

Bobcats take 4th in Bluegrass Middle School JV Boys Basketball All Tournament



Bobcats won fourth place in the Bluegrass Middle School JV Boys Basketball All Tournament last week in Union. Photo by Matthew Stalnaker



Rylan Berkshire, 31, won an individual award during the tournament. Photo by Matthew Stalnaker



Luke Stalnaker, 35, won an individual award during the tournament. Photo by Matthew Stalnaker

Tim Wheeler Named History Hero

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - West Virginia Archives and History is pleased to announce that the following individual is among those who will be recognized as West Virginia History Heroes during a West Virginia History Day at the Legislature program and ceremony to be held at the Culture Center on the Capitol Complex in Charleston on Wednesday, March 12, 2025: Timothy Wheeler of Hinton, nominated by Summers County Historical Society Timothy Wheeler is the president of the

Veterans Memorial Museum of Southern West Virginia, located in Hinton. In addition to serving as president, he oversees daily operations and works to curate collections and exhibits. Wheeler has successfully applied for grant monies to improve, enhance, and expand the museum's preservation of historical treasures. Known throughout the community as the "go to" person for information concerning Summers County veterans, Wheeler provided invaluable assistance in the gathering of infor-

mation for Summers County Historical Society's World War II book. West Virginia History Heroes are nominated by historical, genealogical, preservation, museum, patriotic or like organizations from across the state. The purpose of this annual award is to give state level recognition to individuals chosen for dedicated service on behalf of an organization's programs or for a recent significant contribution to state and local history through research, interpretation, publication, or preservation. The West Virginia History

Hero award is a one-time only recognition. The 2025 History Hero awards program is set to begin at 9:30 a.m. in the State Theater at the Culture Center and will conclude before 11:00 a.m. Honorees' local legislators have been invited to participate in the ceremony at the Culture Center, time and legislative session permitting. During this time, photographs will be taken, copies of which can be obtained by visiting <https://wv-culture.zenfolio.com/p222334704> the week after History Day.

Peterstown Worship Center Looking for New Home

Brandon Baker
PETERSTOWN W.Va. (Hinton News) - After 151 years, the former Peterstown United Methodist Church, is closing its doors. The congregation decided to leave the United Methodist Conference, pulled their memberships and broke off to become a non-denominational church called the Peterstown Worship Center. But the choice to do so has ended church services in that particular church building. Pastor Matt Sauvage spoke about the transition and future plans. "Sunday, February 23, we had a special Celebration Service at Peterstown Worship

Center. It was a service full of worship, songs, baptisms, a message, followed by a lunch. We had a total of six baptisms," Sauvage exclaimed. The church service also reflected on the history that was coming to a close. "Sunday was especially significant, as it marked our last service in the church building (formerly Peterstown United Methodist Church), a place that has held our community for many years. Together, we reflected on the 151 years of history we've shared there, and more importantly, we looked ahead with excitement to what God has in store for our church," Sauvage said. Even though the building is closing its doors, the future is already starting to look brighter as long as faith stays front and center. "This is just the beginning of something new and incredible. Starting March 2, we will temporarily hold our services at the Broyles-Shrewsbury Funeral Home Chapel every Sunday at 10 a.m. While this transition may be a challenge, we know that God has big plans for us," Sauvage stated. More permanent plans will come soon, and Sauvage said staying in the building is even a slight possibility. But if that does not work out, they will explore their options fully. "In the coming weeks, we will begin discussions with the UMC to explore the possibility of purchasing the church building. If the price is right, we may be able to continue our ministry from that same space. However, if that's not possible, we are prepared to build a new facility where we can grow together as a community. "Through it all, we are standing firm in our biblical beliefs, and we are confident that God is leading us to greater things. We're excited about the journey ahead and the new opportunities to serve him and our community," Sauvage concluded.



Inside the Peterstown Worship Center on 'Soup'er Bowl Sunday in early February (Photo: Peterstown Worship Center/Facebook)

WVDNR Announces Physical Agility Testing Dates For Natural Resources Police Officer Jobs

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resource (WVDNR) announced today that physical agility tests (PAT) have been scheduled in March for anyone interested in applying to become a Natural Resources Police Officer (NRPO). "Serving as a West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer is a challenging and rewarding career that requires dedication and determination," said Col. Bobby Cales, chief of the WVDNR's Law Enforcement Section. "Beyond being physically fit, officers must also be self-starters, possess strong leadership skills and be able to manage stress and stay focused under pressure." All candidates for NRPO positions are required to pass a PAT, which are scheduled to take place March 8 at South Charleston Community Center at 9 a.m.; March 15 at the Beckley YMCA of Southern WV at 9 a.m.; and on March 22 at the Romney Wellness Center at 9 a.m. The PAT consists of three parts: Upper Body Strength: Complete 18 properly executed push-ups in one minute. Aerobic Power: Complete 1.5 mile run in 14 minutes, 36 seconds. Muscular Endurance: Complete 28 properly executed sit-ups in one minute. Swimming Test: Swim 37.5 yards fully clothed. Walk-ons will be accepted. Candidates should bring a change of clothes for the running test and long pants and a shirt for the swimming test. Applicants will also be required to take a written exam administered by the West Virginia Division of Personnel on March 24 at 1 p.m. at the WVDNR headquarters in South Charleston. As part of the WVDNR's Law Enforcement Section, NRPOs have full law enforcement authority statewide and are responsible for enforcing all state laws and regulations. Their primary duty is to protect West Virginia's natural resources by preventing and addressing unlawful activities that could put them at risk. To be considered for this position, candidates must be willing to relocate and work anywhere in the state, work various shifts and be on call. This is a statewide position, and while preferences may be considered, specific county assignments cannot be guaranteed. To learn more about NRPO job requirements, minimum qualifications and to fill out an online job application, visit WVDnr.gov/job-openings.

Ascension Episcopal Church Announces Inaugurating Reconciliation II

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - Last month we asked the community to come together and discuss division and reconciliation. Seeing the room filled with individuals ready and willing to bridge the gap was a joy. While Jesus openly claimed

that he came to cause division, I don't believe red vs. blue is what he had in mind. You may have heard the phrase, "addition by subtraction" which refers to improvement by removing hindrances. I believe Jesus was encouraging us to remove anything that

separated us from our brothers and sisters – social status, biases, pride, and conditions set by ourselves and society. He was – and is – calling us to a higher level of forgiveness, acceptance, and love. God's love is limitless, but humans tend to restrict those feelings.

