



# Rustic Paw Grooming Opens in Alderson: A Community-First Pet Care Shop



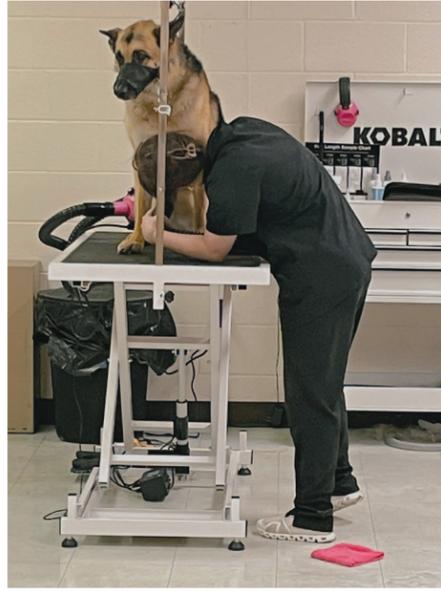
Susan Smith-Linton  
Hinton News

ALDERSON W.Va. (Hinton News) — A new local business is set to welcome families and their furry friends. Rustic Paw Grooming will open its doors



on Feb. 28, from 3 to 6 p.m., with a grand-opening event located at 301 Chase Street in Alderson. Stop in and register for a free grooming.

Owner Ashton Phillips, a 20-year-old student from Alderson currently



pursuing forensic psychology, stated: “Between my family and myself, we’ve owned many different dog breeds that all require different types of care. I realize how expensive regular grooming can be, especially for dogs that need

it more often. I wanted to change that and make grooming more accessible, so everyone in my area and surrounding communities can afford the care their pets need.”

Phillips shared a heartfelt pledge: “Every dog that walks through my door will be treated as one of my own.” This promise guides Rustic Paw Grooming’s mission to provide care that is both affordable and personalized. The shop emphasizes that it will groom dogs at fair, affordable prices and aims to avoid big corporate costs, focusing on care for dogs of all breeds and needs. The welcoming, kid-friendly environment is designed to offer a calm, clean space with individualized attention for every dog.

Rustic Paw Grooming wants everyone to feel at home. “My goal is quality care without the stress of high costs.” And the message to potential customers is simple: “Every dog is welcome at Rustic Paw Grooming!”

Photos provided by Ashton Phillips.

## French Creek Freddie Predicts More Winter for West Virginia

FRENCH CREEK, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced that French Creek Freddie, the state’s official weather-predicting groundhog, predicted six more weeks of winter during the annual Groundhog Day celebration at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center in Upshur County, with Gov. Patrick Morrisey helping lead the ceremony and share Freddie’s forecast with the public.

During the annual event, which was attended by 150 visitors from across the state, Gov. Morrisey joined WVDNR officials as Freddie emerged from his burrow and saw his shadow under clear skies, signaling that winter will continue.

“Groundhog Day with French Creek

Freddie is one of West Virginia’s most beloved traditions and a fun way to bring families and communities together,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “Even if winter is sticking around, the Wildlife Center remains a great place to visit year-round and learn about West Virginia’s wildlife and the conservation efforts that protect our natural resources.”

According to folklore, if a groundhog sees its shadow, six more weeks of winter can be expected. However, if a groundhog doesn’t see its shadow, spring will come early. Over the past four decades, about 50 percent of Freddie’s predictions have come true, making his forecasts a fun tradition for West Virginians. Freddie predicted an early spring in 2025.

Wildlife Center Trail Becomes a Mountaineer Mile

During the ceremony, Gov. Morrisey and WVDNR officials also announced that the West Virginia State Wildlife Center’s loop trail has been officially designated as a Mountaineer Mile.

The Mountaineer Mile program was launched by Gov. Morrisey in April 2025 at Little Beaver State Park to encourage West Virginians to walk at least one mile each day and lead healthier lifestyles



Photo provided by WVDNR

while enjoying the state’s public lands. Since then, the governor has partnered with West Virginia State Parks, which is part of the WVDNR, to designate official Mountaineer Mile trails at 44 state parks and forests across the state.

“This program has been incredibly successful in getting West Virginians outside, moving more and making healthy lifestyle choices,” Gov. Morrisey said. “Designating a Mountaineer Mile at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center is a great way to encourage people to stay active during the winter months while enjoying our state’s natural beauty and wildlife.”

