchandise changed a bit. While there were some of the items from before, the new owner turned his attention to women’s clothing.

Sarah stated, “My grandfather, John Marshall Alderson III, began to turn it into a women’s clothing store with some general store holdovers in the 1920s, because he saw that as the way of the future and what his customers were wanting. It remained very successful as such for much of the 20th century.”

J.M. Alderson III passed away in 1986, when the store was only a month shy of its 100th birthday. His son, John Marshall Alderson IV,

Sarah’s father, inherited the business at this time. Sarah spoke about this juncture in the store’s history saying, “He was still working full-time in his insurance career but did not want to close the store. Some of my grandfather’s longtime employees kept it going in the interim. And then my mother, Betty Alderson, stepped in and started helping it evolve again to suit the times and the customers.

“Today, we’ve come back to our roots of selling a little bit of everything for everyone. The fourth generation continues to diversify what we sell and make it a kind of modern general store,” said Sarah.

An historical icon and staple, Alderson’s Store has continued to operate through many dire situations. Sarah noted, “So far, we’ve survived two world wars, a flu pandemic, the stock market crash and the Great Depression, our first building burning to the ground, various recessions, the COVID-19 pandemic and more. Our generation hopes to keep it going as long as we can, and maybe even the next generation could help it to continue.”

In addition to starting this successful business, the Alderson family is steeped in local history.

“Alderson’s Store — officially J.M. Alderson General Merchandise LLC — is a major part of the history of the town of Alderson. It was started, and is still run, by direct descendants of Elder



Alderson’s Store has a wide selection of West Virginia-made arts and crafts including glassware and pottery. Photo by Tia Mattox

John Alderson, the frontier minister who settled the town in 1777. He also started the oldest Baptist church west of the Alleghenies, the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church, and the family has been starting and running businesses ever since — including the town’s first ferry, an early mill, a bank, a college, another general store and more.” Sarah stated.

Part of the store’s rich history is not only the building that holds the store but also the surrounding buildings. According to Sarah, they hope to save another building in the historic district that has ties to their history. She said, “It’s a quaint cottage-style building that historians and architects have confirmed is likely the

oldest commercial building still standing in Alderson. It was once owned by our great-grandfather, who started the store. When our original building burned to the ground in 1930, he moved that other little building to our former lot and began to build our current building in its place.”

The building that now houses Alderson’s Store was designed by the renowned West Virginia architect Walter Martens, who also designed the Governor’s Mansion in Charleston. The Alderson building was completed in 1932 and is considered a “pristine example of Art Deco architecture,” said Sarah.

Sarah spoke about her favorite things about the

store. “One of my favorite things about the store, besides its history, is really the customers. They are literally what keeps us going,” she said. “To my granddaddy, customer service was key. My mom loved talking with customers and watching them discover and enjoy the merchandise and the displays she created. And now I find myself doing many of the things they did.”

The store holds a multitude of memories spanning decades. Sarah said she and her siblings hold a great many memories from growing up in the store including their first jobs. Even so, it is the memories of longtime customers she loves to hear.

“What’s even more special is hearing all the memories that customers of all ages share with me now. It makes me thoroughly realize and appreciate what an important role the store has played in our community. And those are memories that would be great to share for future generations. In fact, most of my career for much of my life has involved writing. Maybe there’s a book in there somewhere to be written about the legacy of this wonderful little store in a town called Alderson, West Virginia.”

As part of Alderson’s Store’s ongoing community-related efforts, they hold an annual holiday book drive. According to Sarah, they got the idea for the book drive from their ever-growing collection of books connected to or about

West Virginia, written by or illustrated by a West Virginian.

She said, “Our children’s books happen to be some of the most popular, and we thought it would be great to make sure our local elementary school students could each get a new one for Christmas. We truly believe in fostering a love of books and reading at a young age, particularly because our mother, Betty Alderson, did that for us.”

The store commits to collecting approximately 650 books each year. According to Sarah, the community is always generous in helping them reach their goals. This year, they need 289 more books to meet their goal.

“The book drive also gives back and helps others in several other ways. We buy books primarily from West Virginia publishers, distributors and authors. So, this project not only helps local children and schools, but it also benefits West Virginia small businesses, writers, artists and more, while also promoting our state. And it shows children that they could be writers and illustrators or work in related careers as well.” Sarah said.

For more information about the history of Alderson’s Store or the book drive, visit the store’s Facebook page or stop by for a visit. The store is located at 320 Monroe Street South, Alderson, WV 24910. To reach Alderson’s Store, call 304-445-2851 or email aldersonsstore@gmail.com.



Concord University holds its 24th fall commencement

ATHENS, W.Va. – (Hinton News) - Concord University held the 24th Fall Commencement in the main gym of the Leslie R. and Ruby Webb Carter Center during three ceremonies on two days: master's degree candidates were hooded on Friday, December 9 at 6 p.m. and candidates for undergraduate degrees were honored on Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m. and noon.

The valedictorian for fall 2022 is Madison Darby Taylor of Beckley, West Virginia. Taylor graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a concentration in pre-professional studies. She addressed her class in the noon ceremony.

CU's Honors Program had one graduate this fall: Emily Grace Lewis of Charleston, West Virginia. Lewis graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Pre-Physician's Assistant/Physical Therapy and a minor in Neuroscience and Sports Medicine.

The Fall 2022 class includes 168 candidates for graduation. Of those, 139 are from West Virginia. Three graduates are from other countries: the United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, and Nigeria. There are graduates representing 14 states: West Virginia, Virginia, Utah, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, Minnesota, Maryland, Indiana, Florida, and California.

Candidates for graduation participated in a ceremony based on their degree. In the December 9 ceremony, graduates received the following degrees: Master of Business Administration; Master of Education; Master of Social Work; Master of Arts in Teaching; and Master of Arts in Health Promotion.

In the December 10 ceremonies, graduates received the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Tourism Management; Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and Graphic Design; Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art; Bachelor of Science in Psychology; Bachelor of Science in Sociology; Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Bachelor of Science in Biology; Bachelor of Science in Education; Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences; Bachelor of Arts in English; Bachelor of Arts in History; Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Bachelor of Science in Chemistry; Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geosciences; and Regents Bachelor of Arts.

Dr. Kendra Boggess, President, issued the welcome and offered remarks during the ceremonies, and Mr. David Barnette, chair of CU's Board of Governors also addressed graduates at the undergraduate degree ceremonies. Dr. Susan Robinett, professor of business, served as Grand Marshal. The candidates were presented to the president by Dr. Edward W. Huffstetler, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Kathryn Liptak, Associate Provost and Dean of the College of Professional and Liberal Studies, assisted Dr. Boggess with the hooding ceremonies for the master's degree candidates.

The ceremonies were recorded and a commemorative jump drive or DVD of the recording are available to purchase for \$20. Visit the website here for a link. To view the recordings of all ceremonies, visit concord.edu/graduation.