Jesus gave us many examples of how to do this. He strips away all labels – whether they be good or bad. Jew or gentile, citizen or tax collector, woman or adulterer – and reminds us that underneath we are alike.

We hope you can join us for Inaugurating Reconciliation II on Saturday, March 8 from 2-4. This session will be a little different. Instead of answering pre-determined questions, speakers will present ideas, concepts, and questions to encourage meaningful discussion regarding ethics, choices,

rights, responsibility, government, and resistance efforts when change is needed. Refreshments and small group discussions will follow before we end the meeting in prayer. If you have questions, please call or text Sister Nancy at 304-860-9446.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Celebrate 64th Annual Peace Corps Day

Cynthia Mattison

GREENBRIER COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - On Saturday, March 1, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will join the nation in celebrating Peace Corps Day. This annual day of recognition honors all past and present volunteers, each of whom has dedicated years of their lives to promoting world peace and friendship through community-based development and intercultural understanding.

Greenbrier County resident Pamela Barry is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and also serves as the group's regional coordinator for southern West Virginia. She fondly recalls her volunteer work in Korea in 1977, the summer of which she would embark on an adventure that would change her life forever. "You go over there thinking that you're going to be teaching and helping them, but they give back so much more," Barry says. "I learned from them, and they learned from me. It's the way the Peace Corps is designed - to allow people from different

cultures to understand and respect each other," she adds. "The Peace Corps changed my life completely and in the most amazingly positive way."

As a young college student, Barry knew right away that she wanted to travel. "When I was in college, it was just something that I was interested in," she says. "I hadn't traveled much, and I was thirsting to go overseas. I thought the Peace Corps would be the best fit for me because I would actually be doing something productive instead of just traveling," and that she did. After submitting an application, Barry met with a recruiter in Boston, completed her paperwork and was on her way to Korea in July 1977. Upon arrival, she underwent two months of intense language and cross cultural training. From there, Pamela Barry would spend the next two years living in a small village and working as an English teacher for Tae Chon Girls Middle School in South Korea. "I was one American, a woman by myself and surrounded by Koreans. Everyone

was kind and respectful," she says. "My village had been waiting for a volunteer for five or six years, so they were very excited."

Barry later returned to the small town in which she taught, but more than a decade would pass since her service had ended. During that time, the area underwent significant changes. "When I was there in 1977, it was all dirt roads, and you had to get your food at the market every day," she says. "When I returned in the early 90s,

it was a big city."

Currently, the Peace Corps is active in over 60 countries with 7,300 volunteers, three of which are from West Virginia. There are currently six sectors in which volunteers exchange skills and knowledge with community members, including agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth in development. The Peace Corps focuses on three goals, including to help the countries interested in meeting their

need for trained people, to help promote a better understanding of the peoples served and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Since being founded in 1961, the Peace Corps has served and worked

in 140 countries with more than 240,000 volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer, would like to attend an event, connect with a recruiter or to submit an application, visit www.PeaceCorps.gov.



Pamela Barry with her co-teacher Mr. Kim in Korea



Pamela Barry (middle) with three of her students in Korea

WVDNR stocks 49 waters during week of Feb. 17

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today announced that the following lakes and streams were stocked with trout during the week of Feb. 17:

Anthony Creek
Back Fork of Elk River
Back Fork of Elk River (Catch and Release)
Bear Rocks Lake
Big Clear Creek
Blackwater River
Boley Lake
Brandywine Lake
Brushy Fork Lake
Buffalo Fork Lake
Clear Fork of Guyandotte River
Curtisville Lake
Desert Fork
Dry Fork (Tucker)
Elk River (Randolph, Webster)
Fort Ashby Reservoir
Glade Creek of Mann
Glady Fork
Greenbrier River (Cass)
Greenbrier River (Durbin)
Horseshoe Run
Huey Lake
Kimsey Run Lake
Knapps Creek
Krodel Lake
Little Clear Creek
Middle Wheeling Creek (Delayed Harvest)
New Creek Dam No. 14
North Fork Lunice
North Fork South Branch
North River
Paw Paw Creek

Pinnacle Creek
Poorhouse Pond
Shavers Fork (Bemis)
Shavers Fork (Lower Section)
South Branch (Catch and Release)
South Branch (Franklin)
South Branch (Smoke Hole)
Sugar Creek
Summit Lake
Tilhance Creek
Turkey Run Lake
Tuscarora Creek
Tygart Valley River
Headwaters
Upper Guyandotte River
Watoga Lake
Wheeling Creek
Whiteday Creek

WVDNR Continues Stocking Trout Despite Extreme Winter Weather

Despite winter weather delaying several stockings in January and February, the WVDNR's hatchery staff have braved the elements to keep West Virginia's lakes and streams stocked with trout so anglers have access to quality fishing opportunities throughout the state.

"Our hatchery staff navigate unplowed back roads, scale treacherous stream banks and go above and beyond to provide anglers with quality fishing opportunities," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

"Their dedication, especially in extreme weather, ensures that trout stockings continue as planned, allowing anglers to enjoy this cherished tradition year-round."

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have

a West Virginia fishing license and a valid form of identification while fishing in the state of West Virginia. Trout stamps are required for those fishing for trout. Licenses and stamps may be purchased online at WVfish.com.

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A Peek into Summers County’s Past: Rare Photo of Summers County Courthouse

William Jones

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - I won't delve into too much detail in regards to the history of the Summers County Courthouse since I had written an in-depth article on September 23, 2023, that fully explained every aspect of its history. But I recently uncovered a virtually unseen early photo when it only had 4 turrets. The late Summers County Historian John Kesler gave me this photo quite some time ago. I recall him pointing out to me at that time just how rare this photo is because

it only has 4 of the 6 turrets on it. Also, because of the direction in which it was taken. This photo shows the building with only 4 turrets that had been added during the 1890s renovations and expansion project which also added the ornamentation to the building. In the 1925-1926 remodel the two turrets on the rear of the building were added and kept with Milburn's early expansion of the courthouse. This photo was taken sometime between these two expansions. Notice the view of this photo, how both of the turrets are the

same size. At first, I was confused because when you are at the front of the building the one on the left side is substantially taller. And the metalwork at the top of the gothic-style roof is a little taller than the others. In the rear of the right-hand side, you can see a bit of this pinnacle directly beside one of the original chimneys. The most interesting part I find of this photo is that at that time both the front and back of the building had what functioned as a "main door". Both of which had the fancy white frieze with black

lettering that reads "Summers County Courthouse", just as it is now over the main door into the facility. The large grass area that is shown with a horse inside of the lot is the area where the 1940-1941 addition or better known as the 3rd expansion was added to the building. This area is also where the Memorial Building now sits, which is now connected as one large complex. This provided for an elevator to be added to the courthouse without messing up the historic integrity of the building. Until next week."



