



West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History seeks nominations for the 2024 Governor’s Arts Awards

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) – The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) is seeking nominations for the Governor’s Arts Awards. This biennial awards program celebrates the importance of the arts to economic development in the Mountain State by honoring individuals and organizations whose creative achievements and significant contributions to the arts enhance life in West Virginia. A public awards ceremony will take place at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m.

Nominees must be West Virginia residents or organizations based in West Virginia. Members of the selection committee; members of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts; WVDACH staff; and their immediate family members are not eligible. Posthumous nominations are not accepted. Nominations for the 11 categories must be submitted through the nomination form linked below by Feb. 12, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

The nomination form includes descriptions for each of the award categories, eligibility, and the selection process. Use the link <https://wvculture.org/governors-arts-awards-2024/> to access.

Award categories are:

- Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts – Individual
- Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts – Organization
- Artist of the Year
- Arts Organization of the Year
- Arts in Education – Individual
- Arts in Education – Organization
- Folk Arts – Individual
- Folk Arts – Organization
- Emerging Artist of the Year
- Emerging Organization of the Year
- Governor’s Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement

For more information about the Governor’s Arts Awards, contact Jenna Green, State Arts Office director, at Jenna.R.Green@wv.gov or 304-558-0240.

One man is in custody after short pursuit

Rebecca Stalnaker

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Summers County police were dispatched to a situation involving alleged theft on Wednesday, Jan. 10. The incident ended with one individual, Albert Lee Ward, 25, of Ravenswood, in Southern Regional Jail after a brief pursuit.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim notified police that three individuals were stealing from their home. While on the way to the area, one of the officers passed a vehicle matching the description of the suspect’s vehicle. Re-

portedly, the officer turned around and noted the car accelerate. When another officer passed them, the driver allegedly “drastically” increased their speed.

A third officer reportedly decided to wait at an intersection where the suspect and officers would be approaching. The criminal complaint states that the driver once again sped up, upon seeing the third officer’s car. This reportedly caused that officer to believe the driver was attempting to ram him, creating fear for his life.

The criminal complaint further states that the third

officer, in fear for his life, fired a weapon at the vehicle. At this point, the vehicle reportedly came to a stop, ending the pursuit. The driver was identified as Ward, one of the individuals the victim accused of stealing from their property.

Reportedly, the items stolen include, trail cameras, jewelry, knives and around \$300 in cash, totaling less than \$1,000.

Ward is facing charges of petit larceny and fleeing with reckless indifference. He is currently residing in Southern Regional Jail. At the time of writing, his bail has not been set.



Albert Lee Ward

“90 Years of the CCC in West Virginia” Exhibit Featured in the Archives Library at the Culture Center in Charleston

CHARLESTON W.Va. (Hinton News) – West Virginia Archives and History and the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History is pleased to announce a new exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in West Virginia. The exhibit is currently on display in the Archives and History Library, located inside the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston. In honor of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the CCC, the exhibit features many documents and photographs relating to

CCC camps in West Virginia. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was established on April 5, 1933, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s First 100 Days. Single men, ages 18-25, from all over the nation enrolled in the CCC. Paid \$30 per month, these young men mostly participated in work projects on state and federal lands and laid the foundation for hundreds of state parks around the country. The CCC had 65 camps in West Virginia between 1933 and 1942, the

majority in the eastern portion of the state. The new library exhibit features photographs and documents from the Calvin White Collection, the Tillman Diamond Collection, the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum Collection, and several additional collections.

The exhibit will remain until March 20, 2024. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For additional information, please contact Archives Director Aaron Parsons at (304) 558-0230.

Summers County Sheriff’s Department asking for assistance locating stolen camper

Rebecca Stalnaker

PENCE SPRINGS W.Va. (WVDN) - The Summers County Sheriff’s Department is asking for the public’s assistance to hopefully locate a stolen camper. The camper in question is a 2006 Cavalier and was taken on Dec. 22, 2023, from Pence Springs.

Anyone with information regarding the

stolen camper is encouraged to call 304-466-3333 or contact the Sheriff’s Department’s Facebook page.

At the time of writing, no other information is available. Hinton News will provide any updates that become available. Follow our website and Facebook for the latest information.

Join the Winter/Spring 2024 Master Gardener Training

GREENBRIER COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Do you like to garden? Do you want to give back to the community? Do you want to sharpen your skills and learn more? Become a Master Gardener. Master Gardeners are volunteers who are trained in re-

search-based small-scale food production, horticulture and gardening through the training course.

The Greenbrier Valley Master Gardener Program announces its 2024 training sessions. A combination of in-person and online classes will be

offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. While the classes started last Tuesday, January 9, it is not too late to “get in on the fun and learning”. Classes are on Tuesdays at the WVU Building at the fairgrounds from 6-9 p.m. and on Zoom on Thursdays. There will be

a total of 19 horticultural classes and a complete schedule will be available in January 2024.

The program helps residents better understand horticultural and environmental issues through community engagement in gardening and beautification projects at schools, parks,

public institutions, community organizations, and locations throughout Greenbrier County.

For further information and to sign up, call Mary Dameron at the Greenbrier County Extension Office at 304-647-7408.



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Letter to the Editor: Linda Emrich

Linda Emrich

Ten years after the toxic chemical leak into the Elk River that poisoned the water of 300,000 West Virginia American Water customers and local wells and springs, the strong legislation that resulted in 2014, concerning the inspection, monitoring and setting limits on the level of toxicity that a Government Agency may permit has been compromised to allow the Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas to dump their toxic and radioactive waste into our groundwater. In order to protect our life-supporting habitat on Earth, we must ban fracking NOW!

Our current WV State Legislature's R- Super Majority has accelerated the completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline "in case of urgency" by changing the environmental protection rules and passing new (January 2023) legislation before it was posted or given any consideration by the full WV State Government and could have been written by corporate lawyers in their attempt to acquire the necessary agency permits to proceed with such environmentally devastating and

dangerous projects. The Fourth Circuit Court displayed common sense and ecological sanity in their 2023 decision, which the U. S. Supreme Court overruled and basically, gave the fossil fuel transportation corporation, Equitrans and MVP total freedom to spend and do whatever to complete construction and get the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas marketed by fracturing the crust of our Earth with radioactive toxic fluids. A 330-mile pipeline to poison and threaten the potable water of our living communities. An extraction process that will accelerate the shifting of the Earth's crust and cause erosion that threatens to break the already weakened pipes. In the last week of the 2023 Legislative Session, the gas utilities were granted permission to raise the rates on gas customers to cover the Mountain Valley Pipeline's skyrocketing costs, in addition to the pipeline fee charged to the household bills earlier last year!

