



# Beyond the Interstate: Discovering the New Adventures by Rail

Rebecca Stalnaker  
Hinton News

WEST VIRGINIA (Hinton News) - When planning a trip, one of the most important aspects is the travel method. From road trips to international flights, there are plenty of options available; however, there is one often overlooked choice: trains. In southern West Virginia, Amtrak runs the Cardinal line for all of your travel needs.

Every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, this line runs between Chicago and New York City with stops in multiple West Virginia and Virginia cities making it an excellent option for day trips. Travellers can easily go from Hinton to White Sulphur Springs or Charleston to Clifton Forge and back again.

Not only is train travel a convenient way to take a trip, but it is also generally cheaper than flying. Other benefits include plenty of leg room and reclining seats that do not impede the passenger behind you in coach, generous free luggage options, several food and drink options to suit varying tastes and general ease.

While the convenience and cost are major draws, the true selling point of the Cardinal is the unpar-

alleled scenery. As the train winds through the heart of southern West Virginia, it traverses the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. Passengers are treated to views of the rugged canyon walls and the rushing New River—vistas that are completely inaccessible by car. During the autumn months, this route becomes a moving gallery of vibrant oranges and reds, offering a perspective on the Appalachian wilderness that you simply cannot get from an interstate.

Choosing the train isn't just about the destination; it's about embracing a slower, more intentional pace of life. Many of the stops along the West Virginia route, such as Hinton and Alderson, feature historic depots that harken back to the golden age of rail travel. These stations often sit in the heart of small, walkable towns, allowing travelers to step off the platform and immediately immerse themselves in local culture, boutique shopping, and historic architecture without the need for a rental car.

For those who struggle with the cramped confines of modern air travel, the Cardinal is a breath of fresh air. Beyond the generous legroom, the train offers free Wi-Fi and individual power outlets



**The empty tracks at the Hinton station overlooking the river. Photo by Rebecca Stalnaker**



**The Cardinal train pulling into the Hinton Station. Photo by Rebecca Stalnaker**

at every seat, making it an ideal environment for those who want to get some work done or stream a movie while the landscape rolls by. If you're looking for a more social experience, the Lounge Car provides a space to stretch your legs, strike up a conversation with fellow travelers, or simply enjoy a coffee while staring out of the oversized observation windows.

**Pro Tip:** Because the Cardinal

only runs three times a week, it is wise to book your tickets in advance, especially during the peak leaf-peeping season in October when the route is in high demand.

As someone who recently discovered the ease of rail travel, I encourage travellers to try it out and see where the rails will take you next! Whether you are going on a day trip to The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs or a weekend getaway to the Big Apple, adventures await!

# Witness Statements and Alleged Confession Lead to Arrest in Pipestem Shooting

Lisa Abshire  
Hinton News

PIPESTEM W.Va. (Hinton News) - According to a criminal complaint, on Jan. 18, an officer received a call at approximately 2:40 a.m. to respond to the vicinity of Rock Ridge Bar in Pipestem. While enroute, the officer was reportedly informed that an individual had been shot. When the officer arrived

on the scene, he started an investigation.

According to reports, the victim, who has not been identified, was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The officer made contact with three witnesses who allegedly named an individual, later identified as Raesan Smith, as one of the suspects in the shooting. Several witnesses also reportedly saw Smith brandishing a firearm prior to the shooting.

A little while later, Smith was hiding inside a vehicle in the parking lot, according to the complaint. Of note is that Smith was reportedly in possession of the same clothes as those described by the witnesses. Smith was then arrested.

The officer interviewed



**Raesan Smith**

Smith after advising him of his Miranda Rights. Smith reportedly waived his rights. During the interview, Smith allegedly confirmed he discharged his firearm four times. The complaint states that Smith also told the officer that he had been aiming his firearm at another person when the incident occurred. According to

the complaint, Smith also said he disposed of the firearm before being arrested. There was a residence within 500 feet of where the firearm was reportedly discharged.

Smith was booked into Southern Regional Jail; however, at the time of publishing, Smith is no longer listed as an inmate at SRJ.