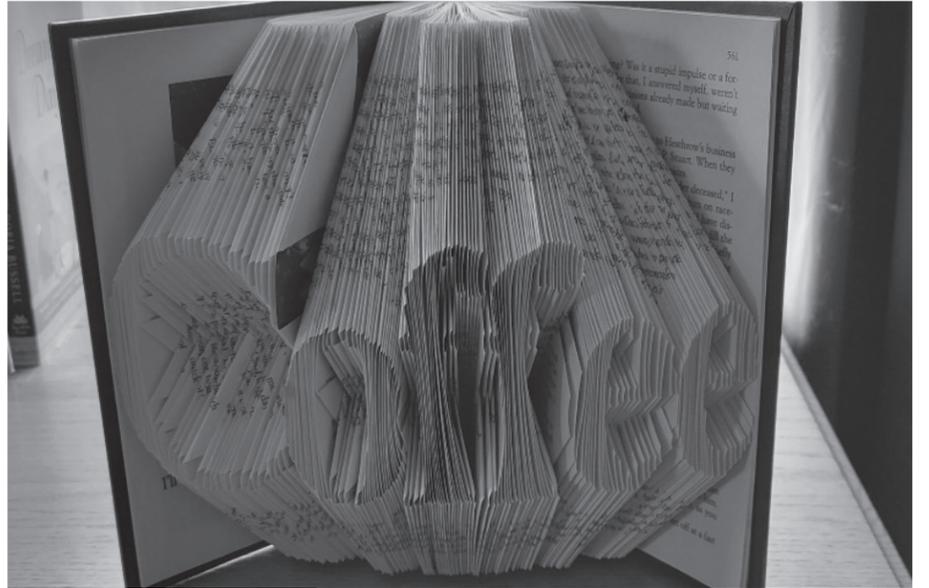
The designation at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center marks the first time a Mountaineer Mile trail has been established on a WVDNR-operated property outside the state parks system. The accessible loop trail provides visitors with an easy way to stay active while observing native wildlife in a natural setting.

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the end of March, with free admission during this period. Regular hours and admission rates go into effect on April 1. To learn more about the Wildlife Center, visit [WVdnr.gov/west-virginia-wildlife-center](http://WVdnr.gov/west-virginia-wildlife-center).



7 23314 78334 5

# Friends of the Library to Host Workshop on Friday the 13th



Photos provided by the Friends of the Library

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Friends of the Summers County Public Library will be holding a craft workshop on Feb. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the library. Don't want to be bored during the next snowstorm? On Friday the 13th, they will share how to do the craft of book folding. Attendees will be learning the MMF (measure mark fold) and MCF (measure cut fold) techniques. All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person, payable on the day of the workshop. Registration is required to ensure they bring enough supplies for everyone. Contact Cheryl Kula at cheryl.kula@gmail.com or through FB messenger, or leave a message for her at the library. This workshop is open to all ages, 10 to 100. Organizers said, "Join us for a couple of hours of craft and chatter. We hope to continue these workshops as a semi-monthly Library Craft Lab, which will include future projects with cross stitch, sculpture, plastic canvas, and others!"

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## Jesus, The Way To A Better Life

(Part 2)

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 how Jesus is the way to a better life. We ended by noting the source of our problems in this life is the sinful hearts of men.

It is one to thing to identify the problem; what has Jesus done to provide a solution? The apostle Paul explains in his letter to Titus:

**For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3-7)**

Out of kindness, love, mercy and grace, God through Jesus Christ has saved us and made us righteous in His sight! This took place when we experienced the "washing of regeneration" and "renewing of the Holy Spirit" (a reference to the act of baptism, in which one who believes in Jesus is truly born again of water AND Spirit! - **John 3:5**).

In other words, Jesus removes the problem of unhappiness and lack of inner peace by first removing the cause: **Sin!** But there is more...

Secondly, Jesus leads the way to true happiness and peace by teaching us to seek new goals in life. He warns us of the folly of seeking after riches:

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;" (Matthew 6:19)**

Riches are perishable, and open to theft; therefore, He teaches us to put our treasure in heaven:

**"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:20)**

But how does one go about laying up treasure in heaven? It involves living for Jesus, even under the most adverse conditions:

**"Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets." (Luke 6:22-23)**

Of course, living for Jesus means to follow His teachings; for example:

**"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil." (Luke 6:35)**

Yes, our reward will be great, and even now we can have great happiness knowing that it can never be stolen, nor will it perish, for it is reserved for us in heaven!