Is this happening because most people can not afford to hire pushy lawyers? Maybe because so many of our offices of power have been filled

with fossil fuel corporate lobbyists? Has the Supreme Court of the United States (S.C.O.T.U.S.) turned against the people by over-ruling the decisions of the Courts that rule in favor of the concerns of U.S. Citizens? What has happened to States' Rights in relation to Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Federal Government?

This Election Year, I hope that common sense will somehow prevail and the direction of our economy will change from that of an infrastructure for death and destruction to one of respect for our living communities and an environment that can sustain the living. Nature is the art of God, and achieving the good healthy balances of our ecological communities must be our goal, regardless of the number of dollars spoken. Money is the Governmental tool with which power is exerted over life. Controlling bigger numbers of dollars is the Corporate Businesses goal and desired end result but these paperwork entities are not living people and are not responsible or socially conscious. In 2010, S.C.O.T.U.S. gave corpo-

rations the freedom to donate as much money into our U.S. Elections as they want through Citizens United. The Supreme Court of the U.S.A. also decided the outcome of the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election. The Republican Party has a plan for 2025, if their candidate wins the Presidency in 2024, that will roll back all environmental protections. The W.V. State Legislature isn't waiting for any election results before pushing through completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. It is my prayer that environmental sanity will prevail and the MVP will not transport gas to market but instead, become a trunk line right of way for remote estate and rural farm development. Contact your Government Representatives about the rewrite of America's basic Farm Bill. The Bill is a \$700 billion infrastructure package that supports our water, wildlife and environmental protections through programs that encourage good healthy food production in our rural agricultural communities.

Water For Life! Don't Dump On Me! Ban Fracking NOW!

WVCAN releases annual report on state coverage and service outcomes

CHARLESTON W.Va. (Hinton News) — Today, the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) released its Statewide Data Report for the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023). The data in the report reflects service from West Virginia's 21 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) which provided official service to 46 of 55 counties in the state. A CAC provides a safe, child-friendly facility where child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal.

During the year, CACs served 4,879 children — nearly a 10% increase in new children served in the last five years. Highlights from the report include:

- 4,596 forensic interviews were conducted
- 50% of the children served were there because of allegations of sexual abuse
- 14% of the children served were there because of allegations of drug endangerment, 4.7 times higher than the national average
- 43% of the children served by CACs were between the ages of 7-12 years
- 96% of alleged offenders were someone the child knew
- 30% of children are reported to have one or more disabilities
- 566 cases had charges filed
- 263 individuals were convicted for crimes against children
- 326,851 children (93% of the state's population) live in a county officially

served by a CAC

- 25,139 children (7% of the state's population) live in a county without official CAC coverage

In the 2023 fiscal year, 66% of children who received a forensic interview at a CAC disclosed abuse. 34% of children interviewed made no disclosure of abuse during the forensic interview. Even when a child does not disclose, the multidisciplinary team may still have good cause to investigate the reports that prompted the child's services at the CAC.

Caregivers visiting CACs are asked to take a survey about their experience. 96% of caregivers surveyed said if they knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, they would tell that person about the child advocacy center.

The report includes data on victim demographics, alleged offender demographics, reported vs. disclosed abuse, services performed, criminal justice response, and CAC income budget breakdown. The full statewide data report can be found here.

"The number of children served by West Virginia CACs is growing each year. Kids are becoming more aware of the issue and the services CACs provide, and ultimately are more comfortable telling someone when abuse happens," said Kate Flack, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network. "We must continue and expand our support of Child Advocacy Centers, who are on the front lines serving child survivors of abuse and ensuring they receive hope, healing, and justice."

Filing Deadline for Summers County Candidates Quickly Approaching

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - The deadline to file for candidacy for public office is rapidly approaching. All candidates for county office must file with the County Clerk by Jan. 27. For more information, call the Summers County Clerk at 304-466-7104.

A seat on the County Commission is open this year for Bluestone Magisterial District which includes Nimitz, Jumping Branch, Madams Creek, and parts of Avis. The

County Commission is a six-year term. The candidate must be a resident of the open magisterial district and be at least 18 years old. The annual salary is \$43,096 and includes health insurance.

Sheriff is another position that will be on the ballot in 2024. The Sheriff serves a four-year term. Candidates must reside in the county in which they are elected and may only serve all or part of two consecutive terms. The salary for the Summers County Sheriff

is \$55,166.

All 100 seats in the West Virginia House of Delegates will be on the ballot in 2024. Candidates for state-level office must file a Certificate of Announcement with the Secretary of State's Office. Summers County is represented by two Delegate Districts, the 40th and the 41st. Candidates must know

the correct district number before filing. The candidate must be a resident of that district. The salary for a West Virginia Delegate is \$20,000. The filing fee is \$100.

As a local elected official, you can help make Summers County a safe and welcoming community where families can thrive and businesses can prosper.

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Scot Refsland, Ph.D.
publisher@wvdn.com

Editor:
Rebecca Stalnaker
rebecca@wvdn.com

Director of Operations:
Susan Smith-Linton
susan@wvdn.com

Advertising Rep:
Tia Mattox
tia@wvdn.com

Circulation Manager:
Heather Felts
heather@wvdn.com

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A Peek into Summers County’s Past: Photo from the original Talcott School Gym

William Jones

TALCOTT W.Va. (Hinton News) - Editor’s Note: Each week, local history collector William Jones discusses items from his collection and their historical significance. In this edition, his item of the week is a photo from the original Talcott School Gym.

This week is about a photo of students in the gymnasium at Talcott School was recently renamed the Dallas “Bud” Mann Gymnasium after it was fully restored to its 1930s state. It is of the 1st through 6th grades 1938-1939. The Talcott School newspaper “The Areopagus” discussed a play the elementary grades put on called “Fairies Are Really True” on March 31, 1939.