7  
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78334  
5

# A Peek into Summers County's Past: Hinton News Front Pages Through the Years



Photo provided by William Jones

**William Jones**  
Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - This week's piece kind of writes itself. The papers you see here are a collection of only the front pages of the Hinton Daily News throughout the years. This was done for a special 75th anniversary edition of the paper, showcasing some of the most memorable local, national, and international news stories and headlines.

As for a local story of interest, the Wednesday, January 14, 1942 headline was "DRAVO AWARDED BLUESTONE DAM CONTRACT." The first paragraph of the story

reads... "the amount was approximately \$10,000,000." With inflation, that equates to \$206,403,821.66 today.

On Tuesday, June 6, 1944, the headline was "INVASION BEGINS Landings Made In Northern France; Nazis Acknowledge Penetrations At Cherbourg". Tuesday, May 8, 1945, reads "VICTORY Truman Announces Surrender; Warns Japanese To End War." Monday, August 6, 1945, "New Atomic Bomb Dropped on Japan. Tuesday, August 14, 1945, "WAR ENDED Allied Forces Ordered To Cease Firing."

A local story that made national head-

lines at the time, May, July 21, 1969 Thursday, March 1949, "Bluestone Bridge Section Falls; Five Dead". Wednesday, June 10, 1953 "3 Crewmen Die When Engine Explodes." Of national or rather international interest;

May, July 21, 1969 "MAN WALKS ON MOON."

Wednesday, May 4, 1960 "Senator John Kennedy Visits In Hinton Today". Then, only three years later, on Friday, November 22, 1963, "President

Kennedy Assassinated". Thursday, June 27, 1929, "Preparation and Building of Bridge Interesting Story" and

then several individual stories about the local bridge follow.

International news again: Thursday, December 10, 1935 "Abdication of King is Announced." Sunday, December 7, 1941 "WAR Declared by Japanese on U.S., Britain". Wednesday, April 18, 1906 "Earthquake Destroys San Francisco." Wednesday, April 8, 1912 "Roosevelt Pays Hinton Short Visit."

One section was just articles of local interest, such as "Telephone Makes Debut Here In 1887 Between Offices In Court House." "200,000 Feet of Pipe Required To Serve Gas Construction Here". The great many local ads and photographs are simply fascinating. There are 25 front pages included in this series. And for a local history enthusiast like me, it is an absolute treasure to have in my collection.

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# Family Refuge Center Hosts Annual Tea Party in Celebration of International Women's Day Honoring Women in Leadership

LEWISBURG W.Va. (Hinton News) — Family Refuge Center (FRC) is proud to announce its 4th Annual International Women's Day Tea Party, a community celebration honoring the achievements and leadership of women throughout the region. The event will be held at FRC's main office in Lewisburg on Friday, March 6, at noon.

This annual gathering brings community members together

to celebrate connection, belonging, and empowerment. Guests will enjoy a selection of teas and light refreshments while participating in a warm, welcoming event that uplifts the voices and accomplishments of women.

International Women's Day is recognized globally as a time to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political contributions of women. FRC's Tea Party

provides a meaningful space for

attendees to reflect on progress, honor local women leaders, and reaffirm the community's commitment to gender equity.

"We are thrilled to host this event as part of International Women's Day," said Stephanie Moore, Executive Director of Family Refuge Center. "It's a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the incredible accomplishments of women in leadership in our community

and to reflect on the progress they have made."

FRC welcomes community members, local businesses, and partner organizations to join in this celebration and show their support for women who lead, inspire, and strengthen our community every day.

To RSVP, please email [tyrannad@familyrefugecenter.org](mailto:tyrannad@familyrefugecenter.org) or call the main office at 304-645-6324.

## Skate Central Beckley Promises Inclusive Fun and Community Focus

Susan Smith-Linton  
Hinton News

BECKLEY W.Va. (Hinton News) — August 2026 is the opening month for Skate Central Beckley; they are finalizing the exact location now. The new skating venue that organizers say will be about more than just entertainment; it's about building a more inclusive and accessible fun in the community. General Manager Jonathan Schmier of TJ Entertainment emphasizes a mission beyond profitability.

"We're not just open for business to make money; we're building our community," Schmier said. The project is being developed with a strong commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, aiming to welcome every member of the community.