Finally, Jesus leads the way to true happiness by giving us what we do not expect! Once we learn not to make material things, pleasure, and fame our goals in life, but to instead make following Jesus and His teachings our goal, He then provides us an unexpected portion of these very things!

Continued next week where we will look at more of what Jesus provides for us leading to a better life.

*Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.*

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30

Bible Study 10:30

Worship 11:15

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30

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## HEALTHY HEART WORD SEARCH

F L A H O F F S E V L A V M N O U O V I  
M A U O E K O R T S P V P H E A R T L P  
M U S C L E D Q S C O R O N A R Y T U C  
H S N P A N I R N E Q N K I X B M B D R  
A I S P E H C H O L E S T E R O L F I U  
H V I A E R O B I C R E I U R P F D R R M E  
M F R D X E S I C R E X E R P B S T I Q  
S S I S O R E L C S O R E H T A H K E F  
D I Q X U N O I T A M M A L F N I Q S F  
L X P I X H E A L T H Y L Q A H C E L D  
E R K C A R D I A C R P H C S P O N U S  
U N O I T A L U C R I C B E A T S X P F  
Q Y S C X R A L U C S A V O I D R A C A  
A X F M O T H Q Q V D N E V T O X A K R  
L S T R E S S D H B I Y I M A T A P S T  
P H B V V D X F V V D I L E T H V X Q E  
D O O L B S Y F V F F A B A V K M Y Y R  
S E Q T H Y P E R T E N S I O N N R I I  
C M O C M C E C N A R U D N E L I N Q E  
L H H A I M H T Y H R R A K B K P U S S

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

### WORDS

AEROBIC	CARDIAC	ENDURANCE	MUSCLE
ARRHYTHMIA	CARDIOVASCULAR	EXERCISE	PLAQUE
ARTERIES	CHOLESTEROL	HEALTHY	PULSE
ATHEROSCLEROSIS	CIRCULATION	HEART	STRESS
BEATS	CORONARY	HYPERTENSION	STROKE
BLOOD		INFLAMMATION	VALVES
			VEINS

# Valentine's Day Gift Guide



## More Than Chocolate: How a Secret Roman Priest and the Victorians Created a Holiday

Lisa Abshire  
Hinton News

Valentine's Day. A day for love. Have you ever wondered why we celebrate on Feb. 14? Then this information is for you.

Valentine's Day originated from the mid-February fertility festival known as Lupercalia. It went from there to a day honoring Christian martyrs named Valentine, then became associated with romantic love in the Middle Ages. Geoffrey Chaucer's poetry in the 14th century helped make it popular.

Lupercalia was a festival held between Feb. 13 and 15. It was to promote fertility and spring. The festival included rituals of sacrificing goats and dogs, stripping the hides, and running through the streets naked and whipping women in the name of celebrating fertility. Even after Christianity was legal in Rome, Lupercalia remained for over a century. Women were said to

have lined up for the lashing because they believed it blessed their fertility. Pope Gelasius shut down Lupercalia, but historians believe that the Catholic Church rebranded the festival as a new Christian holiday by holding an annual feast for Saint Valentine every Feb. 14.

Several Christian martyrs were named Valentine, but the legend most likely refers to the Roman priest who married couples in secret. This was after Emperor Claudius 11 banned marriage for young men. There's another legend that says he was killed for helping Christians escape Roman prisons.

The history is a little hard to pinpoint, having taken place over 2,000 years ago, but it's agreed that Saint Valentine was arrested and martyred around 270 AD.

All of this feels far removed from the posh holiday we celebrate today, filled

with roses, candy, and jewelry. Perhaps we owe the Victorians a thank you for how we celebrate today. The Victorian Era was a romantic era driven by industrialization. It was characterized by ornate homemade or mass-produced lace cards, the invention of heart-shaped chocolate boxes, and admiring from afar or in secret. The Victorians helped popularize the penny post. Being able to express

one's feelings anonymously allowed people to express things forbidden or too shy for formal society.