My grandfather Bernard Thompson, “granddad,” as I called him, quit school the following year in 1940 to work in his father’s garage and service station in Talcott, Thompson’s Garage. Since Granddad quit school early on, Mom doesn’t have much from his school days. She has the pieces discussed in this article, his 1938 yearbook, and his “Pupils Reading Circle,” also from 1939.

I recently happened across and purchased on eBay a 1939 and 1940 The Tal-K-Talian yearbooks he is in and added them to our collection.

First, we will discuss the photo of students. The gym was relatively new at this point, having only been completed in 1936. As I have already stated, the photograph depicts the 1st through the 6th grades. Granddad is in the center of the photo. He is wearing a dark sweater with a big white collar over it. The only other student I know for sure is his brother, my Great Uncle Leonard Thompson, who is seated on the first row, second from the right. Betty Lou Boyd, who would later become his wife, is also in this photo.

Now, as for the play, I do not have a copy of it, but John Kessler had a large framed photo of this play in the Talcott Area Memorabilia Room he had in the back of Dillon’s Superette prior to it becoming the John Henry Museum. As I recall in this photo the woodwork around the stage was not yet completed. I remember Granddad was wearing

a large flower around his head. After reading this article, I found out why, he was a “Dewdron Fairy.”

Turns out my Uncle Leonard was in this production as well as an “Evening Breeze.” Several other names stick out in my head regarding these students who became prominent members of the community. Even though I can not identify the others in this photograph, I am going to name the students in the play, who are coincidentally the other students in this photograph even though it was not taken of the play itself.

“Dotty” was played by Anna Mae Rudisill, “Teddy” by Edwin Cales, “Fairy Queen” by India Allen, “Runaway Fairy” by Wilma Gill and the “Queen’s Attendant” was Basil Hudge. Rainbow Fairies were Nancy Eades, Jean Boyd, Pauline Meadows, Virginia Lowry, Virginia Ballengee, Janie Wyant, Ida Raines and Kathryn Woodrum.

“Sunshine Fairies” were Patty Jo Chattin, Betty Lou Boyd, Dorthy Rudisill, Helen Snead, Dora Lee Jones, Nadine Gadd, Peggy Lou Huffman and Zula Godd.



A black and white photo of students in the original Talcott School Gym

“Dewdron Fairies” were Russell Gadd, Morris Reed, Robert Gadd, Jimmie Jones, Jimmie Spence, Harold Dillon, Bernard Thompson and Denns Surber. “Dream Fairies” were Joyce Bragg, Vada Gadd, June Chattin, Exrea Taylor, Alice Holloran, Betty Jo Hutchison, Eva Jane Spence and Louise Rudisill. “Evening Breezes” were Joan Dillon, Jerolee Tay-

lor, Helen Snead and Dora Lee Jones (unrecognizable name, Ralph Jones, Sonny Chattin, George Dillon, Joan Dillon, Tommy Bostic, Mary Carol Bostic, Jennie Sims, Chubby Halloran, Jimmy Chattin, Libby Jo Miller, Jane Miller, Gary Jones, Billy Mann, Polly Mann and Leonard Thompson. The write-up about this play concluded with it say-

ing, “The operetta is directed by Mrs. W. R. Boyd, Mrs. Melvina Miller, Miss Blanch Sims and Miss Mary McNiell.” Until gathering the history and pieces for this article, I had never put two and two together, and the students in this photograph are the students that are in this play that was put on at virtually the same time.

First WVU School of Nursing Beckley campus alumni to be honored at homecoming

BECKLEY W.Va. (Hinton News) – For the first time, a graduate from the WVU School of Nursing Beckley Campus will be awarded the Nursing Alumni of the Year and honored at WVU Tech’s 2024 homecoming celebration. Stephanie McDougal is the inaugural winner.

McDougal graduated from WVU Tech in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. While at Tech, McDougal was active on campus as a Golden Bear Scholar, member of the cheerleading team and President of the Student Nursing Association. She completed an externship at WVU Medicine Thomas Hospitals on a med-surg floor and in the Critical Care Unit (CCU) before accepting a graduate nurse position in the critical care department. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Rho Chapter, an international community of nurses dedicated to the knowledge, learning and service through practice, education and research.

McDougal continued her education at Marshall Uni-

versity, earning a Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in education. While pursuing her master’s degree, she worked in the critical care and step-down departments at WVU Medicine Thomas Hospitals and served as an adjunct instructor for WVU Tech.

In 2017, McDougal transitioned within her role at WVU Medicine Thomas Hospitals into the Clinical Coordinator and Educator for the Intensive Care and Step-down Units. She served as Interim Director in 2019, and formally advanced into this role in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. Since then, this role has grown to include the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), step-down Unit (SDU), dialysis department, and the expansion of new departments to include the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVI-CU) and Rapid Response Team (RRT). McDougal is an Executive Board member of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) with the local WVU chapter.

She served as the Center

for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) Liaison for the Saint Francis and Thomas campuses, where the hospital system won the highest award for campaign involvement.

Additionally, McDougal was awarded the 40 Under 40 Nursing Leadership Award, recognizing her as an emerging nurse leader under age 40 for her contributions to leadership through clinical practice, education, teaching and administrative governance.

Outside of work, McDougal has always been involved in the community. She has volunteered at a local nursing home, hosting baby showers for the community to help serve expecting mothers, caring for animals at local animal shelters, serving as a rescue home for animals in need and helping with foster care. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family on their mini farm, hiking with her dogs or cheering on her stepson at soccer games.

McDougal will be honored at the alumni award reception along with other

winners, including the Nelson Distinguished Young Alumni, Alumni of the Year and Golden Bear Empowerment Faculty awardees on February 9, 2024, at The Resort at Glade Springs. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the awards dinners will begin at 6:30 p.m. These winners will also be honored at the basketball games on February 10, 2024, at the Beckley Raleigh County Convention

Center.

For more WVU Tech

and to buy tickets to the Alumni Awards event, visit homecoming information homecoming.wvutech.edu.

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What Hinders Me?