Skate Central Beckley declares a 100% commitment with features designed to accommodate guests of all ages and abilities. A key component is removing barriers, ensuring that every child and adult with any type of disability can enjoy a day of skating. Also, to support guests with sensory sensitivities, the venue will offer sensory-friendly sessions featuring dim light-

ing and lower music volumes. In addition, no flashing lights will be used during standard operations to promote safety for individuals with seizure disorders. The facility will also operate as a dry venue, with no alcohol served on-site.

In a bid to make skating accessible to all income levels, Skate Central Beckley will offer affordable pricing and a variety of membership options. Prospective guests can anticipate monthly memberships, family four-packs, and bundled discounts to encourage regular participation.

The venue plans to host a range of programs, including homeschool days and Christian skate days, along with a Bring-Your-Own-Skates option for those who already own gear. Skate Central Beckley will also feature retro nights and adult-only evenings, giving grown-ups a chance to showcase their crossover moves! Additional attractions will include laser tag and birthday party packages, expanding the family-fun appeal beyond skating.

The goal is to create a space where barriers don't exist," Schmier noted. "We want every member of the community to feel welcome and supported, from families with young children to adults seeking a unique social experience."

For updates, Schmier invites fans

to follow Skate Central Beckley's official Facebook page.



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### Jesus, The Way: Introducing Jesus As The Way

(Part 4)

by Mark A. Copeland

[https://executableoutlines.com/topical\\_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw\\_01.html](https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html)

Last week we were looking at the way out of religious confusing. We ended with the Lord adding daily to the church those who were being saved in Acts 2:47.

In His church, we can enjoy the unity of which Paul wrote to the Ephesians...

**There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)**

But finding His church and enjoying this unity is experienced only as we follow Jesus as the way out of religious confusion.

Finally, let me point out that Jesus is...

#### THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

Death is inevitable (unless Jesus returns first), and as the author of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote, it is followed by judgment:

**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27)**

In this way, death becomes the door, either to eternal life or to eternal condemnation. In His description of the Judgment scene, Jesus outlines only two alternatives...

**"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)**

To die in Jesus is to die in the way to life eternal! As the apostle John wrote in the book of Revelation:

**Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Revelation 14:13)**

Yet another wonderful blessing in following Jesus as "The Way," to find that He is the way to eternal life!

#### Conclusion

I hope that I have sparked your interest in wanting to learn more about Jesus as "The Way." As I mentioned at the outset of this study, the other lessons will elaborate upon these great blessings provided only through Jesus.

My purpose in this series is two-fold...

- For those who are Christians, to increase their appreciation of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, so they will want to serve Him with greater zeal;
- For those who are not Christians, to encourage them to let Jesus be their way to everything that is truly good, both in this life and in the life to come!

#### Questions To Stimulate Your Thinking...

1. What does Jesus expect of those who call Him "Lord"? (Luke 6:46)
2. What does Paul claim about the things that he wrote? (1 Corinthians 14:37)
3. To whom did Jesus promise the necessities of life? (Matthew 6:33)
4. Through what do we have redemption? (Ephesians 1:7)
5. What did Jesus say should be preached in His name to all nations? (Luke 24:47)
6. What did Jesus say one must do to be saved? (Mark 16:16)
7. Can Muslims, Buddhists, or any others reach God without Jesus? (John 14:6)
8. Whom did the Lord add to His church in Jerusalem? (Acts 2:47)
9. How many baptisms does God now recognize? (Ephesians 4:5)
10. Who are blessed when they die? (Revelation 14:13)

Next week we will begin an in-depth study looking at Jesus, the way to a better life.

*Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.*

We meet at 3293 Tug Creek Mountain Road

Sunday Morning Worship 9:30

Bible Study 10:30

Worship 11:15

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30

We would love to have you come and study with us.