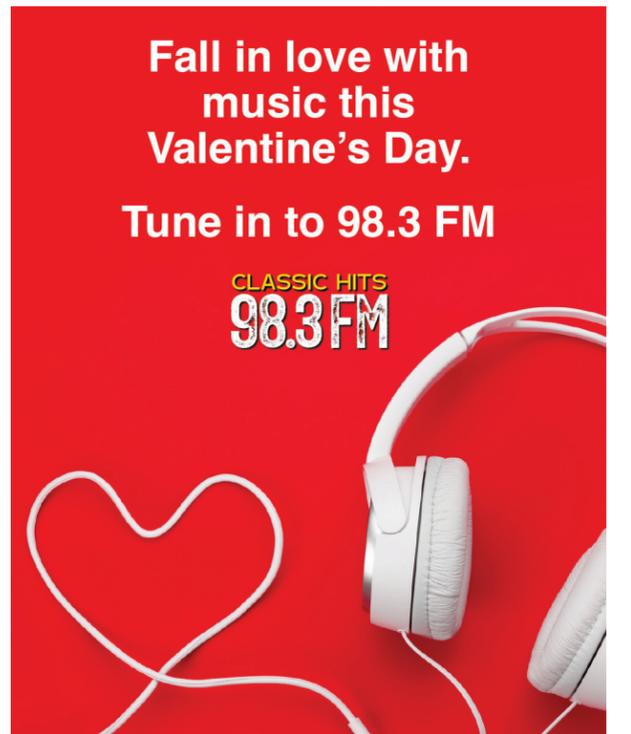
Sending flowers and jewelry became popular ways to show you care on Valentine's Day. Going out to a favorite restaurant or to a movie is another favorite way to celebrate. However you celebrate this Valentine's Day, I hope it's with someone who not only loves you but loves you back.



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Bride and gown courtesy of Jean Ann's Bridal in Beckley, WV. Bouquet by Blooms by Bessie. Photo by Brandy Graft Photography.

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# ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Blondie



## Mutts



## Daddy Daze



## Zits



## Dustin



## Hi and Lois



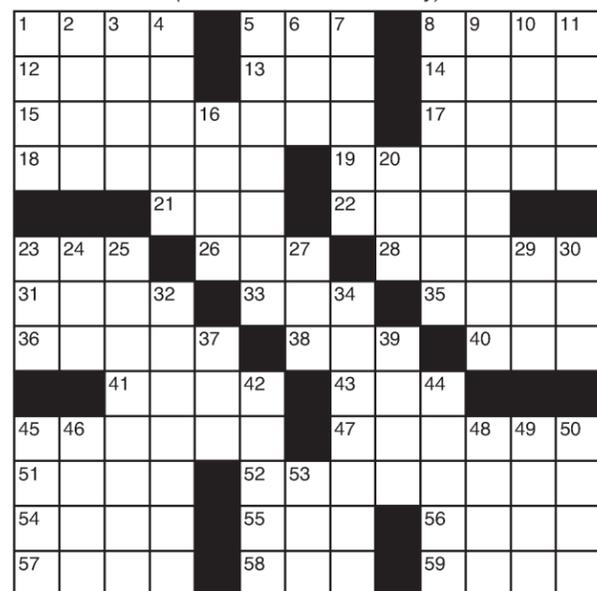
## SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- |                           |                         |                        |                                |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>             | 36 "Pink Friday" singer | 58 Old map letters     | 20 Day-break goddess           |
| 1 Scoundrels              | 59 NBC weekend show     | 38 S.A. nation         | 23 "Kapow!"                    |
| 5 NBC weekend show        | 40 Lair                 | 41 Pleased mouse link  | 24 Prefix with center          |
| 8 Pub potables            | 43 Man-mouse            | 45 Hire                | 25 Like dinosaurs              |
| 12 Send forth             | 47 Avoid a trial        | 51 Geezer              | 27 Motorist's org.             |
| 13 "The Bells" author     | 52 Makeup kit item      | 52 Makeup kit item     | 29 Yucatan "Bravo!"            |
| 14 Kenneth of fashion     | 54 Ancient letter       | 55 Water-testing digit | 30 Novelist Deighton           |
| 15 "Born This Way" singer | 57 Exploits             | 10 Actress Fanning     | 32 Aesthetic tastes            |
| 17 Soda flavor            |                         | 11 Caulterize          | 34 Flourish                    |
| 18 Hot                    |                         | 16 Solidifies          | 37 Binge                       |
| 19 Quidditch position     |                         |                        | 39 Olympic star                |
| 21 Yale grad              |                         |                        | 42 Shoulder muscles, for short |
| 22 — Kong                 |                         |                        | 44 Book of maps                |
| 23 Ann Patchett's "Canto" |                         |                        | 45 Beige                       |
| 26 Poseidon's realm       |                         |                        | 46 We, to Pierre               |
| 28 Pub perch              |                         |                        | 48 "Che" star Benicio del —    |
| 31 Per person             |                         |                        | 49 D-Day carriers              |
| 33 Napkin's place         |                         |                        | 50 Old U.S. gas brand          |
| 35 Only                   |                         |                        | 53 Cyclades isle               |

Solution time: 23 mins.