(Part 1)
by David Padfield

After preaching to the multitudes in Samaria, Philip the evangelist is told to journey to a deserted region south of Jerusalem on the road to Gaza (Acts 8:26-40). Along this road Philip preached to an Ethiopian nobleman. The story of the conversion of the Ethiopian is one of the many “pattern conversions” in the book of Acts, i.e., the conversions in the book of Acts all follow a similar pattern, which makes them especially helpful today when we would tell someone what to do to be saved.

Let us notice the events which led up to this conversion. The city of Gaza is one of the oldest cities in the world (Gen. 10:19). Archaeology has shown that there was a road built by the Romans that led from the western corner of Jerusalem in a westerly and southerly direction toward Gaza, traces of which are still visible. The road from Jerusalem to Gaza passed through no inhabited areas; it was “desert” in the sense that it was uninhabited.

Ethiopia was one of the great kingdoms of Africa. It lay south of Egypt on the Nile River and was bordered on the east by the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and was bordered on the south by the (then) unknown regions of interior Africa.

The “eunuch” was a man who had been emasculated. Eunuchs were commonly employed in the attendance and supervision of the females of a king’s court in Oriental countries. This man served in the court of Candace—a name given to all the queens of Ethiopia. This eunuch had charge of all of the treasury of Ethiopia—he was a man of great power and trust who had gone to Jerusalem to worship God. In all likelihood he was a proselyte to Judaism. During the time of Moses a ban was given which excluded eunuchs from entering “the congregation of the Lord” (Deut. 23:1).

The Old Testament looked forward to the admission of the Ethiopians to the kingdom of God. “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering” (Zeph. 3:10).

While in Jerusalem to worship, he had probably availed himself of the privilege of purchasing a copy of the scroll of Isaiah—and it was this scroll that he was reading on his way back to Ethiopia. He was reading from the 53rd chapter of the book, a passage which speaks at great length of the suffering of the Son of God and His death on the cross.

Philip ran to the chariot, heard the Ethiopian reading, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” This must have made an impression on the Ethiopian. In humility he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” The simple statement is also an acknowledgement that the passage he was reading was not in harmony with the usual Jewish idea of a conquering Messiah. He had trouble understanding how the description of the humiliation and condemnation of God’s servant could be reconciled with Jewish ideas of a conquering prince. Philip began at Isaiah 53 and “preached Jesus to him.” “Preaching Jesus” must include instruction on what to do to become a Christian. The question expressing a desire to be immersed would not have occurred to the Ethiopian unless he had been previously instructed concerning the act of baptism. No true preacher of the gospel has ever preached Jesus without preaching the baptism that Jesus commanded (Mark 16:16).

(Continued next week.)

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January 27 Filing Deadline for Candidates

As a local elected official, you can help make Summers County a safe and welcoming community where families can thrive and businesses can prosper.

Summers County Offices

Office	Salary	Residency Requirement
County Commission	\$43,096	Resident of Bluestone Magisterial District
Prosecuting Attorney	\$110,180	Resident of WV
Sheriff	\$55,166	Resident of Summers County
Assessor	\$55,166	Resident of Summers County

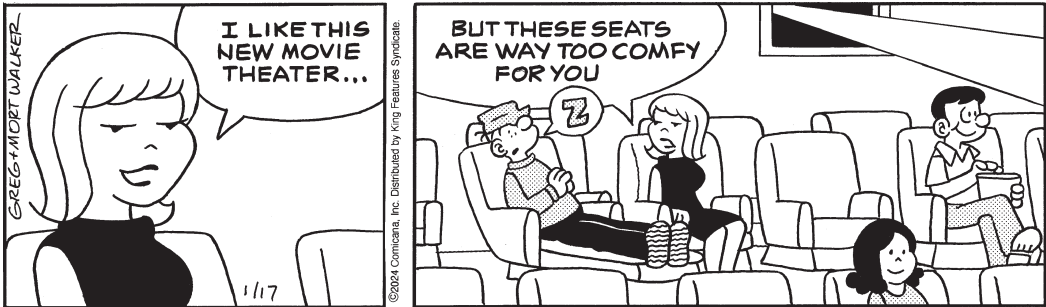
WV State Offices that Serve Summers County

Office	Salary	Residency Requirement
Circuit Judge	\$138,600	Citizen of WV for 5 years prior to election
Family Court Judge	\$103,950	Citizen of WV for 5 years prior to election
State Senate	\$20,000	Citizen of WV for 5 years prior to election
House of Delegates	\$20,000	Resident of district for 1 year prior