MASTER'S CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

WEST VIRGINIA

Athens: Chloe Curry Jones, Master of Education

Beckley: Eric John Floresca, Master of Business Administration; Kel Grant, Master of Social Work; Kristi Anne McCormick, Master of Business Administration

Beverly: Aimee Jolene Cardot, Master of Social Work

Bluefield: Adam Dixon, Master of Education; Justin Lightfoot, Master of Education; Kristen Williams, Master of Social Work

Bomont: Trevor Armes, Master of Arts in Health Promotion

Buckhannon: Michelle Caynor, Master of Social Work

Charleston: Chelsie Farmer, Master of Social Work; Makaylah Jamelle Keith, Master of Social Work

Crab Orchard: Kasey Rayne Daniels, Master of Social Work

Craigsville: Natasha Tuck-

er, Master of Social Work

Fairmont: Alexandria Hamler, Master of Social Work

Fayetteville: Myrissa Grose, Master of Social Work; Jamie Hogan, Master of Business Administration

Gap Mills: Erica Jo Brownfield, Master of Social Work

Hewett: Tamara Nichols, Master of Social Work

Hurricane: Amber Bernard, Master of Social Work; Heather Nicole Bumgarner, Master of Social Work; Katelynn Gatens, Master of Social Work; Rachel Lynn Sumner, Master of Social Work

Lerona: Katelyn Marie Lester, Master of Arts in Teaching (English 5-Adult)

Lester: Ashley Justus, Master of Social Work

Lewisburg: Mackenzie Emma Taylor, Master of Social Work

Mount Hope: Lauren P. Boyd, Master of Social Work

Newburg: Meegan Cordero, Master of Social Work

Peterstown: Katherine Mann, Master of Education

Princeton: Logan Matthew Angell, Master of Business Administration; Shyann Carr, Master of Education; Brittany Alexis Rose Cottle, Master of Education; Nicholas Drugish, Master of Education; Alicia McClaugherty Hypes, Master of Education; Heather Michelle Punturi, Master of Education; Matthew V. Thomas, Master of Education

Robson: Misty L. Woodard, Master of Social Work

Rock: Loressa Bouldin, Master of Education

Scott Depot: Michelle R. Vaughan, Master of Social Work

Saint Albans: Allison Johnson, Master of Social Work

Union: Adam Neel, Master of Education

Weston: Shamae Jones, Master of Social Work

Williamstown: Stephanie Shawver, Master of Social Work

Winfield: Charity Matney, Master of Social Work; Bret Rorabaugh, Master of Arts in Health Promotion

Wheeling: Nabulungi Cochran, Master or Social Work

OUT-OF-STATE

Ashland, KY: Ashley Jackson, Master of Social Work

Bluefield, VA: Kaitlyn Paige Hardy, Master of Education; Nathan Lawson, Master of Education

Christiansburg, VA: Keith Taylor, Master of Education

Clifton Forge, VA: Dajor Davenport, Master of Arts in Health Promotion

Moore, OK: Tania Nunez, Master of Social Work

Narrows, VA: Rachel Riggs, Master of Education; Denise Ward, Master of Education

Norristown, PA: Rashon Lusane, Master of Arts in Health Promotion

Pembroke, VA: Jacob Meadows, Master of Education

Penrose, CO: Danielle Tye, Master of Social Work

Rutland, OH: Breana D. Hemsley, Master of Social Work

Staunton, VA: Alexis Jordan Ferry, Master of Social Work; Patricia Pleasants Shifflett, Master of Social Work

Troutville, VA: Ty Maust, Master of Business Administration

Wappingers Falls, NY: Justin Voss, Master of Social Work

West Valley City, UT: Misty Fannesbeck, Master of Social Work

Winterville, NC: Aerial LaNee Clay, Master of Social Work

UNDERGRADUATE CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

WEST VIRGINIA

Alderson: Skyler Nekole McCallister, Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Athens: Amanda Lester, Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art; Andrew William Jennings, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Avondale: Brittany Rowe, Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Ballard: Kassidy Shae Hunt, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Beaver: Jonathan Tanner Odell, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Eric Shrewsbury, Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Beckley: Grace Kathryn Gallinger, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (Biochemistry); Caitlin Hilton, Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Alexis Johnson, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; Amanda Morgan, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Jonathan



Tanner Odell, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Darien Salazar, Bachelor of Arts in History; Madison Taylor, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Pre-Professional); Rachel M. White, Bachelor of Arts in History

Bluefield: Joseph Barton, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (Biochemistry); Madison Burnette, Bachelor of Science in Psychology; Megan Lavake, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Bruno Lijoi, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Harry McCoy, Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Social Work; David Lee Smith, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Kiersten Nichelle Thomason, Bachelor of Arts in Advertising/Graphic Design, Studio Art; Melissa Woolwine, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Bradley: Alexis B. Foster, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geosciences

Charleston: Emily Grace Lewis, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Pre-Physician's Assistant/Physical Therapy)

Coal City: Christopher Thomas Bolen, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Molecular)

Cowen: Alisha Bragg, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Craigsville: Brandon Bleigh, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Cross Lanes: Joshua Adkins, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Pre-Physical Therapy)

Danese: Donna Downes-Moore, Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Davisville: Jasmine Marie Seebaugh, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Dingess: Audrey Adkins, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Edmond: Daniel Salisbury, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Fairdale: Jamie Wood, Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Frankford: Nicholas B. McClung, Bachelor of Arts in History

Given: Courtney Edwards, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geosciences

Glen Fork: Clayton Brown, Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Glenville: Kylie Shuff, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Herndon: Taylor McKinney, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Hinton: Ayana Rozelle Graves, Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Iaeger: Walter L. Newcomb, II, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Logan: Sydney Nicole Marcum, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Maxwelton: Lisa Burke, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Meadow Bridge: Shauna Richmond, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Pre-Professional); William David Woods, Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Tourism Management

Moorefield: Donathon Kesner, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Mount Hope: Madison Wingrove, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

Oak Hill: Kyra Arrington, Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Tristan Wayne Bragg, Bachelor of Science in Sociology; Chasity Ceara Humphrey, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Lindsey Rae Lawhorn, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Keith Richardson, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Dakota Shreve, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Organismal and Field); Broderick McDonald, Bachelor of Science in Biology

Panther: Emily Faith Bailey, Bachelor of Arts in English

Peterstown: Amanda Beth Coe, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; Baylee Davis, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Megan Elizabeth Miller, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; Connor Moore, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Pineville: Michael Eugene Grove, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Pre-Physician's Assistant/Physical Therapy)

Princeton: Hannah Cooke,

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Danielle Damewood, Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Ashley Diane King, Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Savannah Rae Reynolds, Bachelor of Science in Sociology; Carmen Elise Thornton, Bachelor of Science in Sociology; Mary Kate Williams, Bachelor of Science in Biology (Pre-Physician's Assistant/Physical Therapy); Samuel B. Cochran, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education; Music Pre-K – Adult; Alisha Marie Lane, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education; Ewilda J. Bay, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Lucinda Rae Gonderman, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Peter St. Fleur, Regents Bachelor of Arts; Amanda Kay Wyatt-Posey, Regents Bachelor of Arts; James Lamb, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Ridgeley: Caleb W. Hare, Bachelor of Arts in Advertising/Graphic Design

Rio: Jasmine Abrell, Bachelor of Science in Biology

Scarbro: Kaelea Smith, Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Sociology

Shady Spring: Adrianna Marie Hall, Bachelor of Science Biology (Pre-Physician's Assistant/Physical Therapy); Blaze Williams, Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art; Sophia: Charles Pittman, Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art

Welch: Robert Riggs, Bachelor of Arts in History

White Sulphur Springs: Taren Winnings, Regents Bachelor of Arts

OUT-OF-STATE

Baltimore, MD: Davon Cornell Williams, Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Burlington, KY: Sarah Begley, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Christiansburg, VA: Davis William Roberson, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (Social Studies)

Danville, VA: Mikayah Pulliam, Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Eagle Rock, VA: Maggie Rae Thompson, Bachelor of Science in Health Science (Pre-Professional)

Fontana, CA: Joshua Ramos, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Exercise Science)

Garden Grove, CA: Saul Robles, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Matthews, NC: Zion Emanuel Barnett, Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Narrows, VA: Hannah Leigh Shuff, Bachelor of Science in Education (Special Education, Multi-categorical)

Orlando, FL: Juan Fortique, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Plainfield, IN: Melinda Anne Goda, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Riner, VA: Daniel Culverwell, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Exercise Science)

Roanoke, VA: Myles Poin-dexter, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Rock Hill, SC: Terrance Lee Holland, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Sebring, FL: Thurlow Wilkins, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Sevierville, TN: Ashton Funderburg, Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication

Virginia Beach, VA: Marcus Saint, Regents Bachelor of Arts

Waterford Works, NJ: Edward Bober, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

INTERNATIONAL

Dominican Republic: Santiago—Eriberto Calderon, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Santo Domingo—Fernando Alberto Rodriguez Almonte, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Nigeria: Abuja—Victoria Atasie, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

United Kingdom: Barnsley, England—Ellie Louise Hawcroft, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Selby, North Yorkshire—Zoe Belding, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Exercise Science)

Letter to the Editor: Lori Osborn

Lori Osborn

I saw a billboard of a pregnant lady and it says, COVID vaccines are safe and recommended during pregnancy. The billboard is in Summers County, near Hinton on Rte.107. For your baby, you should get a COVID vaccine.