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)



## SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/11

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)

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

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →

Difficulty: ★★★

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

- LHYOL
- NIFTL
- UDLESG
- GARND0

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



(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Last Wednesday's Answers: Jumbles: RIGOR CONGA HUNGRY POTATO Answer: The clothes that were drying on the line on such a beautiful day enjoyed just — HANGING OUT



BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY TEAM HAD BEEN HIS

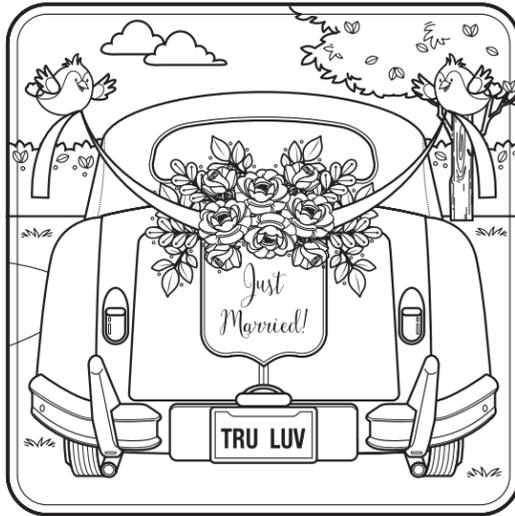
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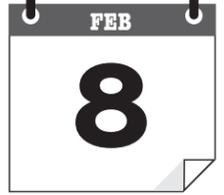


### Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### DAY IN HISTORY



**1837:** Richard Johnson becomes the first and only Vice President of the United States chosen by the Senate.

**1910:** The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated by William D. Boyce.

**1960:** The Hollywood Walk of Fame is founded.

### Money FACT:

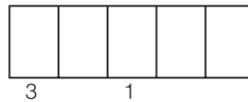
The average cost of this event is between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Answer: A wedding

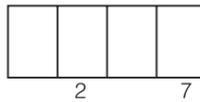
### Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

TLAAR



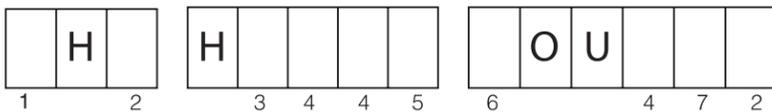
LVIE



PTYAR



TACRE



Answers: Altar, Veil, Party, Cater, The Happy Couple

### NEW WORD

### OFFICIANT

the person who performs a wedding ceremony

### How they say that in...

- English:** Vow
- Spanish:** Juramento
- Italian:** Promessa
- French:** Serment
- German:** Schwur

### Did You Know?

Early brides carried bouquets made of herbs, designed to help ward off evil spirits on their special days.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Wedding cake

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# A Peek into Summers County's Past: Bostics Service Station



Photo of cabinet provided by William Jones

William Jones  
Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - I have the doors and hardware to an antique McCray meat chest like the one you see here. You might be asking why does he only has the doors to it? Well, that is a quirky story, so let me break it down for you. My late friend Suzanne Humphrey bought it and removed it from Country Roads Store here in Pence Springs decades ago.