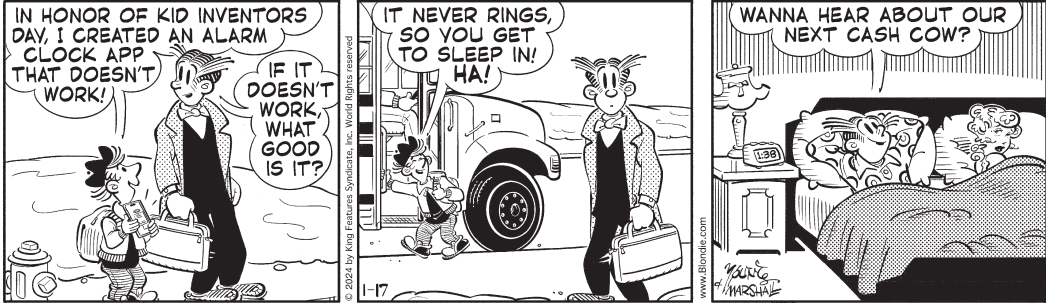
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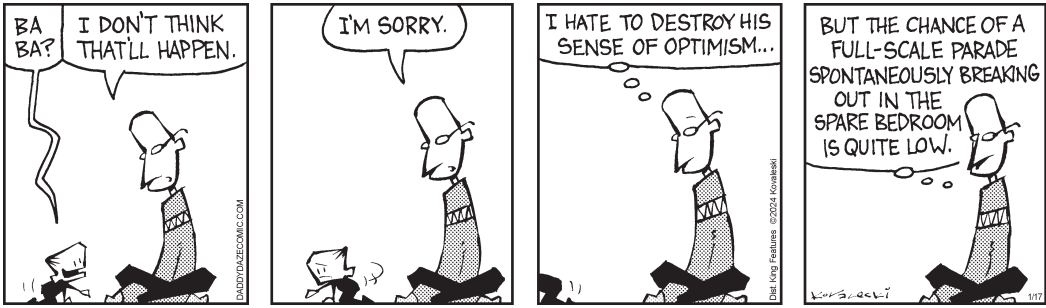
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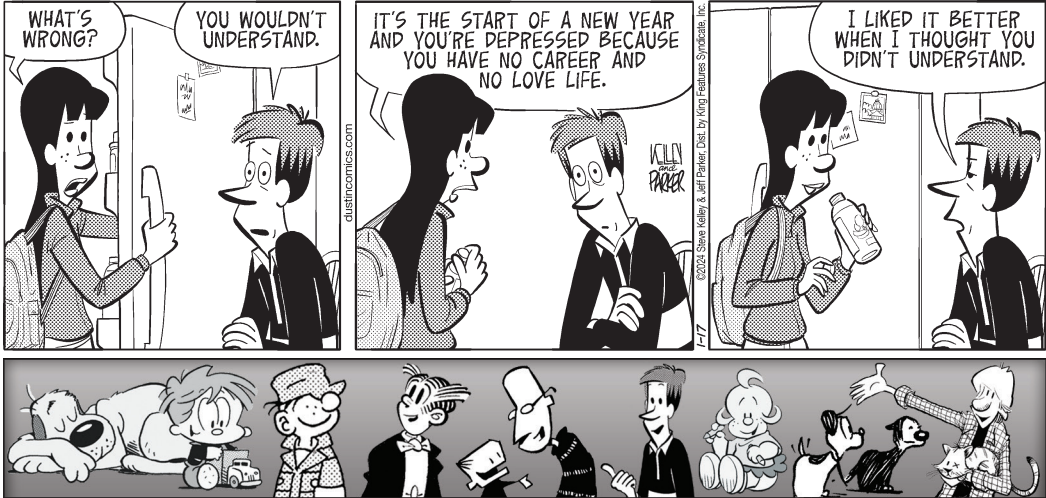
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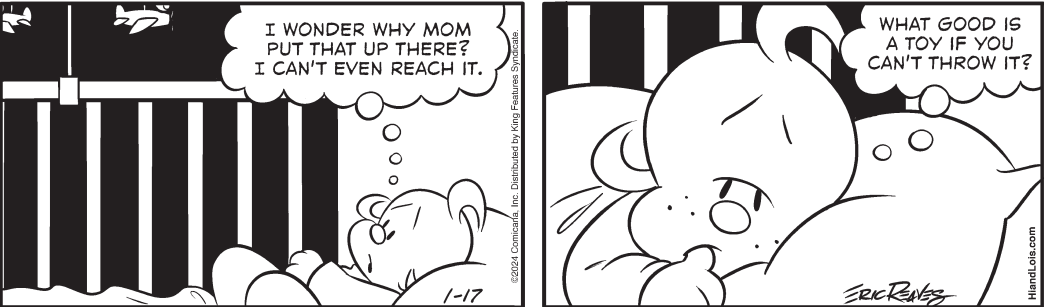
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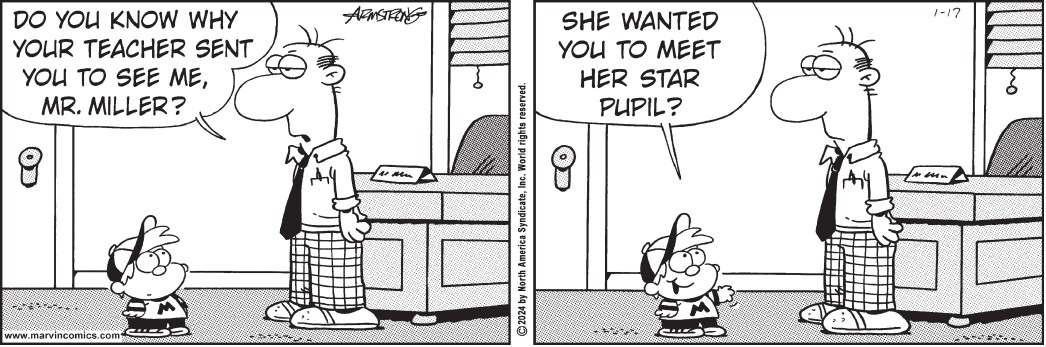
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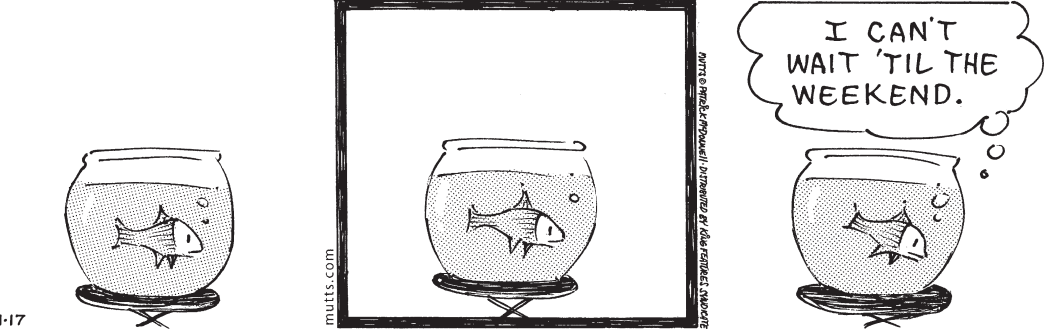
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Marvin



Mutts



Zits



ROYAL STARS HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024:

You are a natural leader, ambitious and success-oriented. You are progressive, but you also respect tradition. This is a wonderful year for you, because your efforts, talents and skills will be recognized. Expect promotions, awards and accolades. With this spotlight, you can seek new opportunities!