Antique photo of the Summers County Courthouse. Photo provided by William Jones

American Heritage Music Hall Presents 4th Annual Spring Craft & Vendor Show

Cynthia Mattison

FAIRLEA W.Va. (Hinton News) - Some say that April showers bring May flowers and while that may be true, this April will also bring the 4th annual Spring Craft & Vendor Show presented by American Heritage Music Hall. On Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, vendors will gather in the Cecil H. Underwood Youth Center at the State Fair of West Virginia for a two-day craft extravaganza. Event hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. "We always have handmade wood items, fabric items, jewelry, wreaths, Easter baskets, baked goods, candies, paintings and flower arrangements," says Kay Shafer, fundraiser organizer for American Heritage Music Hall. "We also try to have representatives from AVON, Scent-sy and Paparazzi." For the kids, the Easter Bunny will make an appearance on Saturday, April 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for complimentary

photos. In addition, there will be games and prizes. Also on Saturday, there will be a 'Meet & Greet' session for candidates running for mayor and city council for the City of Ronceverte. The exact time is yet to be determined but will be announced prior to the show. As the event wraps up on Saturday night, two raffle baskets will be awarded. "You do not have to be present to win," Kay Shafer confirms. One adult spring-theme basket and one child's Easter basket will be raffled from all entries received. Tickets can be purchased during the craft show at a cost of \$2 each or 3 for \$5. To close out the event on Saturday night, the Thomas Taylor Band will perform at the Cecil Underwood Youth Center. Guests can pull up a chair and enjoy the musical stylings of this traditional country band or hit the dance floor from 7-11 p.m. for some foot-tapping fun. There will be a \$10 admission fee per person for the

dance. The Spring Craft & Vendor Show is open and free to the public. There will be a concession stand, the proceeds from which will benefit the American Heritage Music Hall. "We would like to invite the community to come out and support local crafters, vendors and the American Heritage Music Hall," says Shafer. "We need the support." Proceeds from vendor setup fees and the dance will also benefit the music hall. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, applications will continue to be accepted as space permits. "We still have 20 or 30 spots available," says Shafer. The cost is \$35 for a 10x10 space. Vendors may set up on the evening of Thursday, April 3, from 6-9 p.m. The craft show will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, but the building will be open for vendors to arrive at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Kay Shafer at 304-646-3580 or kayshafer554@yahoo.com.

Series On Calvinism (Part 5) Total Hereditary Depravity

(Last week we defined what is meant by total hereditary depravity. This week we will look at some of the Bible verses used by Calvinists to support this doctrine.)
by Gene Taylor

Proof Texts Used to Support Total Hereditary Depravity

Genesis 6:5. The argument based on this text is that every intent of man's heart was evil continually, therefore, all men were born totally depraved. In the context, Noah was a "just man, perfect in his generations." (v. 9) The text states that "all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (v.12), not that they were born corrupt. If this verse depicts Total Hereditary Depravity, then why was it not the same in the generations before that of Noah? Why did not God destroy mankind sooner? How is it, if all men were depraved, that in Genesis 4:26, "men began to call on the name of the Lord?"

Psalms 51:1-5. The argument from this passage says that David, being conceived in sin and born in iniquity, was a sinner at birth. Nothing in the text or context says David was born a sinner. David asks God to forgive his sin not his mother's sin. His mother could have conceived in sin but it does not logically follow, neither does it state, that the child inherits that sin. David's parents were simply like all other men and women—sinners themselves who lived in a world of sin.

Psalms 53:1-3. The argument from this text states that if no one does good, we must be born sinners. The context states otherwise.

- Why corrupt? They "have done abominable iniquity." (v. 1)
- Is it speaking of babies? A baby cannot "seek God." (v. 2)
- These have "turned aside" to sin (v. 3). They were not born in it.
- These have "become corrupt" (v. 3). They were not born that way.

Psalms 58:3. This argument says, "The wicked are estranged (from God) from the womb." Note the use of the phrase "go astray." They are not born wicked. Babies are not under consideration in this passage. "Speaking lies" indicates age. They stop their ears. (vv. 4-5) They are old enough to understand. Babies are not born with teeth. (v. 6)

Romans 3:19. The argument Calvinists used from this passage is that all the world is guilty of sin before God because they are born in sin. Adam's sin or inherited depravity are not even mentioned. The passage is simply stating that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty of sinning against God. Note verse 12: "They have all turned aside." One cannot turn aside from that which he was not on in the first place.

Romans 5:12-21. This passage is used to argue that the guilt of the sin of Adam, and thus depravity, has been passed unto all people. While this is a difficult passage, there are two important things to remember which help us understand this text in its context. (1) "All sinned." (v. 12; cf. Rom. 3:23) People are subject to death because of their own sin. (2) "Life through the One, Jesus Christ." (v. 17) Verse 17 teaches that both life and death are conditional. If we say that Adam's sin brings automatic spiritual death, we must also say that Christ's life brings automatic spiritual life. It was the sentence of "death," not sin, which spread to all men.

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(Continued next week when we will look at a few more proof texts and then begin to discuss the consequences of the doctrine of Total Hereditary Depravity.)

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DR. DARRIQUIN WEBB

Dr. Darrion Webb

A native of Bluefield, West Virginia, Dr. Webb earned his Doctorate in Psychology from Marshall University in 2023. His training focused on serving rural and underserved communities, and he has experience in community mental health and correctional settings.