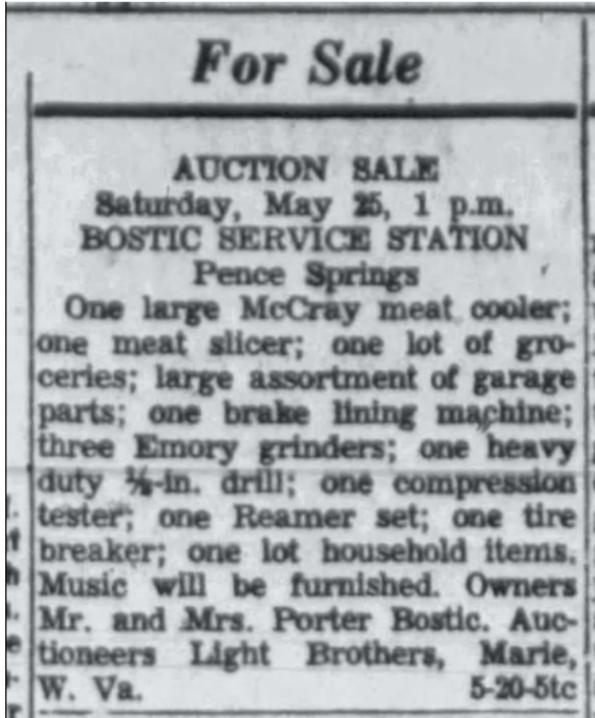
It had been painted green; she had the doors and hardware in her basement, stripping them down to the oak. The chest/case was stored in her husband's garage. I remember being a young kid and waking up to someone parked in our driveway, blowing their horn repeatedly. We all got up and looked. The garage was engulfed by fire. The guy was trying to get someone's attention.

My father, David, went down to their house and they commenced to save what they could. It wasn't much by that point; my father and Billy hooked up an old Mach 1 Mustang and Bronco and bulled it up in the yard away from the burning garage. I remember watching from our window as my father pulled the Bronco from the garage; the tires were on fire.

The case burned up in the fire, but the doors and hardware were safe in the basement. Fast forward 30 years, and their son Andy had them at

his house. Andy was like me with his love for history and antiques. About 5 years ago, I traded him out of the doors. I didn't know what, but I knew I was going to build something because of the history behind them.

We are in the process of adding a kitchen onto our house and turning the old kitchen into a dining room. So we came up with the idea of building a replica and using 5 of the doors around the dining room window. I think my father is starting to get tired of my rehab/salvage



Antique ad for a Bostics Service Station auction

projects. I don't intend to stop anytime soon. Ha. I recently found this auction advertisement for Bostics Service Station in Pence Springs from 1957. I always assumed that Country Roads Store had

started out as Keatleys Cash Grocery. But apparently, Mr. and Mrs. Porter Bostic sold it to the Keatleys. This auction advertisement for Bostic Service Station lists this large McCray meat cooler as one of the items in the auction sale.

It sat in the store for decades after that sale. While taking the doors

apart to finish stripping the paint from it we found a water line across the inside of the doors. This had to be from the flood of 1967, 1973, or 1977. Based on where this sat in the back room, which is higher than the main floor. And the flood of 73 was a crest of 20.30ft; it was more than likely a water mark of that time.

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*The Hinton News Dining Guide*

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**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, February 4, 2026

**Claim Deadline:** Sunday, April 5, 2026

**ESTATE OF:** LILLIE E. THOMPSON

**EXECUTOR:** JOHN R. HEDRICK

**ESTATE OF:** KIMBERLY ANN JOHNSON

**ADMINISTRATOR:** RONALD JOHNSO

**ESTATE OF:** GLEYNORA JEANE GILBHRIGHDE

**EXECUTRIX:** ANONA MAGDALEN MOENCH

**ESTATE OF:** NETTIE CAROL KELLEY

**CO EXECUTRIX:** DIANA SUE WHEELER

**CO EXECUTRIX:** DREAMA CAROL WILFONG

**ESTATE OF:** KERMIT DALE BURDETTE

**EXECUTRIX:** EVA JANE BURDETTE

**ESTATE OF:** TERRY LYNN NEWTON

**ADMINISTRATOR:** DREW A. NEWTON

**ESTATE OF:** JAMES WIL-LARD STIFFLER

**EXECUTOR:** TROY STIFFLER

**ESTATE OF:** RENO GLENN RICHMOND

**EXECUTOR:** ERIC SCOTT RICHMOND

**ESTATE OF:** NETTIE LEE GUNTER

**EXECUTRIX:** LINDA GAILE WIKER

**ESTATE OF:** GARY LEE CHARLTON

**ADMINISTRATRIX:** TERI PINSON

Subscribed and sworn to

before me on January 28, 2026.

Donald R. Basham Jr. Fiduciary Supervisor of Summers County (4,11fe)

**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 March 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: 015

Contract: 2022890005

State Project:

S389-REC/AL-26 00

Federal Project:

STBG-2026(012)D

Description:

PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-9 RECALL STRIPING 2026 DISTRICT WIDE

COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, MONROE, NICHOLAS, SUMMERS

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's 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. (11,18fe)

**WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF FILING**

Application of **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** for Approval to Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Natural Gas Supply Services to the public in West Virginia in Case No. 25-0905-G-EFPP.

**Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** has filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission ("PSC") for participation in an Enhanced Firm Pooling Program to provide natural gas supply services as a supplier or aggregator of natural gas services. **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC**, proposes to sell natural gas and related services in all counties of West Virginia.

The PSC may consider this application without a hearing. Protests directed to the technical or financial fitness of **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** may be filed within 15 days of the date of this notice with the Executive Secretary of the PSC, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Please include the Case No. listed above on the protest.

Additionally, please send copies of any protest to **Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC** attorney at the address listed below.

Austin D. Rogers  
Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir, P.C  
300 Summers Street,  
Suite 1000  
Charleston,  
West Virginia 25301  
(681) 205-8888  
(681) 205-8814 facsimile  
arogers@babstcalland.com  
(11fe)

**NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Summers County Commission in Special Session on January 15, 2026 ordered that the polling place location for Precinct #9 Hinton Area be changed from Hinton Area Elementary to the Memorial Building Auditorium. The physical address of the new polling place is 451 1st Avenue, Hinton, WV 25951. This change will be effective with the May 12, 2026 Primary Election and all elections thereafter. All affected voters in this precinct will be notified by First Class Mail.

By order of the Summers County Commission  
Charles W. Saunders, President

**NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Summers County Commission in Special Session on January 15, 2026 ordered that the polling place location for Precinct #4 Riverview and Precinct 4A West End be changed from Middle School Gym to the Memorial Building Auditorium. The physical address of the new polling place is 451 1st Avenue, Hinton, WV 25951. This change will be effective with the May 12, 2026 Primary Election and all elections thereafter. All affected voters in this precinct will be notified by First Class Mail.

By order of the Summers County Commission  
Charles W. Saunders, President



**Dear Recycle Lady**

Dear Recycle Lady,  
Why is food waste considered such a big problem today? Curious

Dear Curious,  
According to the latest food waste statistics, the world wastes 1.05 billion TONS of food every year, and over one billion meals are thrown away daily. This is more than one meal per day for each person facing hunger worldwide. Besides the food that is wasted, 24% of agricultural water used to grow the food is wasted, and there is an 8 to 10% increase in global greenhouse gas emissions from wasted food in landfills. Households contribute 61% of global food waste, food services contribute 26% of the waste, and retailers such as grocery stores account for 13% of the waste. The US alone wastes 60 million tons annually. Globally, the economic cost of food waste approaches \$1 trillion a year, with the US losing \$161 billion a year. Despite all this surplus of food, 783 million people are undernourished, and one-third of the global population faces food insecurity. Emerging technologies in food presentation and international collaboration are expected to play a crucial role in addressing this crisis. Potential/Hopeful solutions include programs on consumer awareness, improved storage and transport infrastructure, initiatives in food recovery, and excessive waste penalties. Food waste is a social, ethical and global challenge, not just an environmental or economic issue. It will require households, businesses, and governments all working together to create a sustainable food system.

Dear Recycle Lady,  
Several non-profit organizations are sending coins glued to their letters requesting donations. After removing these coins there are globs of glue left on the letter. Must this glue be removed before recycling the letter? Glue or no Glue

Dear Glue or no Glue,  
Yes, globs of glue that hold the coins on the letter must be removed before recycling as glue is a contaminate. However, a small amount of glue on paper is ok. Most glue dots can be removed simply by rubbing your thumb over them or they can be cut out. If the glued item is on waxy-feeling paper, it can't be recycled.

Dear Recycle Lady,  
Yesterday I came across the word pre-cycling in a magazine article. What is pre-cycling? Recycler

Dear Recycler,  
Pre-recycling is making choices that reduce consumer waste and have the smallest possible impact on the environment. Pre-cycling is about reducing waste or preventing waste before it happens. For example, it is about choosing items that are un-packaged, have less packaging, or have packaging that is recyclable. It is doing simple things, like taking a reusable bottle or bag with you, buying only what you need, or using rags in-

stead of paper towels for cleaning. If you are trying to decide between a plastic, paper, or cardboard container, a paper and cardboard box is the best option. Pre-cycling is using products that last longer and not using disposable or single-use products.