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)

5★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with fair Venus, which makes you want to enjoy the company of others and be surrounded by people who like you. You might be intrigued with travel plans. You will also enjoy talking to someone from another culture or a different country. Tonight: Be nice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

4★ Even though you're happy to be low-key and a bit reclusive today, discussions about shared property or inheritances might arise and please you. Things might go your way! Someone might do you a favor. In fact, you might receive

a gift. Meanwhile, romance is yummy. Tonight: Patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

5★ This is a fabulous day to schmooze! Enjoy being with partners and close friends. However, you will also enjoy interacting with members of clubs, organizations and conferences -- any kind of group of like-minded people. A casual acquaintance might turn flirtatious. Tonight: Cooperate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

4★ This is a pleasant day, and pleasure is your goal. Work is secondary. For some of you, a work-related romance or a work-related flirtation might sizzle somewhere. Meanwhile, your focus on partnerships and

dealing with members of the general public is tops! Circulate, circulate! Tonight: Avoid arguments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

5★ It's midweek, and you deserve a glorious day to schmooze with others. Put pleasure first today! Accept invitations to socialize and party. Enjoy sports events, fun activities with children, the arts, casual get-togethers, a power breakfast, lunch with friends and happy hour. Have fun! Tonight: Think for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

4★ Family discussions will go well today because everyone is friendly. In particular, you might discuss redecorating projects or you might hang out socially. Very likely, discussions about shared property, inheritances or how to deal with a certain amount of money or funding will take place. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

4★ It will be easy to deal with partners and spouses today as well as professional partners. Likewise, your dealings with the general public will be smooth and friendly as well because people want

to see each other today. Make sure you talk to people who like you. Tonight: Listen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

4★ The vibes at work are excellent today because people are friendly and willing to help each other. A discussion with a co-worker might indirectly boost your earnings or lead to increased wealth on your part. You will also enjoy shopping with a friend today. Share fun times! Tonight: Work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

5★ Do get out of bed, because this is a fun, playful day! Sports events, outdoor activities, playful times with children, the arts, the theater and just schmoozing with friends will delight you today. You're in top form, and everyone wants to see your face. (You are loved.) Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

4★ Many of you are dabbling in a secret love affair or flirting with the idea of flirting with someone. (Life's little thrills.) Despite the fact that there are four planets in your sign right now, today you feel private and will prefer hiding at home. Tonight: Keep the peace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

5★ Time spent with a friend or a member of a group today will be rewarding. More than any other sign in the zodiac, friendships are important to you because you are a networker par excellence. This person might be creative or talented in some way. Enjoy your meeting! Tonight: Be congenial.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

4★ Financial discussions will go well for you today because you look good in the eyes of others. In fact, you look so good that others will ask for your advice, especially about how to make something look better, even if this is not your field of expertise. (Appearances are everything.) Tonight: Check your assets.

BORN TODAY

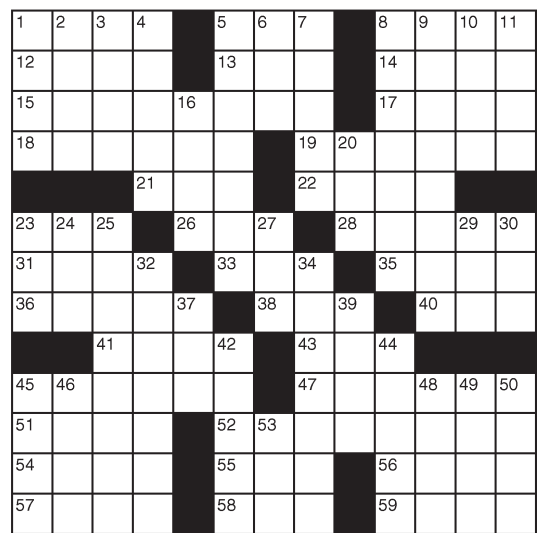
Actor Jim Carrey (1962), actress Zooey Deschanel (1980), attorney, author, First Lady Michelle Obama (1964)

Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

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SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Audition CD
 - 5 Xenon, for one
 - 8 Book-keepers (Abbr.)
 - 12 Actor Epps
 - 13 Choose
 - 14 Botch up
 - 15 Critical point
 - 17 "You —" (Lady Gaga song)
 - 18 Have at
 - 19 Wild and crazy
 - 21 Jamaican music
 - 22 Pretzel topper
 - 23 Joan of —
 - 26 Doctrine
 - 28 Grinch creator
 - 31 Biting remark
 - 33 — polloi
 - 35 "Phooey!"
 - 36 Tight-fisted
 - 38 "Kinda" suffix
 - 40 Ambulance initials
- DOWN**
- 1 "Vegas" singer — Cat
 - 2 Flightless birds
 - 3 Supplies with staff
 - 4 Killer whales
 - 5 Hungarian stew
 - 6 Earth Day mo.
 - 7 Rose parts
 - 8 Held lovingly
 - 9 Flat tire cause, perhaps
 - 10 Verdi opera
 - 11 Use scissors
 - 16 Polynesian carving
 - 20 Small batteries
- Solution time: 23 mins.**
- BRIM BED UNIS**
LODE ALE TIDY
USERNAMETICON
ESSES PICKLE
LUCY APSE AMY
ISO OBAMA MIR
DAD PERU HENS
ENE ETNA
SENECA ANWAR
SLAY FILENAME
TIME AWE ACID
SEER ROD HOSS
- Last Wednesday's Answer**
(Answers Next Wednesday)



JUMBLE

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

UNAF A

NDRIG

KOYNED

GINDIO

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

I love this place! It looks delicious!

We offer a taste of home!

My family has been coming here for years.

THE MEALS SERVED AT THE SMALL LODGING ESTABLISHMENT IN MUMBAI CONSISTED OF ---

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

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Last Wednesday's Answer: When their insurance overpaid to clean up the tree downed in the storm, it was — A WINDFALL



SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

1/17

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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.

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle:

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

Difficulty: ★★★

1/10



Concord Esports Team Captures National Championship

ATHENS W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Concord University Esports Marathon Team captured a national championship on Wednesday, December 13th at the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Elite Division. The team played Brewton-Parker College and consisted of Chase Koger, Ethan Tucker, and Will Jackson (Team Captain).

Ethan Tucker or "E.T." is a sophomore who transferred from Brewton Parker College. He is a computer science major at Concord. When not grinding out Rocket League, he is playing other games, supporting his fellow esports players, or looking for more players to compete under the Concord banner.

William Jackson or "Pancakes" is a senior who has been playing for Concord since the founding year of Rocket League

in the Fall of 2022 and will be finishing up a bachelor's in computer science. Will is the captain of the team ensuring the team has everything they need for victory before the matches. Outside of being an esports player, Will is a master at coding and solving the Rubik's Cube.