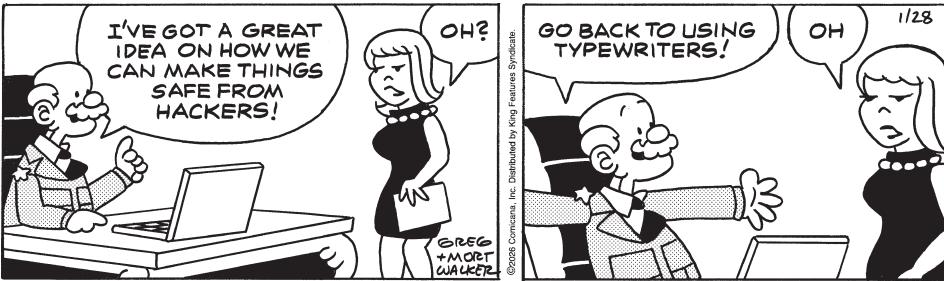
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## ENTERTAINMENT &amp; COMICS PAGE

## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Blondie



## Mutts



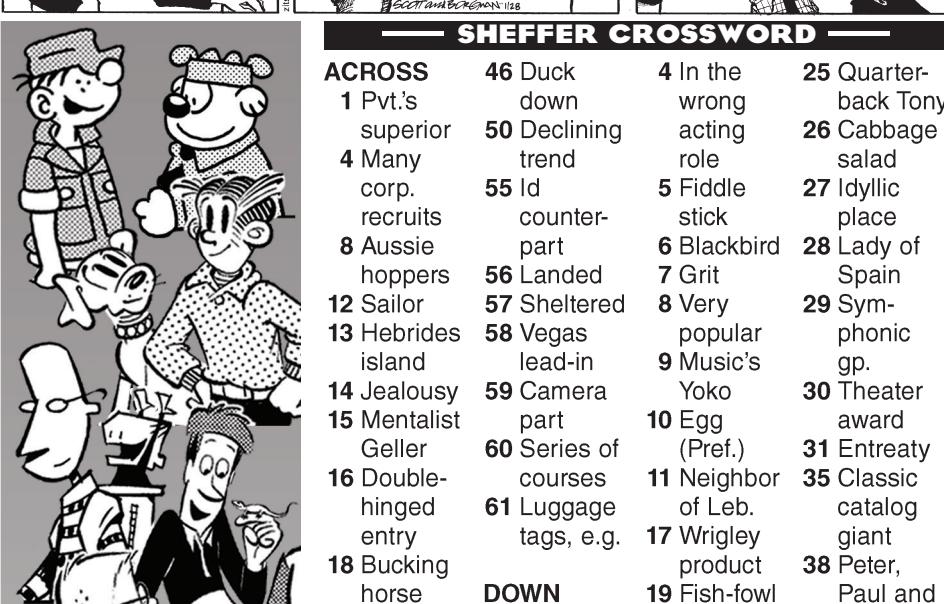
## Daddy Daze



## Zits



## Dustin



## Hi and Lois



## SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

1/28

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 →

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

Difficulty: ★★★



## JUMBLE

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

SEDSR

PEINT

SMIPAH

TOSOHM

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All Rights Reserved.Print answer here: 

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Last Wednesday's Answers | Jumbles: PLANT GRIME INVITE DISCUS  
Answer: The carpenters were stuck in traffic instead of —CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
NEW STAIRCASE WAS BEHIND  
SCHEDULE DUE TO ALL THE ---

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





## Health FACT:

Getting organized can help reduce this, which is good for personal health.

Answer: Stress

“How they say that in...”

**English:** Clutter  
**Spanish:** Desorden  
**Italian:** Disordine  
**French:** Désordre  
**German:** Unordnung

## What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Baskets on bottom 2. Teapot on second shelf 3. Different basket on top center 4. Labels are missing on white bags



**1813:** Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is first published in the UK.

**1878:** "Yale Daily News" becomes the first independent daily college newspaper in the United States.

**1915:** An act of Congress creates the United States Coast Guard.

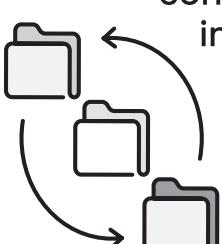
## NEW WORD

**NEAT**

arranged in a tidy way

## Did You KNOW?

Creating a folder structure with logical names and using consistent names for individual files can help organize computer content.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet shelves

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# WorkForce West Virginia announces February 4 Statewide Virtual Job Fair

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — WorkForce West Virginia today announced the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. "We invite you to

unlock your potential at WorkForce West Virginia's Statewide Virtual Job Fairs," said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. "Employers and job seekers are encouraged to seize this opportunity to connect and grow together. Since

Virtual Job Fairs began three years ago, the Virtual Job Fair has had 33,704 registered job seekers, 4,828 registered employers and 17,999 available job openings."