Have questions about recycling or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [Recyclelady7@gmail.com](mailto:Recyclelady7@gmail.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

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Editor:  
Rebecca Stalnaker  
[rebecca@wvvdn.com](mailto:rebecca@wvvdn.com)

Director of Operations:  
Susan Smith-Linton  
[susan@wvvdn.com](mailto:susan@wvvdn.com)

Advertising Rep:  
Tia Mattox  
[tia@wvvdn.com](mailto:tia@wvvdn.com)

Circulation Manager:  
Heather Felts  
[heather@wvvdn.com](mailto:heather@wvvdn.com)

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# Monroe County Clerk's Office Announces Winners of First-Ever "I Voted!" Sticker Contest

## 1st Place



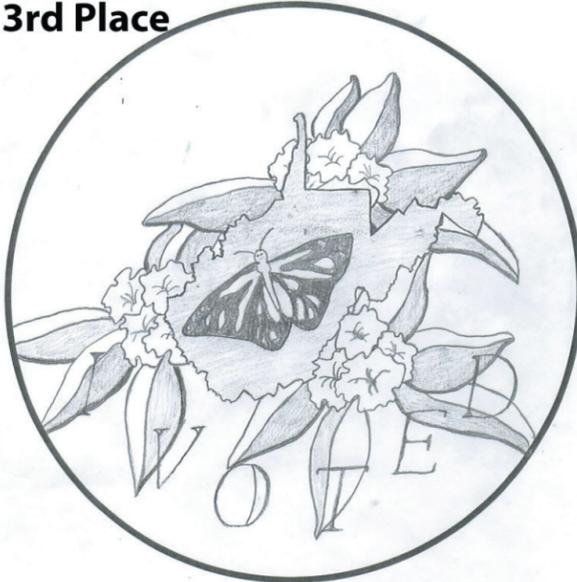
2026 "I Voted" Sticker Contest Entry Form  
WV Secretary of State's Office

## 2nd Place



2026 "I Voted" Sticker Contest Entry Form  
WV Secretary of State's Office

## 3rd Place



2026 "I Voted" Sticker Contest Entry Form  
WV Secretary of State's Office

UNION W.Va. (Hinton News) – In coordination with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, Monroe County 8th-grade students participated in the state's inaugural "I Voted!" Sticker Contest. This exciting new initiative, launched by Secretary of State Kris Warner, invited eighth graders across West Virginia to design original "I Voted!" stickers to be distributed to voters during the 2026 primary and general elections.

The contest encouraged young artists to create designs incorporating the phrase "I Voted!" while reflecting themes of civic pride, democracy, and West Virginia heritage. Submissions were judged locally in each county, with the goal of engaging students in the electoral process, fostering creativity, and highlighting the importance of voting. By involving youth in this hands-on civic education project, the program aims to build lifelong appreciation for democratic participation and inspire the next generation of informed voters. Early involvement in such activities helps students understand their role in shaping their communities, state, and nation through active citizenship.

Monroe County Clerk Jeremy Meadows expressed great enthusiasm for the contest and the talented entries received.

"I am incredibly proud of the creativity and effort our local 8th graders put into this first-ever 'I Voted!' Sticker Contest," said Clerk Meadows. "The artwork was truly beautiful, and it was extremely difficult for the judges to select just a few winners because every piece was so impressive."

Clerk Meadows announced the following local winners:

- First Place: Blaklee Guzman, Mountain View Middle School
- Second Place: Kya Williams, Peterstown Middle School
- Third Place: Rory K. Wade, Mountain View Middle School

He emphasized that the competition was so strong that no single design—or even just a few—could fully capture the talent on display.

"Ultimately, I couldn't choose just a couple to feature," Meadows added. "Instead, all of the entrants' artwork will be featured on the 'I Voted!' stickers distributed during the primary and general elections this year. No matter the outcome of the judging, every student who participated is a winner. Their contributions will proudly be seen by voters across Monroe County."

To commemorate their participation, Clerk Meadows will provide each student entrant with special stamps as keepsakes for their parents or guardians to treasure as mementos of this meaningful civic project.

This initiative underscores the vital connection between education, art, and democracy. By empowering young people to contribute to the electoral process, Monroe County is investing in its future.

These students represent the next generation of leaders, voters, and engaged citizens who will carry forward the values of our county, state, and country. Encouraging their participation today ensures a stronger, more vibrant democracy for tomorrow.

For more information about the contest or upcoming elections, contact the Monroe County Clerk's Office at 304-772-3096 or visit [www.monroecounty-wv.gov](http://www.monroecounty-wv.gov).

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