Chase Koger or "Helix" is a freshman and the only in-state player for the varsity Rocket League team from the town of Iaeger in McDowell County. Helix is also working towards a Computer science degree. He is the jokester of the team and the esports program as a whole. He also helps the academy roster improve in Rocket League.

Esports Director, Austin Clay, says of the achievement, "Going into the season, the staff and I were pretty confident that this young and



Esports championship team 2023

new roster of mostly unheard-of or overlooked players was going to come out and show they mean business. When we went 7-1 in ECAC regular season only losing to Brewton Parker College, we knew who we had to prepare for in the playoffs. It was clear in the Grand Finals who was

better prepared for that match, which allowed us to take home the victory. I am proud of the guys and can't wait for them to run it back during the spring season."

In 2019, Concord University was the first public university in the state of West Virginia to develop an esports compe-

titution program.

Concord now also offers a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies-Esports, which gives students the opportunity to work with experienced professionals to prepare them for the ever-changing, exciting field of esports. The esports industry is

booming with career opportunities, such as Esports Director, Esports Social Media Manager, Esports Caster, Esports Producer, Esports Journalist, Esports Coach, and other digital media careers. Concord University will help students reach their desired goals in this growing field.

Virtual public hearing January 22 in Mon Power rate case

CHARLESTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - A virtual public hearing will take place at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 22 before the Public Service Commission of West Virginia in a \$207.4 million rate increase proposal filed by Monongahela Power Co. and The Potomac Edison Co.

Interested persons may comment telephonically through the Microsoft Teams application from the internet, or in-person at the Commission headquarters, 201 Brooks St., Charleston. Those intending to comment should register with the Commission by 4 p.m. Jan. 18.

Registration may be made through the Microsoft Teams meeting link at <https://bit.ly/WVP-SC20240122>. Full registration instructions are available on the Commission's

website, <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> under the "PSC Hot Topics" section at the top of the homepage; by calling (304) 340-0836 (Karen Hall) or (304) 340-0820 (Andrew Gallagher); or by emailing khall@psc.state.wv.us or agallagher@psc.state.wv.us.

Persons wishing to comment in person at the public comment hearing are not required to register, but should plan to arrive at PSC headquarters by 5:30 p.m. on January 22.

Written comments should be submitted to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323 or online at www.psc.state.wv.us by clicking on "Submit A Comment" in the left column and following the directions for "Formal Case." All written comments should be marked with Case No.

23-0460-E-42T. Interested persons may also attend in person or watch the hearing via webcast. The webcast may be viewed by clicking "Commission Webcast" on the left side of the Commission's website homepage.

The Commission has received 1,285 written comments on the proposed 13 percent increase, which would add \$18.07 to the average monthly bill. The case was filed on May 31, 2023.

The evidentiary hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 24 at the PSC headquarters. It will also be available to view via the Commission Webcast link.

More information on this case can be found at www.psc.state.wv.us. Click on "Case Information" and access Case No. 23-0460-E-42T.

A.A. meetings in Hinton

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Hinton Alcoholics Anonymous group holds two weekly meetings on Wednesdays at noon and Fridays at 8 p.m. in the lower level of Ascension Episcopal Church.

Both are open meetings. The entrance to the meeting area is through the rear of the church, which is located at the corner of Temple Street and 5th Avenue (222 5th Avenue). The format of the

meeting will be an open discussion of a weekly topic related to alcohol use/abuse.

For more information, please call 304-660-7073 or call the toll-free number at 1-800-333-5051.

2024 Scholarship Applications Open at Hinton Area Foundation

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - In 2023, the Hinton Area Foundation awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to 47 students. Offering more than 40 different scholarships, students can apply based on their area of study, college, university or vocational/technical institution, both or neither.

HAF's Executive Assistant, Jordonne Bostic, says, "Scholarship Season is probably my favorite. This is the time in life when many young people are finding out who they are and what they want to do in life. To be able to lift some of the financial burden so they can focus on themselves is a feeling I wish everyone in life could experience."

Applications are open

from Jan. 1, 2024 - March 15, 2024, and can be found at hintonareafoundation.org/scholarships. An electronic and hard copy of the application must be submitted by March 15th. Printed copy may be mailed to: Hinton Area Foundation Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 217, Hinton, WV 25951. Electronic copies may be emailed to scholarships@hintonareafoundation.org.

Specific instructions can be found on the scholarship application. Questions may be directed to scholarships@hintonareafoundation.org. The deadline for receipt of applications and additional requirements is March 15, 2024.

All students are encouraged to apply.

Hinton Area Foundation Prepares for 2024 Community Impact Grant

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Community Impact Grant is the first grant cycle of the year for the Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding through discretionary and field-of-interest grants to charitable organizations in the areas of Education, the Arts, Beautification for the Hinton/Summers County area, Health and Human Services, Public Recreation, and Other eligible needs.

Applications are accepted from Jan. 1-31, 2024. Hardcopies are required and can be mailed to: PO Box 217, Hinton, WV 25951, or dropped off in person/drop box at 104 James Street.

For more information, please contact Hinton Area Foundation at 304-309-5502 or grants@hintonareafoundation.org. Applications may be downloaded online at hintonareafoundation.org. All interested are encouraged to apply.




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SUMMERS COUNTY PRE-K ENROLLMENT FOR NEXT YEAR!

Please check the school below where you would like your child to attend. If a site fills up before we get your enrollment form, we will contact you for a second choice. Summers County offers universal Pre-K classrooms at five sites throughout the county. Our Pre-K Program is a collaboration with CASE WV Head Start and Summers County Schools. Classrooms located within the county schools have WVDE certified teachers and aides hired by Summers County Schools and the classroom at the Head Start Center has a teacher and aide that have authorization endorsed for community programs through the WVDE. This year, we are excited to offer classrooms at Talcott Elementary School, Jumping Branch Elementary School, Hinton Area Elementary, and WV CASE Head Start Center.