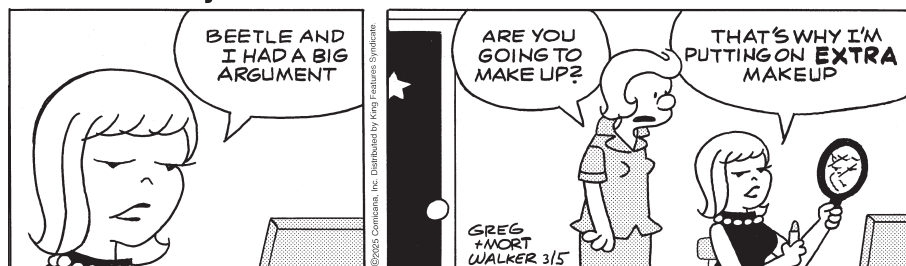
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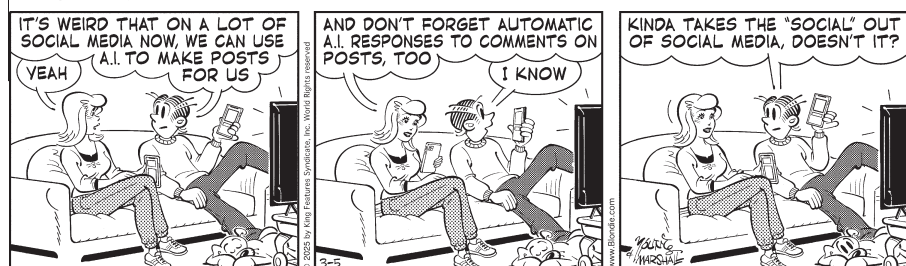


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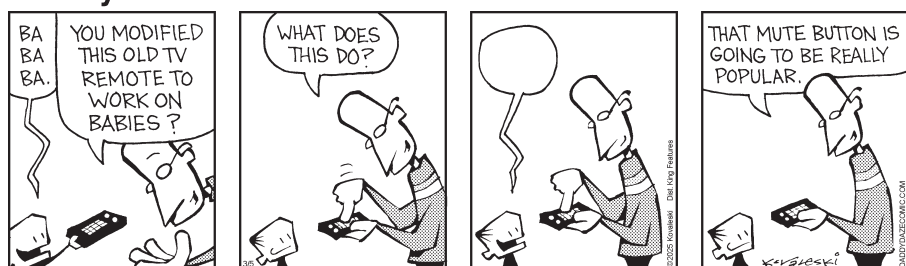
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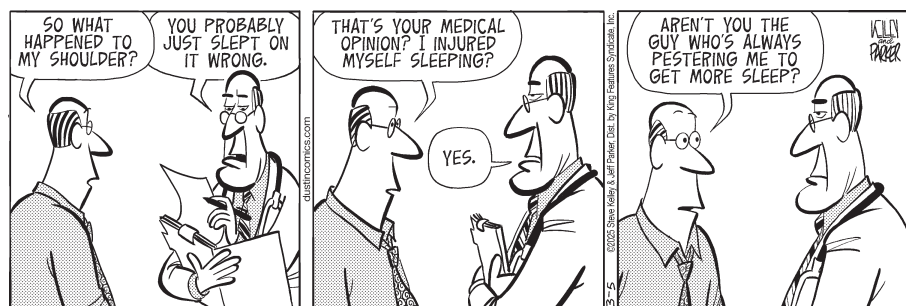
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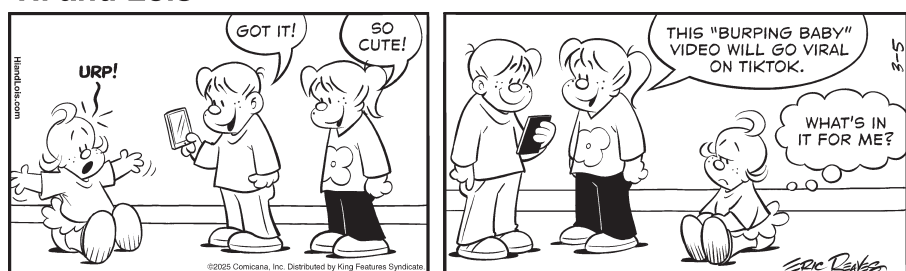
Daddy Daze



Dustin



Hi and Lois



Marvin



Mutts



Zits



SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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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 Feb. 19th's Puzzle:

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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SHEFFER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Walk unevenly
- 5 Part of UCLA
- 8 Quarrel
- 12 Vicinity
- 13 Bando of baseball
- 14 Poi base
- 15 Community in Los Angeles
- 17 "Karenina"
- 18 Peer
- 19 Bent out of shape
- 21 Hip-hop's — Yang Twins
- 24 Hit CBS series
- 25 Luke's mentor
- 28 Landed
- 30 Actress Saldana
- 33 Comedian Gasteyer
- 34 Exams for future attys.
- 35 Buddhist sect
- 36 Boxer Norton

37 Sunrise

- 37 direction
- 38 Green gem
- 39 Buddy
- 41 A few
- 43 Romeo's city
- 46 Trades
- 50 Slugger
- 51 Moises
- 51 Certain pop star devotees
- 54 Cuts the grass
- 55 Shapiro of NPR
- 56 Coin aperture
- 57 Ale measure
- 58 Mardi Gras VIP
- 59 Beer ingredient

DOWN

- 1 Emit coherent light
- 2 Neighbor of Kuwait
- 3 Diner's card
- 4 Tropical fruit
- 5 Leary's drug
- 6 Rowboat need
- 7 Leisurely
- 8 Luminaries
- 9 Deep-dish comfort food
- 10 "Alfred" composer
- 11 Frog's relative
- 16 Yale grad
- 20 Deeds
- 22 "Apollo 13" org.
- 23 Tumbler
- 25 Tibetan beast
- 26 Small bill
- 27 "The Da Vinci Code" author
- 29 "Suffice — say ..."
- 31 British ref. work
- 32 Away from WSW
- 34 "Exodus" author
- 38 Like Sukkot observers
- 40 Awaken rudely
- 42 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 43 Improvise
- 44 Sci-fi race
- 45 Miles away
- 47 Folk singer Guthrie
- 48 Ker-plunk!
- 49 Swift jets
- 52 "— you ready?"
- 53 Kibosh

Solution time: 23 mins.

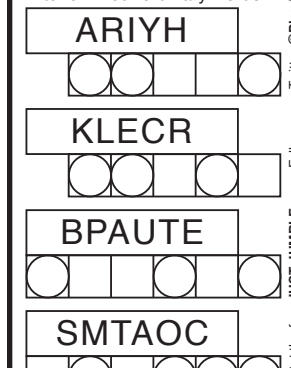


Feb. 19th's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28	29			30	31	32	
33					34				35			
36					37				38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

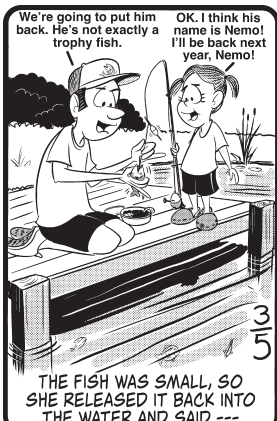
JUMBLE

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



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



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

Feb. 19th's Answers	Jumbles: INEPT	CABLE	FORBID	GRAVEL
Answer:	The grizzly came across as bossy, arrogant and — OVERBEARING			

meeting daily contacts, as well as siblings, relatives and neighbors. Everyone will be impressed with what you have to say. (Well, almost everyone.) Tonight: Socialize!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

4★ You might work from home or behind the scenes today in a quiet way. Nevertheless, whatever you do could have far-reaching financial implications. You might have excellent ideas on how to earn more or to

boost your earnings. You also might see new uses for something that you own. Tonight: Cocoon.