I am horrified that the West Virginia Prenatal Partnership and vaccinate.wv.gov is promoting COVID shots to healthy pregnant females. Not only has the COVID shot been implicated in many stillborn fetuses (https://totalityofevidence.com/dr-james-thorp/) but also in the sudden unexplained deaths of young adults and children.

I ask these organizations, What is their real goal? Possible death or Life? Is this billboard advertisement in this community because it is poorer than others and the overall female population of childbearing age is too?

All women who have been

pregnant know the restrictions placed on them on the use of medication because the medication may harm the baby. But the COVID vaccine is promoted! Just read the warnings and contraindications in a PDR, physician's drug reference and see the words, not to be used if you are planning to become pregnant, are pregnant or are breastfeeding. (https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/molecular-biology-expert-warns-mrna-covid-jabs-could-sterilize-an-entire-generation/ The COVID vaccines did not undergo the rigorous clinical trials and they certainly have not been proven safe, no matter what the government and its bureaucracy says.

I urge these two organizations to remove all advertisements that promote this to women of childbearing age. There are better ways to promote healthy pregnancies.

Bobcats score big

Rebecca Stalnaker

The Summers County Bobcats rode a wave of victory in recent games.

The Lady Bobcats won both Vision Homes International games defeating Frankford and Hampshire, respectively. In the Frankford game, the score was 71-66. Sully Pivont scored 20 points and was named MVP. The team once again brought home the victory against Hampshire with a final score of 60-53. Gracie Harvey was named MVP, scoring 15 points. On Dec. 16 and 17, the Lady Bobcats competed in the Rogers Oil Tournament. Their next game is against Bluefield on Dec. 22.

In addition to the double wins for the Lady Bobcats, the boy's basketball team won their first game of the season. Facing off against Midland Trail on their home court, the Bobcats ended the game with a 49-47 score. The team made an incredible comeback

from an 11-point deficit at the half. Cruz Testerman scored 15 points, which included two vital free throws, and Brandon Issac added 10. The Bobcats will next faceoff against Man High School in an at-home game on Dec. 27.

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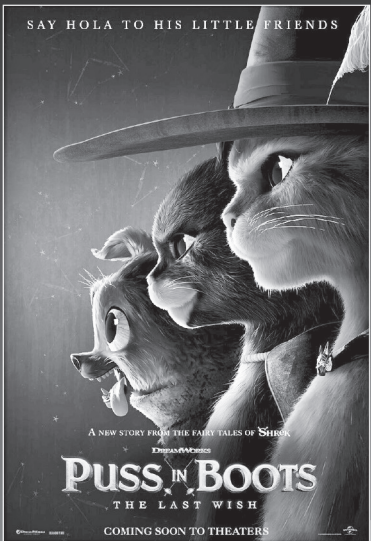
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Potts Creek Tree Farm continues to offer Christmas trees

If you're driving along Waiteville Road on the southern side of Peter's Mountain, you'll most likely pass a big, red firetruck. That firetruck sits near the west entrance of the Potts Creek Tree Farm, LLC, and has become their business's mascot. The farm includes a pond and 38 acres of evergreen trees that sit on a 130-acre tract owned by the LLC. It's been in business since 2011, providing Christmas trees to wholesalers, but this year is different. Potts Creek Tree Farm is now open to the public. Business partners, Derick Proctor and Darla Miller decided on a "once price fits all" strategy to keep things simple. Every harvested tree (with some exceptions), regardless of the height, costs sixty-five dollars, which includes baling the tree and carrying it to the buyer's vehicle.

Proctor bought the property in 2011 and began to make his dream a reality by planting the first trees on the farm. He has since retired from law and divides his time between

Clearwater, Florida, and Waiteville, West Virginia, having fallen in love with the rural community. Miller is a lifetime resident of Monroe County and currently resides in Zenith. What was once playful banter about going into the Christmas tree business is now a partnership between the two.

Selling live balled trees that may be planted after Christmas was considered, but there's a lot of additional paperwork and permits required before Potts Creek may offer that option. They're taking a "wait and see" approach to determine if there's a market for converting used Christmas trees into outdoor evergreens. Darla agreed that it would be better for the trees and the environment if a tree could be repurposed after the holidays. Customer demand will drive whether or not that option is offered.

In addition to growing and selling Christmas trees, Darla has big plans for the development of Potts Creek Tree Farm. "We're going to have other

things there, besides the trees themselves for people who don't buy a live tree. We're going to have primitives, Christmas crafts, live wreaths and slags. We'll have centerpieces, lots of decorations. We're going to have food, a fire pit, and a photographer. A lot of different activities planned beyond the trees."

Most of the primitive items for the shop are made by Darla and her mother, including some antiques that have been repurposed. Some local artisans have some displays in the store as well including hand-crocheted items, leather earrings, and hand-painted Christmas ornaments to name a few, but the shop isn't the only extra attraction. She has several ideas for the near future including creating a wedding venue, having seasonal pumpkins, and other activities throughout the year. This is because she sees the farm as more than a business but as an opportunity to help and support her community.

Darla said, "Even if



Inside of the Potts Creek Tree Farm Shop

you're not in the market for a real Christmas tree, we still welcome you to come out, walk around and have hot chocolate. Kinda take in what we have put so much work into offer for the community, take pictures with your family. I think life is just hard and maybe it's me and maybe I'm being naive, but I want happiness for people at the holidays and if people can come out and

walk around and just take in some of the sights and enjoy the day, I would be all right with that."

Darla has worked in a law office in Union for almost 20 years and expects to retire from there in the coming years. In the meantime, she spends her free hours learning about the Christmas tree business, planting, harvesting, clearing, and challenges such as insects, diseases,

and weather. A Christmas tree takes about seven to ten years of growth to be ready for harvesting, so there's just enough time to put this spring's seedlings into the ground and have them ready for Darla's retirement when she can then make her passion her full-time job.

To learn more about the Potts Creek Tree Farm, you may visit their Facebook page.

The Ministry Place Annual 200 Bag Christmas Groceries Giveaway

The Ministry Place, located at 221 Temple Street, Hinton, WV, will be hosting its Annual 200 Bag Christmas Groceries Giveaway on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, from 3:00

p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to come and be blessed with the fixings for your Christmas Meal. For questions, please call Pastor Robbie Rodes at 304-466-8200.



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
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Remaining Christmas events

The Ministry Place Annual 200 Bag Christmas Groceries Giveaway: Dec. 21 between 3 and 6 p.m. at 221 Temple Street, Hinton.

Free Christmas Movie at the Ritz: Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Ritz Theater.
*If you would like to add an event to this list, email news@hintonnews.com

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- Dec. 17th 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Community Obituaries



**Pauline
Harvey Meadows
MEADOWS**

Pauline Harvey Meadows, 89, of Hinton, passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at Main Street Care, following a long illness.