<input type="checkbox"/> Head Start Center 304-466-6016	<input type="checkbox"/> Hinton Area 304-466-6024	<input type="checkbox"/> Jumping Branch 304-466-6005	<input type="checkbox"/> Talcott 304-466-6029
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Children who will be four years old prior to July 1, 2024, are eligible to enroll. It is very important that all children planning to attend Pre-K next year pre-enroll. We know it is early, but we need this information so we will know how many teachers are needed for Pre-K classes next year. **Please fill out completely.**

Child's Full Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____ ☐ boy ☐ girl
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Address: _____
Work/Cell/Home Number: _____

Important enrollment materials you need to be working on:

- (1) Your child must have a **certified birth certificate** from the Division of Vital Statistics Bureau.
- (2) Immunizations should be up-to-date.

If you have any questions concerning enrollment, please call Mrs. Crystal Richmond, Pre-K Specialist, at 304-466-6024.

The tentative date for our Pre-K enrollment is March 25, 2024. We will be contacting you to make an appointment for your child. If you know of a family with a child who would be eligible to enroll, please pass this information to them.

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY:
Date: _____ Time: _____ Received By: _____

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Warriors in the Field Closes 2023 With Inaugural Southern WV Doe Hunt

Thomas Conway

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - On Dec. 31, Warriors in the Field, a nonprofit group that provides outdoor experiences for veterans, made one last stop for the year in Summers County. Four deserving veterans were treated to the opportunity to take a whitetail doe on the final day of the West Virginia antlerless deer season. After a chilly start, the weather was extremely cooperative, and the veterans and volunteers were all able to harvest deer.

Army veterans Johnny Ratliff, of Hinton, West Virginia, Charlie Treadway, of Oak Hill, West Virginia and Shaun Crook, of Hinton,

West Virginia were all successful at harvesting deer. Reservist, Sargent Ambrose “Sully” Webb, also of Hinton, West Virginia was able to take the first whitetail of his young hunting career.

While the organization has held other doe hunts to the north, this was the first of such hunts in the southern part of the state. The group was invited by Henry Guerriero, the landowner, to help with the management of the whitetail population on his farm outside of Hinton. The group is grateful to Guerriero for his hospitality and patriotic spirit. Additionally, Warriors in the Field want to thank Kenny Meadows, of Hinton, West Virginia. Not only did Meadows help coordinate the hunt, but he

also volunteered to help on the day of the hunt.

Warrior’s volunteers Chris Gilbert and Tom Conway, both of Hinton, West Virginia, obtained blinds and other hunting necessities and with the help of Veteran Ratliff, set up the sites for the hunters and dismantled them after the hunt.

Shaun Crook called the hunt, “One of the best days I’ve had in a long time.” His hands were still shaking from the adrenaline rush 20 minutes after he took his deer. Charlie Treadway pointed to Shaun’s shaking hands and said, “That right there is what this is all about.” Sully Webb said of the hunt, “That was awesome. Can’t wait to do that

again.”

Finally, the group would like to thank their fine sponsors, Safe and Sound Security Systems, Inc. and Gone Fishin’, of Hinton and PC Outdoors of MacArthur, West Virginia. Without their generous support and the support of all of the donors in 2023, Warriors in the Field could not provide these opportunities to veterans.

The group is looking to provide new and exciting opportunities to provide veterans in 2024.

If you would like to donate to Warriors in the Field or know of a deserving veteran that you would like to nominate for a trip, please visit the website at: www.warriorsthefield.org.



The veterans and their deer. Photo provided by Thomas Conway.

GEAR UP SWV Using Data to Steer Program with Appointment of New Assistant Director

ATHENS W.Va. (Hinton News) – GEAR UP SWV (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) in southern West Virginia is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Sheila Barnhart Womack as the new Assistant Director. Womack, who joined the team in mid-September, brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her role, reinforcing GEAR UP SWV’s commitment to utilizing data for informed decisionmaking that addresses the unique needs of families in southern West Virginia.

Prior to joining the GEAR UP SWV team, Womack was Director of Student Success at Concord University’s Center for Academic and Career Development. She spent 5 years focused on providing holistic support for college students, especially first-year students, to help them achieve their postsecondary goals.

As Assistant Director, Dr. Womack will play a pivotal role in steering GEAR UP SWV’s initiatives by collecting and analyzing data that informs programmatic decisions. Her work will be instrumental in tailoring GEAR UP SWV’s efforts to meet the specific needs of stu-

dents and families in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Wyoming, and Raleigh Counties. This position focuses on making sure that GEAR UP SWV utilizes a data driven process to implement best practice services for reaching GEAR UP SWV’s goals.

“GEAR UP SWV is such a wonderful and unique opportunity to empower and prepare the young people and families of our region to pursue higher education,” said Dr. Womack. “I believe strongly in the power of education to transform lives and communities and am so excited to be a part of this project that has the potential to revitalize and strengthen part of this beautiful state that I love and have come to consider home!”

The data will help steer the project as we work to achieve the four main goals of GEAR UP SWV.

Goal 1: To increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for students.

Goal 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for schools for students in these five counties.

Goal 3: Increase students’ and families’ knowledge of postsecondary

education options, preparation, and financing.

Goal 4: Increase academic, postsecondary, and social and emotional resilience.

“The focus of GEAR UP SWV’s data-driven approach is to enhance the support provided to students in the class of 2028 and 2029, who are currently 7th and 8th graders in our public schools in five local counties. By leveraging data, GEAR UP SWV aims to create targeted programs and resources that empower students and contribute to their academic success,” Dr. Womack added.

Parents and guardians of students, as well as GEAR UP SWV supporters, are encouraged to stay engaged with the program’s initiatives as the program grows and evolves under Dr. Womack’s tenure as Assistant Director.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is part of a national grant program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. GEAR UP Southern West Virginia (GEAR UP SWV) is a Concord University program, in partnership with New River Community and Technical College, that

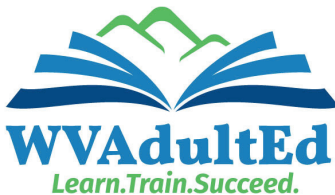


Sheila Womack

helps students graduate from high school and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP SWV is helping the classes of 2028 and 2029 in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties to ensure high school graduation. The program also informs students and families of ways to succeed in postsecondary education and ways to help fund it. GEAR UP SWV supports teachers, administrators, students, and families on this educational journey.

GEAR UP SWV; securing a legacy of strength

and resilience in Appalachia. Find more information on GEAR UP SWV social media pages and on our website, conord.edu/gearup.



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