BORN TODAY Actress Eva Mendes (1974), actress Dominique McElligott (1986), actor Matt Lucas (1974)

Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

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ROYAL STARS HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

MOON ALERT: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. EST today (2:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Taurus into Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 5, 2025: You are charming, sympathetic and caring, as well as emotionally colorful. At times you need to retreat from the world for some peace and quiet. This is a wonderful year for you because your past efforts will be recognized. Power, leadership, promotions, kudos and awards will come to you. Bravo!

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★ Your communication skills today are hot, which means this is a great day for those of you in teaching, writing, acting, sales and marketing. Whatever you say will be forceful, meaningful and insightful. You will be quick to see the bottom line and the subtext of anything. Tonight: Discussions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

4★ It's good to know that this is a powerful day for you to make financial decisions or to have financial discussions with others. You will be succinct, to the point, and make your views known to others. As such, your influence may be greater than you suspect. Tonight: Check your money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

5★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with other planets in a strong, powerful connection. This means discussions with friends and members of groups could have far-reaching implications. Very likely, someone younger will be influenced -- hopefully, in a positive way. Tonight: You win!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

4★ Research that you do behind the scenes today will yield results. This is why it's the perfect day to seek answers or solutions to old problems. Meanwhile, discussions with parents and authority figures will be powerful and practical. (Impressive.) Tonight: Privacy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

4★ This is the perfect day to study something. You have excellent powers of

concentration and the necessary perseverance to keep going. Discussions about publishing, the media, medicine and the law will go well. Likewise, discussions about travel and foreign countries will be revealing. Tonight: Enjoy friendships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

4★ Discussions about shared property, inheritances and insurance matters will be productive today. Do your homework and jump right in, because you will get results. Furthermore, you will be noticed for your efforts, but this is probably a good thing. Just do it. Tonight: You're noticed!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

5★ This is an exciting day for you, because for starters, you're eager for adventure -- or at least something different to occur. You're up for something new. Meanwhile, discussions with partners (and possibly your kids) will prove to be enlightening and effective. (Oh my.) Tonight: Explore!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

4★ You'll be scrutinizing and discerning when it comes to discussions about inheritances, shared property or anything to do with loans, mortgages or

debt today. No one can pull anything over your eyes. Perhaps you'll see ways to reduce your debt, or in turn, swing a loan. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

4★ Be ready to cooperate with others today, especially with issues related to your kids or anything to do with sports, the arts, vacations or social outings. People have strong opinions today, which means you have to listen and respect what they say, even if you don't agree. It's a matter of courtesy. Tonight: Be respectful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

4★ Lively discussions at home and within your family can't be avoided today. However, you might have to put your needs and wants second to those of someone else (possibly someone younger). Nevertheless, it's a great day to make improvements at home, or improvements anywhere. Tonight: Get organized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

5★ This is a playful, fun-loving day! Furthermore, your communication style is original and memorable. This is why it's a great day to socialize and enjoy



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Default having occurred in the payment of an obligation to NEW PEOPLES BANK, INC., by ANNA L. FERRARACCIO, which obligation was secured by a Deed of Trust executed by ANNA L. FERRARACCIO, which Deed of Trust is dated June 1, 2021 of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Summers County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 305 at Page 431; Trust Deed Book 310 at Page 172; and Trust Deed Book 319 at Page 533.

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, acting under the authority of a Substitution executed by Tina Brooks, Vice President, dated January 29, 2025, recorded in said Clerk's Office in Trust Deed Book 321 at Page 686; Trust Deed Book 321 at Page 687; and Trust Deed Book 321 at Page 689, will sell at public auction at the front door of the Courthouse in Summers County, West Virginia, on the 24th day of March, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. to the highest bidder in the following described property situate in Summers County, West Virginia, bounded and described as follows:

TRACT ONE: "BEGINNING at a point found a cooper rod on the easterly right of way of West Virginia Route 20, being a corner to K & S Management, Inc.; thence leave said K & S and with said right of way, N. 17 09' E. 59.94 feet to a point on said right of way; thence a curve to the left having a radius of 1939.86 feet and a chord bearing N. 14 16' E. 298.25 feet to a point set, a 1/2 inch rebar, being a corner to Tract Two; thence leave said right of way and with said Tract Two S. 57 46' E. 310.92 feet to a point set, a 1/2 inch rebar; thence S 44 20' E. 291.73 feet to a point set, a 1/2 inch rebar; thence S. 29 56' W. 222.67 feet to a point set, a 1/2 inch rebar on a line of said K & S; thence leave said Tract Two and with said K & S., N. 64 58' W., 431.54 feet to a point found, a 2 inch iron pipe; thence N. 55 29' W., 67.88 feet to the place of BEGINNING. Said tract of land contains 3.78 acres of land more or less as surveyed by Jeffery J. Chambers, LLS, in March of 1992, and is shown as Tract One on a map filed in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Summers County, West Virginia, in Cabinet ____ at File ____.

"There is an outsale of 0.485 acre m/l conveyed unto Anna L. Ferraraccio and Anthony L. Ferraraccio, her husband, from Anna L. Ferraraccio and Anthony L. Ferraraccio, by deed dated February 19, 2016 and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 254 at page 119."

TRACT TWO: "BEGINNING at a found 1/2" rebar on the easterly right of way of West Virginia Route 20, a corner with Wyrick; thence with said Wyrick S. 57° 57' 00" E., 75.56 feet to a 5/8" rebar & cap set, being distant N. 57° 57' 00" W., 234.92 feet from a found 1/2" rebar; thence leave said Wyrick and thru the survey S. 11° 03' 20" E., 192.79 feet to a 5/8" rebar & cap set, thence S. 75° 40' 39" W., 73.91 feet to a 5/8" rebar & cap set; thence N. 15° 15' 37" W., 7.71 feet to a 5/8" rebar & cap set; thence S. 76° 04' 59" W., 38.54 feet to a 5/8" rebar & cap set; thence N. 02° 14' 17" W., 124.72 feet to a point not set on the easterly side of a driveway; N. 07° 56' 19" W., 42.11 feet to a point not set on the easterly right of way of West Virginia Route 20, thence with said right of way N. 14° 00' 13" E., 85.64 feet to the point of BEGINNING Said parcel contains 0.485 acres more or less as shown on a plat prepared by SCS Surveyors, dated the 9th day of February, 2016."