Born, March 23, 1933, in Hinton, she was the daughter of the late Ray Ellsworth and Ella Jane Cox Farley.

Pauline graduated from Hinton High School, 1951, and Roanoke Business Col-

lege in 1953. She retired from G. C. Murphy Company, where she was an Auditor for the Eastern Region of the United States. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, and the Business and Professional Women's Club, where she was chosen as Woman of the Year for 2003-2004. She was a former board member of the Senior Citizen's Center and was a member of the Summers County Democratic Women.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Norman and Marcus Farley; two sisters, Carol Sue Waddell and Janice Meador; four step-sons, Danny and Teddy Mansfield, Phillip Harvey, and Stephen Meadows; and a step-grandchild, Jerry Dean (J.D.) Parker, II; her first husband, Basil Green Harvey; and her second husband, Ruehl Meadows.

Those left to cherish her memory include two step-sons, Jack Harvey (Cathy) of Nimitz, and Tom Harvey of Forest Hill; four step-daughters, Judy

Blevins (Ritchie), of Huntington, Beverly Harvey of Forest Hill, Martha Estes and Mary Nichols (Bob) both of Jumping Branch; adopted daughter, Sommer Carter (Jeff) of Caldwell; a brother, Ronald Farley (Patty) of Bonita Springs, FL; and eight step-grandchildren, Jackson, Bailey, Ethan, and Kennedy Carter, Jayden and Jordan Parker, Corey and Joshua Harvey also survive.

Funeral Service was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 12 noon, at Pivont Funeral Chapel, with Pastor Butch Honaker officiating. Burial followed at the Lilly-Crews Cemetery, at Nimble Creek, WV. Friends could call from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. prior to service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice of Southern WV.

Family served as pallbearers.

Online condolences at www.pivontfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Pivont Funeral Home, Hinton, WV.



**Marissa Erin
Mann-Bennett**

MANN-BENNETT

Marissa Erin Mann-Bennett, 27, of Alderson, passed away November 25, 2022.

Born August 1, 1995, at Ronceverte, she is a daughter of Steven Andrew Bennett and Lisha Erin Mann.

Marissa was a member of the River of Life Church in Alderson and was em-

ployed by The Greenbrier Hotel.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Ronald Bennett and Johnny and Geneva Mann.

Survivors include her children, who were her whole life, Octavia Rayne, Embers Storm, Zoey Jane, Maylein Dane, and Ashton Andrew; her mother, Lisha Erin Mann (Jeff Meador) of Hinton; father, Steven Andrew Bennett of Renick; a sister, Makala Fox (Chris) of Hinton; brothers, Hunter Webb of White Sulphur Springs and Casey Bennett and fiancée, Deana, of Helena, MT; her grandmother, Eva Bennett of Muddy Creek Mountain; and a great-grandmother, Helen Mann of Ronceverte. Also surviving are six nephews and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Funeral service was 2

p.m. Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, with Pastors Anthony Carter and Youel Altizer officiating. Burial followed in McLean Cemetery, Ronceverte.

A visitation was 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations of sympathy be made in Marissa Mann-Bennett's name to the trust fund at the Bank of Monroe in Lewisburg.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Memories of the Past: Christmas as I knew it

Lisa Abshire

I can't remember a time as I was growing up when Christmas wasn't a wonderful blur of activity. Decorations hung on every available space my Momma could find, and she was always wrapping presents and sticking them anywhere they would fit. The excitement was almost more than my little pre-teen heart could bear.

At that point in my life, Christmas was all about the presents for me. Maybe a little bit about the candy too! My parents spoiled me beyond anything I could deserve, and every year I would have a pile of presents bigger than I could comprehend. Little did I know the magic was the love my parents were putting into making sure I wasn't disappointed on Christmas morning.

My Dad and I had a tradition of picking one present and trying to rub a hole in it by rubbing the same spot in the paper every day. My Mom became wise to our plan, however. We finally made it through one year on December 23 but much to our chagrin, Mom had double-wrapped it, and all we found was another layer of paper. We laughed

about that for many years.

At my Granny's, Christmas would be in full swing by now. Her favorite bird ornament would be chirping away in the tree while candy-making was commencing in the kitchen. I hated the chirping bird secretly, but what I wouldn't give right now to see that tree again. It still lives very vividly in my mind's eye; an angel was always on top, and it had lots of multi-colored lights. Old Saint Nick would be somewhere on the tree and lots of plastic candy-shaped ornaments.

In the kitchen, coconut and peanut butter balls would cover every available surface while an apple-sauce cake and a gumdrop cake baked. Talk about delicious. There was always enough to send a bucket home with everyone. The house where I now reside would be full of my Dad's family every holiday season. Family members came in from various parts of West Virginia and other states. I remember my Mom having Aunt Jamie and Uncle Cecil Hodge bring a toy baby carriage down from Marlinton because she couldn't find one locally for me. I remember taking that thing everywhere with me.



Aunt Jamie also brought me a gift from her and Uncle Cecil. A bottle of eau de toilette water for little girls. I remember crying because I thought it was toilet water. I refused to try it, and when Mom wasn't looking, I poured it out. I couldn't understand why anyone would get me a gift out of a toilet. Mom had a terrible time convincing me it was perfume.

It sure makes me smile to remember that now. So many fond memories and traditions, all the while my kids and I strive to add new ones each year. I think we make our ancestors proud. Whatever traditions and practices you carry through this year, I hope it's your best holiday season ever.

Support available for those with depression and mood disorders

With the upcoming winter months and approaching holidays, there is typically an increase in the number of people touched by depression. Additionally, up to 64% of those already struggling with a mood disorder report that this time of year can be especially difficult.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance West Virginia (DBSA WV) reminds you that they are here to offer hope, help, education and support. All services are free and offered by peers who have been there and can help.

For more information, go to www.dbsawv.org.

HAPPY Holidays!
from
MHC
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Wishing All Of Our Patients Health And Happiness, This Holiday Season!

Union 200 Health Center Drive, Union, WV 304-772-3064	Peterstown 2869 Seneca Trail South, Peterstown, WV 304-753-4336
Forest Hill 180 Old Schoolhouse Rd., Forest Hill, WV 304-466-1152	Craig County, VA 226 Market Street, New Castle, VA 540-864-6390
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Hinton lights up for Christmas



Santa is coming to town



Visit with the gingerbread folks

Hinton provides an amazing display of lights, be sure to get out and take some photos under the beautiful Christmas decorations. The season is quickly lights!



Home is where the heart is



Watch out for the snowman

Wishes merry, wishes bright,
friendship, harmony, love and light...

Hope this holiday season delivers all the
best to you and your loved ones!

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the Complete Package

Merry Christmas, and thanks for giving
us so much to be grateful for this year!


 **Robert Dunlap
& Associates**
208 Main Street, Beckley, WV
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Happy Holiday Season

Best Wishes for Peace and Joy
this Holiday Season and a New Year of
Health, Happiness, and Prosperity

Roberta "Bobbi" Sorg

**Merry
Christmas
And A
Prosperous
New Year!**

From the Staff of
*Pivont
Funeral Home*



Hope It's
Blessed.
Hope It's
Bright.

At this holy time, we hope the warmth of God's love and sacrifice
fills your heart with joy and meaning. We're blessed to be here, and
we look forward to sharing this Christmas with all of you.

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Christmas**

From the staff of
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FOR THE INFORMED SUMMERS COUNTRY SINCE 1977





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you a
warm
& cozy
Christmas

We hope your heart is touched by
that special feeling of contentment only
the holiday season can bring.