In January 2026, the Virtual Job Fair had 1,077 registered job seekers, 106 registered employers, and 614 available

job openings." Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Register as a job seeker for the February 4 Statewide Virtual Job Fair.

When attending the event, job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free back-

ground. The Virtual Job Fair booth will be available during subsequent job fairs. Register as an employer for the February 4 event.

For more information about WorkForce West Virginia and the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs, visit [workforce.wv.gov](http://workforce.wv.gov) or contact [wfvjf@wv.gov](mailto:wfvjf@wv.gov).

## WVDNR stocks 16 waters during week of Jan. 12

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 Jan. 12:

Cranberry River  
Greenbrier River (Mar-

linton)  
Kings Creek  
Little River West Fork  
Greenbrier River  
Miletree Lake  
Mountwood Park Lake  
North Bend Tailwaters  
North Fork South Branch (Catch and Release)  
Pennsboro Reservoir  
South Fork Cranberry

River  
Summit Lake  
Tomlinson Run  
Tomlinson Run Lake  
Tracy Lake  
West Fork Greenbrier River  
Williams River  
While daily trout stockings are not announced in advance, the WVDNR publishes a list of re-

cently stocked waters at [WVDNR.gov/fish-stock](http://WVDNR.gov/fish-stock)ing. In the event of inclement weather, hatchery staff will make up missed stockings before the end of the month (weather permitting) by making additional stocking runs or adding extra fish to upcoming stockings. For more informa-

tion about trout stocking locations, anglers should check pages 6-7 in the Fishing Regulations Summary, available to download at [WVDNR.gov/fishing-regulations](http://WVDNR.gov/fishing-regulations). 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](http://WVfish.com).

## Severe blood shortage: Red Cross blood supply drops 35%

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply of blood, leading to about a 35% drawdown of blood products in the past month. Individuals are urged to give now so patients don't face delays in lifesaving care. The shortage is especially serious for types O, A negative and B negative blood.

High flu activity in nearly every state may be sidelining donors, slowing efforts to rebuild the Red Cross national blood supply. At the same time, hospitals already feeling the strain of the worst flu season in nearly 20 years are now also forced to triage critical blood

products. Without immediate action, patients who count on transfusions — including trauma victims, mothers in childbirth and people with sickle cell disease or cancer — face serious risk.

There's no time to wait — book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you to donors for helping tackle

the blood shortage, those who come to give through Jan. 25, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in the San Francisco Bay Area. The winner and guest will receive two tickets to Super Bowl LX, access to day-of, in-stadium pregame activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 6-9, 2026), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. See [RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl](http://RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl) for details.

All who come to give Jan. 26-Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See [RedCrossBlood.org/Heart](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Heart) for details.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a non-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit

[redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow us on social media.

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S	E	O	J	K	H	R	O	K	E	E	O	T	V	B	L	D	O	S	U
L	E	S	S	F	A	U	O	B	N	C	A	I	S	O	B	A	L	I	W
W	R	I	H	F	C	A	K	L	E	U	R	E	Y	B	T	I	C	S	E
I	H	G	R	O	I	A	D	T	S	R	D	L	E	W	U	G	R	T	R
C	T	W	E	C	T	B	A	C	K	B	O	A	R	D	Y	S	S	D	W

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

ASSIST	DRIBBLE	OFFENSE	THREE-POINTER
BACKBOARD	DUNK	PIVOT	TIMEOUT
BASELINE	FOUL	REBOUND	TIPOFF
CLOCK	FREE THROW	SCREEN	TRAVELING
COURT	JUMP SHOT	SHOT	TURNOVER
CROSSOVER	LAY-UP	SUBSTITUTION	
DEFENSE			

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA  
EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT  
At Charleston  
A PROCLAMATION  
By the Governor

WHEREAS, the passing of Justice Tim Armstead, has caused a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for a period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a non-partisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Tim Armstead's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.