The terms of sale will be cash in hand on the date of sale. The purchaser shall assume any and all taxes which are now due or to become due.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject

any and all bids. /s/ WILLIAM S. WINFREY, II., Substitute Trustee 1608 West Main Street P.O. Box 1159 Princeton, WV 24740 Phone: (304) 487-1887 (5,12mr)

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until April 08, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call: 011 Contract: 2025890001 State Project: R089-REMGR-26 00 Federal Project: Description: GUARDRAIL D9 2026 REM GUARDRAIL District Wide Guardrail and Fence Installation and Repair COUNTY: Summers, Nicholas, Monroe, Greenbrier, Fayette

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

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

The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award. (5,12mr)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Default having occurred in the payment of an obligation to NEW PEOPLES BANK, INC., by PIPES-TEM SPA AND CHALET CORP., which obligation was secured by a Deed of Trust executed by ANNA WHITE FERRARACCIO, President of Pipestem Spa and Chalet Corp., which Deed of Trust is dated May 24, 2022 of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Summers County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 311 at Page 146.

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, acting under the authority of a Substitution executed by Tina Brooks, Vice President, dated January 29, 2025, recorded in said Clerk's Office in Trust Deed Book 321 at Page 688, will sell at public auction at the front door of the Courthouse in Summers County, West Virginia, on the 24th day of March, 2025, at 11:15 a.m. to the highest bidder in the following described property situate in Summers County, West Virgin-

ia, bounded and described as follows:

"BEGINNING at a fence post on the east line of W.Va. State Route No. 20, said fence post being a common corner to Hopkins and Robert Wyatt; thence N. 80-00 E., 219 feet leaving Route 20 with the line between Hopkins and Wyatt, to a locust tree near a wire fence, a corner to the lot owned by Jahue Meador; thence south 219 feet leaving Hopkins and with the line between Wyatt and Meador to an iron pin on the line of Neely; thence S. 75-00 W., 223.3 feet leaving Meador and with the line between Wyatt and Neely to a stake on the east line of W.Va. Route No. 20; thence North 233.1 feet leaving Neely and with the east line of W.Va. Route No. 20, to the point of BEGINNING, containing in all 1.15 acres."

"There is reserved from the above conveyance a right of way 10 feet wide and running from the east line of State Route No. 20 to the line of Jahue Meador lot. Said right of way is to run parallel to and 10 feet therefrom the north side of the above described lot."

The terms of sale will be cash in hand on the date of sale. The purchaser shall assume any and all taxes which are now due or to become due.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

/s/ WILLIAM S. WINFREY, II., Substitute Trustee 1608 West Main Street P.O. Box 1159 Princeton, WV 24740 Phone: (304) 487-1887 (5,12mr)

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following estates have been opened for probate in the Summers Fiduciary Supervisor's Office at 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 100, Hinton, WV 25951-0097. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code § 41-5-11 - 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Summers County Fiduciary Supervisor's office within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code § 44-2 or 44-3A.

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

First Publication Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Claim Deadline: Sunday, May 4, 2025
ESTATE OF: ORUS ASHBY BERKLEY
EXECUTRIX: CYNTHIA L. TILLEY
ESTATE OF: ALLEN SCOTT WISEMAN
EXECUTOR: LEON RAY PIVONT III
ESTATE OF: BARBARA JUNE BRUNTY
ADMINISTRATRIX: ELIZABETH STEWART
ESTATE OF: JAMES W. MANN
EXECUTRIX: TERESA MANN
ESTATE OF: EMMA JANE MANNING
EXECUTOR: KENNETH MANNING
ESTATE OF: JAMES EGBERT BEALE
ADMINISTRATRIX: ROSE REEL
ESTATE OF: CARLA JANE MONROE
ADMINISTRATRIX: KAREN A. PATRICK
ESTATE OF: WILLIAM CLAYTON BALLARD JR.

CO EXECUTOR: HERMAN PACK
CO EXECUTOR: GREGORY N. BRAGG
ESTATE OF: JOHN DUANE HENDRICK
EXECUTRIX: BETTY JANE HENDRICK
ESTATE OF: RAYMOND ARTHUR HONAKER
ADMINISTRATRIX: KAMIA LEE HONAKER
ESTATE OF: FRANK LEWIS MEADOWS SR.
EXECUTRIX: EVELYN MARIE MEADOWS
ESTATE OF: MARSHA ELAINE FARRISH
EXECUTOR: JUSTIN FARRISH
ESTATE OF: MABEL STODDARD
ADMINISTRATOR: JAMES STODDARD

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 25, 2025.
Donald R. Basham Jr.
Fiduciary Supervisor of Summers County (5,12mr)

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF SUMMERS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Civil Action No. FC-45-2025-D-2

IN RE:

The Marriage of: Paul Lawrence Waldron, Petitioner, and Sheila Kay Waldron, 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 Sheila Kay Waldron is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Sheila Kay Waldron serve upon Paul Lawrence Waldron, Petitioner, whose address is 167 Pleasant Street, 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 March 28, 2025. 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 February 18, 2025.
/s/ Stacy D. Ford
Clerk of the Court (26fe5mr)

Notice To Creditors, Distributees, and Legatees Proposed / Short Form Settlements

To the Creditors and Beneficiaries of the within named deceased persons:

I have before me the Final settlements and Proposals for the estates of the following deceased persons, which shall be presented to the County Commission of Summers County, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Hinton, West Virginia on the 12TH day of March, at or near 10:00 a.m. These proposed settlements and short form settlements have been presented to me by the fiduciary of such estates which settlements I have approved as indicated below:

Estate: Bessie Marie Trout
Fiduciary: Ralph L. Trout Jr.
Estate: Rebecca Lynn Brown
Fiduciary: Jessica Lynn Starcher
Estate: James Roy Crook
Fiduciary: Sheila Crook
Estate: David Franklin Keaton
Fiduciary: Linda Meadows Blasingame

Any person having any interest in the estate of any such deceased person, may appear before the County Commission at the time and place hereinabove specified and thereupon protect his interests as they may appear or else may be forever thereafter barred from asserting such interest.