*We're filled with gratitude for the support this
community has shown us throughout the year, and we
wish you the best and brightest of holidays!*

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Bobbie Ratliff & Beckley Auto Mall



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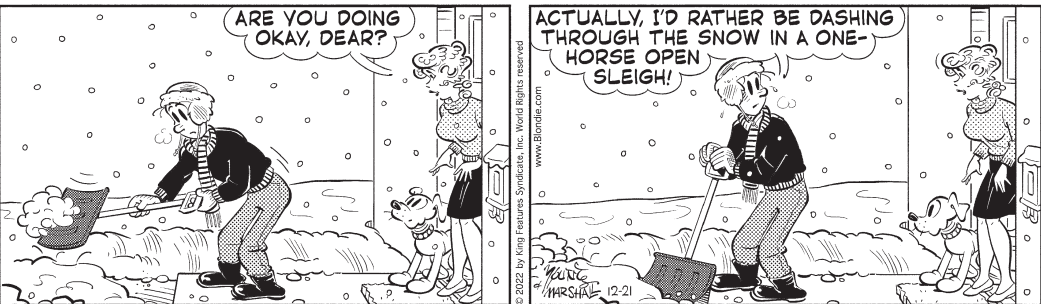


ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

Beetle Bailey



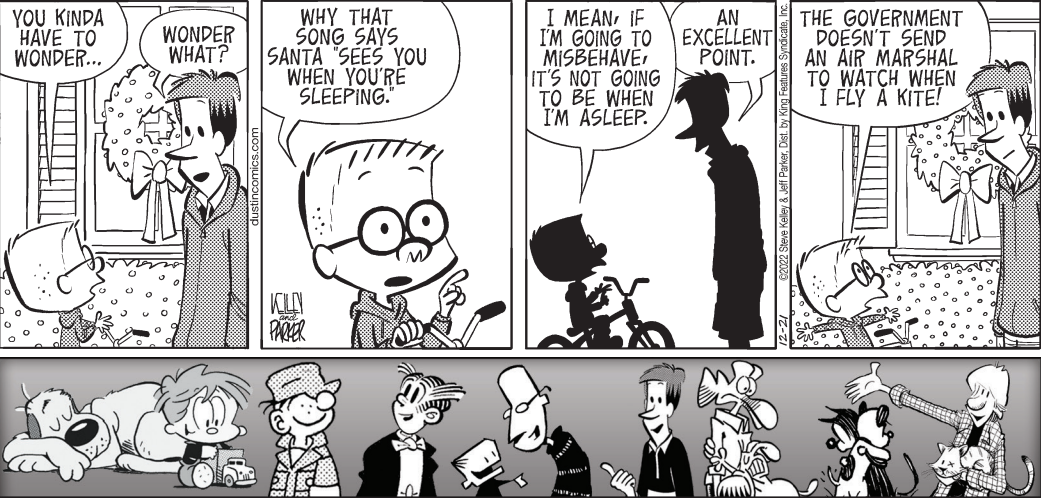
Blondie



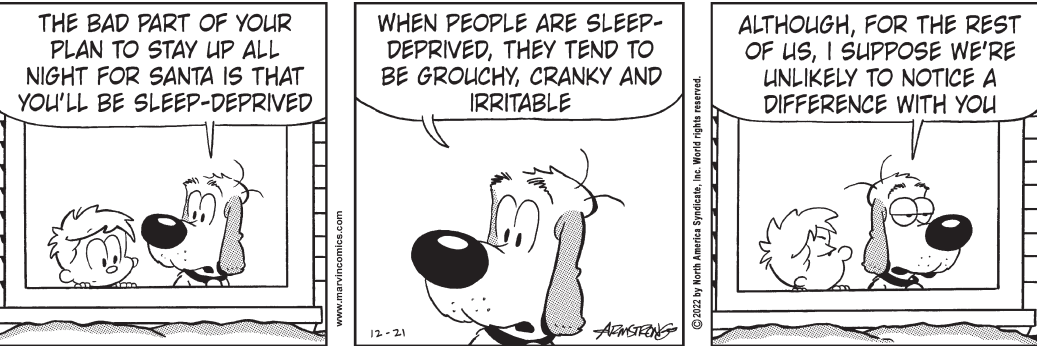
Daddy Daze



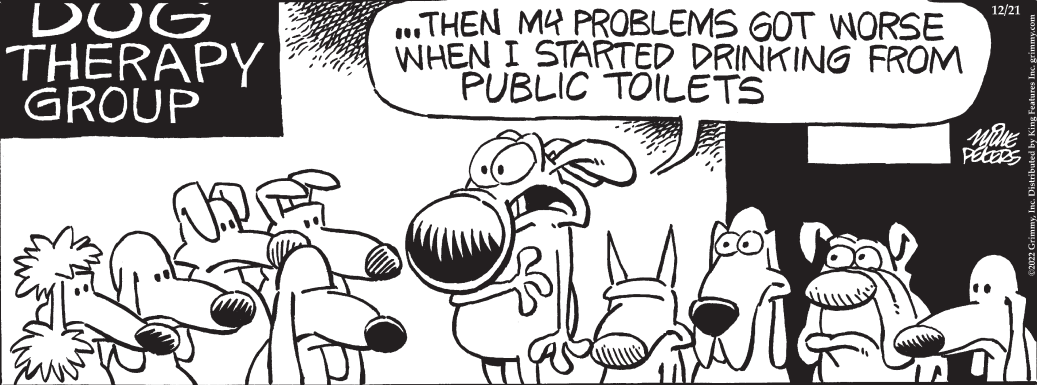
Dustin



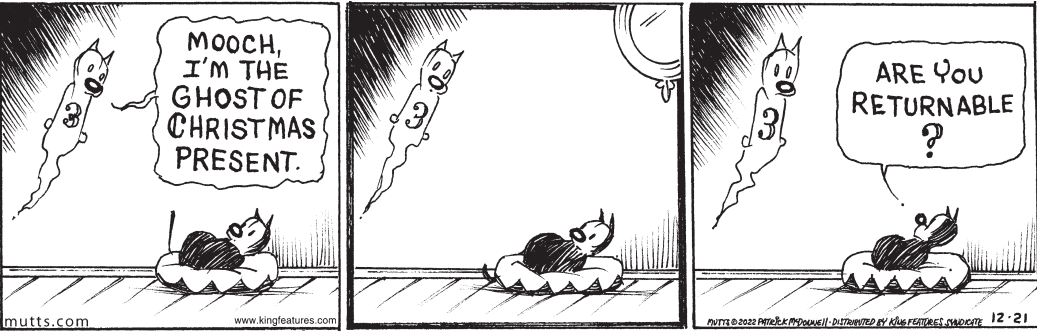
Marvin



Mother Goose and Grim



Mutts



Zits



ROYAL STARS HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

MOON ALERT: After 2:30 a.m. EST today, there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022:

You are generous, caring and compassionate. You have ideals, and you are willing to fight for them. People are charmed by you. This is a wonderful year to socialize and enjoy life. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Old friends may reappear to rekindle relationships.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

4★ Today you are high-viz because the Sun has moved to the top of your chart. This influence will continue for four weeks. It symbolizes that you are in the Sun's spotlight, and this light is flattering! This gives you an advantage because others are impressed with you. Tonight: Travel plans?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

4★ Starting today, your sense of adventure is heightened. You might make travel plans because you want to get outta Dodge. This urge to travel and seek adventure will last for the next four weeks. Romance with someone "different" might begin. Tonight:

Check banking details.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

3★ Today your focus turns to debt, shared property, inheritances, and the wealth and resources of a partner. This focus will continue for the next four weeks. It also will enhance your ability to attract money to you or to get a loan or a mortgage. Ka-ching! Tonight: Listen.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