SEAL  
By the Governor  
/s/ Patrick Morrisey  
GOVERNOR  
/s/ Kris Warner  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
(28ja4fe)

STATE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA  
EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT  
At Charleston  
A PROCLAMATION  
By the Governor  
WHEREAS, the retirement of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker, has caused a vacancy in the office of justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the

Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for a period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a non-partisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.

SEAL  
By the Governor  
/s/ Patrick Morrisey  
GOVERNOR  
/s/ Kris Warner  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
(28ja4fe)

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](http://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 February 10, 2026 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: 018  
Contract: 2021000733  
State Project:  
S389-STR/IP-26 00  
Federal Project:  
HSIP-2026(160)D  
Description:

PAVEMENT MARKINGS  
ROADWAY STRIPING DIS-  
TRICT WIDE  
COUNTY: FAYETTE,  
GREENBRIER, MONROE,  
NICHOLAS, SUMMERS  
Proposals will be re-

ceived 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 deferral, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on [www.bidx.com](http://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.

(28ja4fe)

## Top Scams in 2025

CHARLESTON W.Va. (Hinton News) — Medicare scams topped the list of fraud complaints reported to the West Virginia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division in 2025, according to the office's year-end review.

From January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, the top 10 fraud complaints reported to the Consumer Division were:

Medicare,  
Robo Calls,  
Social Security/Govern-  
ment,  
Loans,  
Sweepstakes/Lottery/  
Prize,  
Debt Collection,  
Service Disconnection/  
Promotion,  
Computer/Phishing/  
Social Media,  
Tax Relief/Forgiveness,  
Home Warranty/Home  
Protection.

The division saw a notable uptick in debt collection, tax relief, and home warranty scams in December as fraudsters targeted consumers during the holiday season.



# Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,  
I know #1 clamshell containers are not recyclable here, but what about the clear, solid (no holes or perforations) tops to take out and other food containers that are #1? And what about the large, deep, clear #1 containers that fresh spinach comes in? Does the recycling center only want bottles? Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Plastic food containers, regardless of the recycling symbol, are not recyclable. These containers are made of a low-melt #1 PET, so they are not as durable as bottle-grade #1 PET. Plus, most of these containers are mixed with additives to make them moisture-resistant. Additionally, plastic food containers often contain food residue and are thus contaminated, which

is the number one reason that plastic food containers are not recyclable. Greasy takeout containers and containers with glossy stickers or ink-printed designs are also contaminants, a serious problem for recyclers. One unrinsed plastic container that has food residue left in it can contaminate an entire load of recyclables. According to <https://blistera.com/why-are-clamshell-containers-not-recyclable/>, regulatory pressure is mounting, and states like California are now requiring that all packaging, including clamshells, be recyclable or compostable by 2032. You are correct in

saying that bottles and jugs are the only plastics that the Recycle Center accepts, as they are made with a higher grade of PET plastic.

Dear Recycle Lady,  
What is the difference between global warming and climate change? Curious

Dear Curious,  
Global warming and climate change are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. In fact, global warming is one aspect of climate change. Other aspects of climate change, according to nasa.gov, are rising sea levels, shrinking

mountain glaciers, accelerating ice in Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic, and shifts in flower/plant blooming times. Deserts are expanding, heat waves and wildfires are becoming more common, as is water scarcity, disease and economic loss. All of these factors are consequences of global warming. The Earth Science Division of NASA operates more than 20 satellites in orbit, looking for new ways to observe changes in oceans, land cover, ice, atmosphere, and life, and to study potential solutions.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Several packages that we have received in the mail lately have been in envelopes lined with thin plastic bubble wrap inside. Can these envelopes be recycled? Questioning Recycler

Dear Questioning Recycler,

Unfortunately, the envelopes with bubble wrap are difficult to recycle because the bubble wrap is glued inside the envelope and is very difficult to separate. Thus, these envelopes that are both paper and plastic are not recyclable, unless they have a recycle symbol on them. However, all of these envelopes can be reused for future mailings. It's good to know you are considering different kinds of items for recycling. Thanks for asking.

Interesting Information: Scientists have confirmed that by feeding and pooping, whales are heroes of

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