Given under my hand this the 26th day of February, 2025.
Donnie Basham
Fiduciary Supervisor (5mr)

Chairman Capito Leads Hearing on Surface Transportation Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Hinton News) – U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, led a hearing examining the implementation of surface transportation policies and funding included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

In her opening remarks, Chairman Capito spoke about the importance of examining both successes and shortcomings of the surface transportation portion of IIJA as the EPW Committee begins to focus on the next Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill, as current provisions expire in September 2026. Additionally, Chairman Capito highlighted the reliability of formula funding for states, and the need for further implementation of project delivery provisions.

Below is the opening statement of Chairman Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) as delivered.

"Thank you for joining us this morning to continue our oversight of the implementation of the IIJA. Today, our focus is on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, one of the foundational components of the IIJA, which was developed in a bipartisan manner by this Committee.

"This hearing comes at a critical time, I think, as we approach the expiration of those provisions at the end of 2026, in September. We want to continue what is working, but discontinue what isn't working.

"Since the law's enactment on November 15, 2021, transportation stakeholders have been delivering on its promise but, at times, experiencing some challenges. We have some of those stakeholders with us today, I appreciate them coming, to provide us with an on-the-ground update of their efforts to deliver transportation projects in rural and urban communities.

"On the positive side, the federal highway formula programs received approximately 90 percent of the funding in the IIJA, which was something that I strongly supported. This funding has provided states with certainty, and with the flexible project eligibilities to address the transportation needs of Americans across the country.

"In my home state of West Virginia, that formula funding is upgrading and modernizing our roads and bridges, which will connect our communities to job and economic opportunities. I also championed common-sense provisions aimed at accelerating projects so that communities are not stuck waiting to realize the safety and reliability benefits that they will bring.

"As an example, the IIJA codified the One Federal Decision policy, which expedites, or should expedite, the environmental review process for certain projects by setting a two-year goal for those reviews and allowing the use of a single,

coordinated process to develop an environmental document.

"I am curious to hear from our witnesses today, if these provisions are being used and whether they have been having the desired impact. Despite the many benefits, I am aware that we have some challenges with the implementation of the IIJA.

"Inflation is certainly a contributing factor. It has eaten into the overall funding increase provided by the IIJA and increased project costs. I look forward to our witnesses' sharing the real-world impacts of this inflation on the work that they are doing.

"Another challenge is that many of the new discretionary grant programs established by the IIJA have been very slow in achieving their congressional intent. These programs require significant time and money from eligible applicants, and once a grant has been awarded, the project grant agreement was often taking more than a year to be negotiated and signed by the prior Administration, which delays the benefits of each project.

"This slow-down has contributed to a ballooning amount of unused obligation authority that must be sent back to the states as part of a process known as the August Redistribution. In 2024, that amount was \$8.7 billion.

"This results in an end-of-the-fiscal-year scramble as states seek to put that amount of funding to use, often putting it towards lower-priority projects. We advanced a bipartisan fix to help with this issue last year, but the challenge remains and it's growing.

"I'm sure we'll learn more about our witnesses' experiences with applying for and managing a discretionary grant award today. In addition, the implementation of the IIJA was sometimes clouded by the executive overreach of the prior Administration.

"My colleagues on this Committee have often heard me talk about the two examples of overreach. The December 16th policy memorandum that was issued, and the greenhouse gas performance measure final rule. The goal of this overreach was simply advancing the priorities of the prior Administration, even when those priorities were often specifically considered by this Committee and excluded from the IIJA.

"Ultimately, it took more than a year for the prior Administration to correct their misstep with the December 16th memo and it required litigation from 22 states, and action by the Trump administration, to finally end the unauthorized greenhouse gas performance measure final rule. With the opportunities and challenges of the IIJA implementation in mind, I look forward to receiving testimony from our panel of witnesses.

"This review of the real-world impacts of the IIJA and the feedback on what is working, and what isn't working, will inform this Committee's bipartisan work on the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill."



Dear Recycle Lady

Recycle Lady, yes, paper can be made without steel (tin) cans are rusty. Can they be recycled? **Canner** Several of my steel (tin) cans are rusty. Can they be recycled? **Canner** **Dear Canner,** Slightly rusty cans can be recycled, if they are clean and dry. If there is lots of rust on the can, it goes in the trash. **Dear Recycle Lady,** I just read that some old growth forests are being cut to keep up with the current demand for paper, especially toilet paper. If so, are there any other materials, besides wood from trees, that can be used for making paper. **Tree Hugger** **Dear Tree Hugger,** You are correct about the growing demand for paper contributing to the deforestation of old growth forests. According to Earth911, over 440 million U.S. tons of paper are used worldwide each year and that number keeps rising. To answer your second question,

all grew hemp, and Benjamin Franklin owned a mill that made hemp paper. According to edelsoninstitute.com, up until the 1880s, 75%–90% of all paper in the world was made from hemp. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first drafts of the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper. The final version of the Declaration was not written on hemp but on parchment made from animal skin. It is currently on display in the National Archives. **Dear Recycle Lady,** I have driven by a scrap metal business on Route 60 near Caldwell. What kind of metal materials do

they take? **Metal Recycler** **Dear Metal Recycler,** There are two scrap metal businesses on Route 60 near Caldwell—Boggs Scrap Yard and S.S. Belcher Co. They accept most metals, but not paper, plastics or cardboard. Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.



A Remembrance of Jason Gill (1975-2025)

By Emma Chanlett-Avery

On February 16, 2025, Jason Gill, 49, passed away in his home in Brooklyn, NY, from cancer. Jason leaves behind his wife, Jannell Turner; two sons, Turner and Aaron Gill; his mother, Greta Gill; and brother, Marcus Gill, all of whom were by his side in his last days in hospice. He is also survived by cousins, Tommy and Timmy Ward and Teresa Huffman; aunt, JoAnn Richmond; aunt, Dale Sears; and uncle, Doug Sears.

Raised on Hix Mountain, Jason always proudly wore his West Virginia credentials, telling all he met about his roots in Hinton and his education in Summers County Schools. He attended Hinton Area Elementary (on the Blue team in basketball), Hinton Junior High, and graduated from Hinton High School in 1993. He excelled academically: National Honor Society member, National Merit Finalist, National Academic Games competitor, and a Fife Scholar. As Student Body President, Jason led the movement to allow students to vote on whether to keep the bobcat mascot and the orange and black colors, when the new high school was built. Passions ran high in Summers County on the issue. Jason spoke in front of the school board and eventually advanced the matter to the WV State legislature, where the House and Senate passed a law, signed by the governor, that allowed students to choose their colors and mascot. If you're a proud multi-generation Bobcat, you have Jason to thank.