4★ Today the Sun moves opposite your sign to stay for the next four weeks. This means you will need more sleep. It also means you have more objectivity, which will allow you to get a better understanding of your closest

relationships. Tonight: Get organized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

3★ The Sun changes signs today, which will inspire you to work hard. Suddenly, not only do you want to work hard, you want to work efficiently to make every action count. This new higher standard will be something that you will embrace for the next four weeks. "Hello, world!" Tonight: Relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

4★ Once a year, the Sun enters the part of your chart that governs play, recreation, social outings, vacations, sports and fun activities with kids. This is what's happening today, which means you want to have fun! (This lovely influence will last for four weeks.) Tonight: Home and family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

3★ Today you might feel a shift of focus to home, family and your private life. In fact, this focus will last for the next four weeks. You might be more involved with a parent. Home repairs and redecorating projects will be on your list. (Librarians care about the appearance of their surroundings.) Tonight: Learn something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

4★ Starting today, your daily pace will accelerate! Suddenly, you've got things to do, places to go and people to see! This high-energy window will last for four weeks. (Fear not; it will be "fun busy.") Enjoy talking to siblings, relatives and neighbors, plus reading and writing more than usual. Tonight: Do paperwork.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

3★ "Show me the money!" You will find that your focus now turns to money, earnings and cash flow. Starting today, the Sun will travel through your Money House, which might trigger clever moneymaking ideas. It will also spark your desire to buy beautiful things. Tonight: Stay calm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

5★ Today the Sun enters your sign, where it will stay for the next four weeks. This can happen only once a year, and when it occurs, it gives you a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of year. You will also attract people and favorable circumstances to you.

Tonight: Quiet time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

3★ Today you might feel a desire to hide from the busyness around you. (This will last for four weeks.) Fear not, because you can actually use this opportunity to do research and work alone or behind the scenes. Some will have a secret love affair. Tonight: Set goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

4★ You will be more popular starting today! This increased popularity will last for the next four weeks, which is why you will enjoy hanging out with friends more than usual, as well as being involved in groups, clubs and associations. Tonight: You are noticed.

BORN TODAY

Actor Samuel L. Jackson (1948), actress Jane Fonda (1937), actor Kiefer Sutherland (1966)

Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

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SHEFFER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Read quickly
5 Bouquets -to-order co.
8 New news
12 Not pizzicato
13 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
14 Section
15 Competitor's demeanor
17 Frozen drink brand
18 Shoelace hole
19 Most recent
21 Wimbledon division
22 Attempt
23 Texter's chuckle
26 Lair
28 Beam
31 Nuptial vows
33 Speed (up)
35 Send forth
36 Tubular pasta

38 Phone bug
40 Sheeran and Harris
41 Surround
43 Greek cross
45 Kind of table
47 Congenital
51 "Like — out of ..."
52 Anonymous
54 Pudding variety
55 Mouths (Lat.)
56 401(k) relatives
57 "Cheers" order
58 Martini ingredient

59 Ripped (up)
DOWN
1 Stuffing herb
2 Early super-computer
3 Summit
4 Seasonal songs
5 Compliment
6 Spasm
7 Sword fights
8 Ideal example
9 Popular app
10 "— chic!"
11 Undo a dele

16 Nourish
20 Sounds of relief
23 Balm target
24 Poetic tribute
25 Glim expression
27 Mosquito barrier
29 Cover
30 UFO passengers
32 Brandy glass
34 Papal residence
37 Before
39 Glazier's sheet
42 Clear the windshield
44 Dark
45 Low-diet Theater award
48 Aviation prefix
49 Russian ruler
50 Being, to Brutus
53 "Exodus" hero

Solution time: 23 mins.

Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RVEOG
TMDIA
NAIDLN
IPMRIA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

We might want to hold off. I don't think I could even see the road.

THEY HAD TO DELAY LETTING CUSTOMERS TEST OUT THE NEW CARS BECAUSE OF THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)



Jumbles: SILKY ERROR BOTTOM PERSON
Answer: Unlike the golfers, the cat in the clubhouse wanted — MORE STROKES

SUDOKU PUZZLE

By Dave Green

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column, or box.

Concepts Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle:

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

Difficulty Level ★★★



Attorney General Morrissey asks FCC to put in place anti-robotext protections

CHARLESTON (WVDN) - West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey on Monday supported the Federal Communications Commission's proposal to help cut down on unwanted text messages by requiring mobile wireless providers to block texts from invalid, unassigned or unused numbers, and from numbers on a Do Not Originate (DNO) list.

"These texts and calls are not only annoying, they are used by bad actors to dupe people into different kinds of scams," Morrissey said. "The FCC's proposal, I

believe, will quell these intrusions and stop scammers from taking advantage of consumers." Attorneys general work to protect consumers in their states and have long been at the forefront of fighting to reduce the number of robocalls that plague Americans. But scammers are shifting to using robotexts to run the same scams. Just like spam calls, spam texts are an irritation and can result in people losing millions through phishing texts, imposter scams and links containing ransomware. In 2021, the FCC received more than

15,000 consumer complaints about unwanted texts and, in 2020, scammers stole more than \$86 million through frauds perpetrated via scam text messages. The bipartisan coalition of 51 attorneys general support the FCC's proposal to require mobile wireless providers to block unlawful text messages at the network level if they originate from fraudulent numbers. Further, the attorneys general are asking the FCC to continue pushing the wireless industry to develop call authentication technology for text messages so people

can know if the texts they receive are from spoofed numbers and law enforcement can investigate where these texts are coming from. Morrissey joined his counterparts from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,



Attorney General Patrick Morrissey

North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming in sending the letter to the FCC.

PSC Issues Interim Rates for Mountaineer and Hope Gas

CHARLESTON, WV (Hinton News) - The Public Service Commission today granted much lower interim purchased gas cost (PGC) rates for Mountaineer Gas Company and Hope Gas dba Dominion Energy West Virginia than the companies had requested.

Mountaineer Gas had originally requested a PCG of \$9.85 per Mcf for residential customers. Under the requested rate, the average residential customer using 13 Mcf per month would have received a \$197.93 winter monthly bill, an overall increase of 38%, as opposed to the current \$143.59 monthly bill that customer is now getting. The Commission granted a PCG of \$6.547 per Mcf which

will result in an average monthly residential bill of \$165.59, an overall increase of 15%.

Hope Gas had originally requested a PCG of \$9.87 per Mcf for residential customers. Under the requested rate, the average residential customer using 13 Mcf per month would have received a \$219.50 winter monthly bill, an overall increase of 62%, as opposed to the current \$135.51 monthly bill that customer is now getting. The Commission granted a PCG of \$5.856 per Mcf which will result in an average monthly residential bill of \$173.89, an overall increase of 28%.

The rates ordered today are interim rates. The Commission will

continue to review the price of natural gas and the impact of these interim rates and make further adjustments, if necessary, before setting final rates. These rates will be subject to a true-up in future 30C cases. Natural gas utilities are required to file PGC cases annually to reflect changes in the purchased gas component of their rates. The prices that natural gas utilities pay their suppliers for gas are not regulated by the Commission or the federal government, but are determined by the market. The Commission does examine the gas purchasing practices of gas utilities, reviews the reasonableness of requested increases and ensures the utility

did everything possible to obtain a reliable gas supply at the lowest possible market price. The PGC does not include any profit for the company.

Mountaineer and Hope/Dominion are the two largest natural gas utility companies in West Virginia, collectively serving almost 89% of all natural gas utility customers in the state. Additional information, including documents filed in these cases and the rate schedules for all classes of customers may be found on the Commission's website: www.psc.state.wv.us by referencing Case Nos. 22-0702-G-30C (Mountaineer) and 22-0715-G-30C (Hope/Dominion).