Jason took his leadership skills to Amherst College in Massachusetts, finishing with a B.A. with a double major in English Literature and Women's and Gender Studies. Always connected to his hometown, he secured funding and ran Voices From the Mountains, a summer literacy and creative writing program for youth in Summers County, and led a spring break community service trip of Amherst students back to Hinton. He went on to earn both a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and an MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business. With these degrees, Jason pursued his passions for public service and business. He was awarded a prestigious Coro Fellowship by the New York Leadership Center, and became a Chief Operating Officer of media and technology companies after briefly practicing law. At the time of his death, he was Director of Special Projects in the Office of Performance Management and Data Analytics at the New York City Department of Social Services, returning to his dedication to public service. Jason brought an astounding intellect and an entrepreneurial spirit to all his professional endeavors.

Jason met Jannell Turner of Memphis, Tennessee, on a work trip in 2001 and quickly fell in love, proposing to her on the Brooklyn Promenade in 2002. They held two wedding ceremonies in 2003: one at Jason's home on Hix Mountain on the day that Jason's grandmother, Lois Basham, passed away, and a second at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis with over 300 guests. While living in Charlottesville, Jason and Jannell welcomed two boys, Turner in 2005 and Aaron just 18 months later in 2007. The family later settled in Brooklyn, New York, among their large and tight-knit community of friends. Jason, Aaron, and Turner became avid runners, with the boys earning multiple accolades at the city, state, and national levels. Jason completed the New York City marathon in 2023.

Jason's death was a tremendous loss for not just his family but his sprawling and diverse network of friends. Jason had a magnetic presence and collected a huge number of fans from all walks of life with his curiosity, compassion, and hilarious sense of humor. At his wedding, several people stood up to make toasts, each of them claiming that Jason was their best friend - and it was true.

I was one of those best friends, blessed to have many decades with Jason, from childhood until the last moments of his life. Our lives were intertwined: the same 4-H club (the Pink Polka Dots) and the same tribe (the mighty Senecas!) at 4-H camp; many of the same classes together with Mr. Connor and Mrs. Parmer; and many weekends together having (mostly) good clean fun at my parents' farm with heaps of friends, playing Zilch, eating bean dip, and gathering around bonfires. In successive years, Jason and I each went to Japan for summer homestays -- for both of us, the first time we traveled overseas. Jason joined me at Amherst College, where we were on the crew team and elected co-secretaries of the student government. Later, we lived in New York and in Washington, DC, at the same time, affording many more opportunities to get together as young adults. We were married two weeks apart, betting that the other would have kids first. He lost, twice over, and had to pay for the four of us to have a nice dinner out.

For years and years, Jason would show up at our house on Woodrumtown Road, wondering what was for dinner and -- once -- casually shooting a deer from our back deck on his way inside. He was a member of our family -- my little brother -- driving me crazy by never being on time but being so charming and sheepish that everyone forgave him. He brought warmth, creativity, and a bit of mischief everywhere he went. He could light up a crowd but could also sit one-on-one, listening intently and sharing vulnerably, for hours. He was larger than life and the life of the party. I will miss him immeasurably.

I am far from alone. Jason inspired fierce loyalty in his friends. Here are reflections from just a few of his peers from Hinton:

Stacy Newton: Jason was an incredible friend who changed the trajectory of my life. I moved to New York City because of his encouragement, and he introduced me to my husband. When we threw parties in the Brooklyn apartment we shared, I never knew who would show up, because Jason made friends everywhere he went. He was brave, funny, adventurous, and lived life to the fullest, which meant when I was with him, I often got to do the same. He showed me so many new things: foods like Dim Sum and Korean fried chicken, the Coney Island boardwalk, bars that only a New Yorker would know, and neighborhoods I never knew existed. More importantly, we had countless conversations in which he introduced me to new perspectives and outlooks. He helped me grow into the person I am today.

Ron Pack: Jason and I began hanging out in high school and quickly became fast friends. We had many classes together and began running in the same friend group. Everyone that knew Jason loved Jason. His personality was always inviting, and his laugh was infectious. He could always make sure you were in a good mood, no matter what was going on in your life. I never had a brother, but I imagine if I did, it would be like the relationship I had with Jason. We got into many shenanigans over the years and many great memories with lots of laughs and lots of crazy stories. Jason was a good runner, and when he lived in the DC area, he would run with me; and he would run backwards, while I ran forward, just to encourage me to keep going. From our many New Year's Eve parties in New York to our camping trip in Utah, so many great memories. Jason would always be the first person willing to lend a hand if you needed him. The last time I saw Jason, he was in the hospital hooked up to machines, but his spirit was still him. He reached out his hands to me and asked if I could make sure God accepted him. I had the honor of praying with him and now know that one day I'll reunite with him again in Heaven.

Joey Hartwell: Jason was a remarkable individual, and I am blessed to have been his friend. Aside from being incredibly intelligent, he had a special gift for seeing the very best in others--encouraging and uplifting everyone--and making each person he encountered feel special. He was a natural leader, the kind of person you instinctively trusted and wanted to follow.

Tony Michael: Jason was one of my best friends from fourth grade through graduation. He was a cosmic force who was driven to succeed -- but determined to have fun while doing so. I have countless fond memories of him, but what stands out most is how deeply he cared -- about his family, his friends, his school, and quite literally the world. Whether as a 6'4" blonde summer exchange student in Japan or as student body president leading students through a year-long fight to have a voice in their school colors and mascot, Jason stood out, because he had a special light about him. It wasn't just his charisma, intellect, and humor that drew people into his orbit, people gravitated toward him because of his energy, passion, and vision. Whether we were just hanging outside on the hill or listening to Pink Floyd underneath his bedroom skylight, Jason would often look up at the stars... perhaps not realizing, or maybe he did, that he was one that I looked up to.

Memorial Services for Jason will be held on March 30 at 12 noon at the McCreery Hotel in Hinton.

All are invited. If you have questions, you can email Emma Chanlett-Avery at emmaca@gmail.com. If you have a story about Jason to share, please consider writing it down and emailing it to Stacy Newton at newtst@gmail.com, who will compile them into a book for Jason's family.

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