Community Obituaries



Dorothy Jean Boley BOLEY

Dorothy Jean Boley, 99, passed away, Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The daughter of the late Charles Frederick and Kathleen Brennan Boley, she was born on March 9, 1921, in Hinton, WV.

Dorothy Jean graduated from Hinton High School, class of 1941, Charleston School of Commerce, and retired from the Clerical Department of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad with 43 years of service.

She was a lifetime and the oldest member of the

First Baptist Church of Hinton. She was a member of the civic organizations within the community and active in their projects and events.

She was the last member of her immediate family and is survived by many cousins.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m., Friday, December 16, 2022, at the First Baptist Church, in Hinton, with Pastor Jeff Canterbury and Pastor Chris Campbell officiating. Burial followed at the Greenbrier Burial Park.

Visitation was from 11 a.m. until time of the service in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church.

Men of the church served as pallbearers.

Online condolences at www.pivontfuneralhome.com.

Pivont Funeral Home of Hinton, WV, is in charge of the arrangements.

Final winner in SMART529 20th anniversary scholarship sweepstakes announced

CHARLESTON (Hinton News) - On Wednesday, Dec. 7, State Treasurer Riley Moore represented a 2-year-old Huntington child and his family a \$20,000 SMART529 scholarship - the third and final winner in the program's 20th anniversary scholarship sweepstakes.

Owen Dennis, son of Rachel and David Dennis of Huntington, was presented his prize at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston. Owen will receive \$20,000 invested in a SMART529 Direct account.

"I was honored to present Owen and his family with a \$20,000 SMART529 scholarship to close out the program's 20th anniversary sweepstakes," Moore said. "It has been a joy to give three young West Virginians a head start on their college savings over these last few months. I encourage West Virginia families to visit www.SMART529.com

to learn how you can start saving for your child's future education expenses."

Dennis is the third of three winners in the SMART529 20th Anniversary Scholarship Sweepstakes. The scholarships were randomly awarded to one child each month from October through December.

"We were very excited to find out that Owen had won the \$20,000 scholarship sweepstakes," Owen Dennis' mother, Rachel Dennis, said. "As parents of two young boys, my husband and I are thankful to get an early start saving for their future."

In October, 11-month-old Penelope Scripture of Wheeling was the first winner of the SMART529 20th Anniversary Sweepstakes. Last month, 2-year-old Isabella Gautier of Shady Spring was the second child to win \$20,000 invested in a SMART529 Direct account.

THE HINTON NEWS

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned Campbell Woods, PLLC, Substitute Trustee by Notice of Substitution of Trustee which notice is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Commission of Summers West Virginia, and by Deed of Trust dated April 16, 2004, executed by Linda E. Foley to BB&T Collateral Service Corporation, Trustee, which deed of trust is of record in the Office of the Clerk of Summers County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 206 at Page 426, 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 will sell the real estate described in the Deed of Trust, at a public auction on **January 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.** to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of said County of Summers in Hinton, West Virginia, which real estate is more completely described as follows:

ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in SUMMERS County, West Virginia, known as:

PARCEL NO. 9.1, MAP NO. 16, TICKET NO. 10624, ACCOUNT NO. TO FOLLOW, BRIEF LEGAL 5.71 AC, and further described as follows:

“BEGINNING AT A SET STONE CORNER TO MADELINE FOLEY AND PRIVATE ROAD; THENCE N. 25 46’ W. 410 FEET ALONG SAID ROAD; THENCE S. 54 17’ W. 614.35 FEET TO A CORNER; THENCE S. 52 31’ E. 620 FEET TO A WHITE PINE; THENCE N. 26 46’ E. 410.78 FEET TO THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING 5.71 ACRES.”

TERMS OF SALE

1. Cash in hand paid on the day of sale.
2. The sale of the property will be made subject to all matters having priority over the deed of trust referred to herein including but not limited to any and all assessments and taxes against said property, all prior liens, encumbrances, lease, restrictions, covenants, conditions, rights of way and easements of any nature whatsoever.
3. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by West Virginia Code § 11-22-2.
4. The subject property will be sold in “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.
5. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.
6. 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 sale described above.
7. The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and holder of the note thereby secured reserves the right to submit

a bid for the property at the sale, which bid may be in the form of a credit bid.

8. Such other terms as may be announced at the time of Sale.

Given under my hand this 13th day of December, 2022
Campbell Woods, PLLC, Substitute Trustee
By:
J. Patrick Jones, Member
304-529-8560
(21,28de)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Under authority of that certain Deed of Trust dated June 10, 2005 from Ernest C. Smith and Virginia R. Smith to E. Dennis White, Jr., Trustee, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Summers County, West Virginia in Trust Deed Book No. 216, at page 250, securing a promissory note in the principal amount of \$46,062.06, payable to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., and default having been made under the promissory note secured by the aforesaid Deed of Trust and sale requested by Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the front door of the Summers County Courthouse in Hinton, West Virginia, on January 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., subject to all reservations, exceptions, easements and other matters which appear of record, and subject to all unpaid taxes, if any, all of that certain lot, tract or parcel of land, together with all improvements thereon and easements and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Greenbrier District, Summers County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a small white oak S. 29 ¾ E. 225 feet to a large oak, S 3 ½ E. 119 feet to a stake at the County Road, N. 29 E. 193 feet to a small white oak by the County Road, N. 87 ¼ E. 148 feet to a stake by the road; S. 39 ¼ E. 114 feet to a chestnut stump by the Road; S. 72 ½ E. 105 feet to an ash at the branch, and down the same N. 21 W. 399 feet to a gum by the cliff, N 53 ¾ W. 106 feet to a large birch; N. 65 W. 94 feet to a stake on John J. Gill old line, and with the same S. 19 ½ W. 59 feet to a small sourwood, corner to John J. Gill old line N. 75 ¾ W. 225 feet to a bunch of lynns, thence S. 14 ½ E. 10 poles to a bunch of chestnut sprouts; N. 75 ¾ W. 103 ½ feet to a sassafras sprout; S. 15 W. 10 poles to a poplar and sugar tree on the N. 75 ¾ W. line and with the same about 71 ½ E. 68 feet to a double dogwood; S. 56 ½ E. 105 feet to the beginning, containing five (5) acres, more or less by survey made by H. L. Batten.

Being part of the same property conveyed by Carol J. Bowles and Earl R. Bowles, Jr., her husband, to Virginia R. Smith, by deed dated the 27th day of September 1993, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Summers County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 178, at Page No. 129.

Terms of sale: Ten percent nonrefundable cash deposit due at sale. Ninety percent balance of purchase price due within thirty days of date of sale.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of December, 2022.

/s/ Marc B. Lazenby
Substitute Trustee
(14,21de)

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF SUMMERS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Civil Action No. 22-D-80
IN RE:

The Marriage of:
Nikkita Smith,
Petitioner,
and
Cody Martin,
Respondent

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.

THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.

To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Cody Martin is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Cody Martin serve upon Nikkita Smith, Petitioner whose address is Nikkita Smith, 512 Temple St., Hinton, WV 25951, an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition For Divorce filed in this action on or before January 23, 2023. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce, a judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court December 13, 2022.
Stacy D. Ford
Clerk of the Court
(21,28de)

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Summers County Public Library in Hinton WV seeks its next Library Director. The qualifications include: Masters Degree in Library Science or a Bachelor Degree and a willingness to take graduate classes toward a Library Degree. Previous library experience including a record of successful reporting to a governing board. Ability to evaluate situations, meet people easily, and work effectively with other community groups, government agencies, and the Library Board of Trustees. Ability to manage and analyze data and to prepare reports to be used in decision-making, experience with QUICK-BOOKS preferred but not required. Skills in personnel management and the ability to train, supervise, and inspire staff. The starting salary range is \$32,000-\$36,000 depending on education and qualifications. (PEIA Insurance is available). To apply, send cover letter, resume, and references to Search Committee, Summers County Library, 201 Temple Street, Hinton WV 25951 or summerscopubliclibrary@gmail.com. 14-28decc

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: PUPPIES Yorkie Poo & Morkie Poo, raised in our home, vet checked & health record. Call or text 540-292-0234 or email raphinepuppies4u@gmail.com. 14decp

Summers County Courthouse News

Marriages

None.

Fiduciaries

Dewey Lee Stickler, Administrator of the William David Stickler estate; Anita L. Richmond, Administrator of the Noah Bernard Richmond Sr. estate; Vincent H. Adkins and Wilfred E. Adkins, Co-Administrators of the Erie Adkins estate; William L. Fox, Administrator of the James Douglas Fox estate.

Land Transfers

Jared W. Robertson to Amy R. Robertson, Lot 6, Talcott District;

George Leonard Moore and Shirley Ann Moore to Larry Wayne Moore and Pamela Rose Moore, 2/3 acre more or less, Talcott District; George Leonard Moore and Shirley Ann Moore to Larry Wayne Moore and Pamela Rose Moore, 0.26 acre and 0.52 acre, Talcott District; George Leonard Moore and Shirley Ann Moore to Larry Wayne Moore and Pamela Rose Moore, 3.28 acres more or less, Talcott District; George Leonard Moore and Shirley Ann Moore to Larry Wayne Moore and Pamela Rose Moore, 1/3 acres more or less, Talcott District;

Guy S. Holliday to Guy S. Holliday III and Opal Morgan, 2.00 acres more or less, Forest Hill District; Kenneth W. Simmons and Kenneth W. Simmons II to Louis J. Wines and Charles C. Wines, 2 Tracts, Talcott District; Victor G. Morgan Jr. and Kimberly D. Morgan to VK Morgan Properties LLC, part of lot 49, City of Hinton District; Jeffery L. Stewart and Shirley Stewart to Jeffery L. Stewart and Shirley Stewart, Quitclaim deed, 8.78 acres more or less, Talcott District.

Bobcat Football players honored

Rebecca Stalnaker

The Summers County Bobcats football players were recently honored with an awards banquet. Several players were presented with awards.

The awards are as follows:

- Eli Franklin-Scout - Team Player of the Year.
- Bryce Taylor - Lineman of the Year.
- Duke Dodson -

Defensive Player of the Year

- Drake Cole - Offensive Player of the Year
- Frankie McLaugherty - MVP of the Year

In addition, Xander Hudgins, Brandan Issac, Frankie McLaugherty and Bryce Taylor were presented with the Dickie Noel Heart and Hustle Award.

Remaining Dec. meetings

Summers County Board of Education - Regular Meeting - Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. in the SCCHS Auditorium.

Summers County Dilapidated Structures Committee - No meeting for the month of December.

*This list is subject to change.

**If you would like to add a meeting to our list, send an email to news@hintonnews.com

**Tariff Form No. 10
NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CHANGE RATES COOL RIDGE-FLAT TOP PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT CASE NO. 22-0760-PWD-19A**

On August 15, 2022, the Cool Ridge-Flat Top Public Service District (District) filed a Rule 19A application to change water rates. The District provides water service to approximately 1,828 water customers in Raleigh, Summers and Mercer Counties, West Virginia. Upon review of the application, Staff recommended Step 1 water rates which would generate an increase of \$154,027 annually, or a 13.59% increase over the District's current Step 2 water rates. Staff recommended Step 2 water rates which would generate an increase of \$157,428 annually, or a 13.66% increase over the District's current Step 3 rates.

The current and Staff-recommended water rates are as follows:

RATES (Customers with metered water supply)					
		Current (per 1,000 gallons)		Staff-recommended (per 1,000 gallons)	
		Step 2	Step 3	Step 1	Step 2
First	2,000 gallons	\$13.04	\$13.25	\$14.68	\$14.93
Next	3,000 gallons	\$11.81	\$12.02	\$13.41	\$13.64
Next	15,000 gallons	\$10.22	\$10.43	\$11.61	\$11.81
All Over	20,000 gallons	\$ 8.63	\$ 8.84	\$ 9.80	\$ 9.97
Minimum Charge per Month: (No bill will be rendered for less than the following amounts, according to the size of the meter)					
		Step 2*	Step 3*	Step 1	Step 2
5/8 inch meter		\$24.94	\$24.94	\$29.36	\$29.86
3/4 inch meter		\$37.41	\$37.41	\$44.04	\$44.79
1 inch meter		\$62.35	\$62.35	\$73.40	\$74.65
1-1/2 inch meter		\$124.70	\$124.70	\$146.80	\$149.30
2 inch meter		\$199.52	\$199.52	\$234.88	\$238.88
3 inch meter		\$399.04	\$399.04	\$469.76	\$477.76
4 inch meter		\$623.50	\$623.50	\$734.00	\$746.50
6 inch meter		\$1,247.00	\$1,247.00	\$1,468.06	\$1,493.00
RESALE RATE (per 1,000 gallons used per month)					
		Step 2	Step 3	Step 1	Step 2
		\$6.55	\$6.76	\$7.44	\$7.57
*The above minimum charges are subject to an additional \$0.78 per 1,000 gallons used per month.					
PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION (HYDRANT OR SPINKLER)					
		Step 2	Step 3	Step 1	Step 2
2 inch meter		\$65.93	\$65.93	\$74.88	\$76.17
3 inch meter		\$149.09	\$149.09	\$169.33	\$172.25
4 inch meter		\$261.33	\$261.33	\$296.81	\$301.92
6 inch meter		\$662.00	\$662.00	\$751.89	\$764.82

Under the Staff-recommended Step 1 water rates, the average monthly residential usage of 3,040 gallons would increase by \$4.95 or 12.90% over current Step 2 rates; the average monthly commercial usage of 9,830 gallons would increase by \$14.80 or 13.35%, over current Step 2 rates; the average monthly public authority usage of 580 gallons would increase by \$4.09 or 16.19% over current Step 2 rates; and, the average monthly resale usage of 936,600 gallons would increase by \$796.11 or 12.98% over current Step 2 rates.

Under the Staff-recommended Step 2 water rates, the average monthly residential usage of 3,040 gallons would increase by \$5.05 or 12.95% over current Step 3 rates; the average monthly commercial usage of 9,830 gallons would increase by \$14.88 or 13.18%, over current Step 3 rates; the average monthly public authority usage of 580 gallons would increase by \$4.47 or 17.61% over current Step 3 rates; and the average monthly resale usage of 936,600 gallons would increase by \$758.64 or 11.98% over current Step 3 rates.

The Commission may adopt water rates and charges for the Cool Ridge-Flat Top Public Service District which are the same as, greater than or less than the Staff recommended rates and charges.

Anyone desiring to review the Staff recommendation report may do so on the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us). Anyone desiring to protest the changed rates and charges must do so, in writing, within ten (10) days of the date of publication of this notice. All protests should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. To help the Commission determine the justification for additional review and investigation, protests must be specific as to reasons that the changed rates and charges should be modified. In addition, anyone desiring a hearing in this matter must demand a hearing in the letter of protest.

If no hearing is demanded, the Commission may affirm the proposed recommended rates without a hearing.

COOL RIDGE-FLAT TOP PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

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Merry Christmas!

