



# Summers County Health Dept. Addresses Flu Symptoms and Virus Concerns

**Lisa Abshire**  
Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Winter brings many challenges. One that always shows up is the flu. Flu is that seasonal sickness we're all familiar with that brings a rapid onset of symptoms, including a high fever, body and bone aches/pains, fatigue that can be severe, a sore throat, and a cough. Oftentimes, stomach issues such as vomiting and diarrhea come on before the respiratory issues set in. Seek medical help early to get prescription antiviral medication such

as Tamiflu. Always seek medical intervention if you experience difficulty breathing or any other issues you feel are out of the ordinary.

Hope Cooper from the Summers County Health Department discussed this year's flu cases. According to Cooper, flu in Summers County has been mild up to this point, while West Virginia as a whole saw an increase in cases over December and January. Copper said that Summers County is only seeing that increase as we are going into February.

Cooper went on to explain that many illnesses hit West Virginia lat-

er than other, more populated states. She is expecting to see flu cases rise in February due to the weather and people's living arrangements, meaning people spread to those in the same household.

It's not too late to get a flu shot, Cooper said, adding it's just as important for school-age children as adults. She explained the shot doesn't guarantee you won't get the virus, but it does help decrease the symptoms if you do get the flu.

Something else that's all over the news right now is the Nipah virus. Copper took the time to educate us on

what that is and if we should be concerned. Copper said that the World Health Organization at this time expects the transmission to be low for this virus, as it has to be passed from animals to humans. It's a very serious but rare virus. She said it was discovered in 1998 by an incident involving a pig farmer. Cooper said she expects to hear more about it in the coming weeks from experts who pass data along.

For more information on the flu, the flu vaccine, or other health issues, contact the Summers County Health Department at 304-466-3388.

# Criminal Complaint: Man Arrested After Discharging Firearm During Welfare Check

**Lisa Abshire**  
Hinton News

FLAT TOP W.Va. (Hinton News) - According to a criminal complaint, on Feb. 8, around 11:46 a.m., an officer was dispatched by Summers County 911 to the vicinity of Flat Top. The call was for a welfare check on a male later identified as William Patrick Morrison.

Summers County 911 told the officer that a woman contacted them, saying Morrison had threatened to kill himself. Around 12:41 p.m., the officer arrived at the house. The road conditions were bad, so the officer couldn't reach the house by vehicle and had to go on foot up the driveway.

As the officer approached the house,

he reportedly saw a white Dodge pickup sitting in the driveway. The officer continued toward the vehicle, and Morrison allegedly got out of the vehicle holding a handgun. At this point, the criminal complaint states that Morrison then proceeded to discharge a round into a wooded area in front of the officer.

The officer then reportedly retreated to cover and gave verbal commands to Morrison to drop the gun. Morrison did as he was told, and the officer then told him to lie down on his stomach and put his hands behind his back. Morrison reportedly proceeded to do this. The officer then put Morrison in handcuffs and secured the gun, which was a .357 revolver.

Around 12:47 p.m., another officer arrived and was dispatched to the scene. After arriving on the scene, the first officer explained the situation to the newly arrived officer.

The newly arrived officer then searched the area around the white vehicle and allegedly found three empty beer bottles outside the driver's side door and a .357 on the hood. At that time, the gun was reportedly unloaded, and five live rounds and one spent round were found for the .357.

Morrison was arrested and charged with wanton endangerment. At the time of publishing, he is no longer listed as an inmate.

All defendants are presumed inno-



**William Patrick Morrison**

cent until proven guilty in a court of law.

# Greenbrier Bowling and Recreation Center: Fun for All

**Brandon Baker**  
Hinton News

LEWISBURG W.Va. (Hinton News) - Located in North Lewisburg, the Greenbrier Bowling and Recreation Center has been around for many years and would make a perfect trip for a family to the Greenbrier Valley.

Still to this day, it remains a hot spot and a go-to place for bowling, birthday parties, celebrations, or just to hang out and get away for a while.

The bowling alley features 24 lanes that can be rented out for open bowling (4.25 per person) or timed

bowling (30 dollars per hour). The center has its own balls and shoe rentals, but customers are more than welcome to bring their own as well.

The bowling alley is fun for everyone and offers an array of events. Their mission statement is:

"At Greenbrier Bowling & Recreation Center, our mission is to provide a fun and welcoming environment for bowlers of all ages and skill levels. We strive to promote the sport of bowling and help our customers improve their game through quality equipment and expert advice."

When you walk through the main doors, the first thing one may notice is the wild and colorful patterns of the floors and walls. Those colors especially pop when cosmic bowling starts. That is when the lights go off, and streaming lights fill the room. Cosmic bowling is on Friday and Saturday nights from 6-8 p.m. and 9-11 p.m. It has been a popular feature for many years, especially the aforementioned birthday parties, and it still continues to be one of the biggest draws today.

League bowling is also popular, as the bowling alley has several different leagues year-round. They will also put



**The front entrance to Greenbrier Bowling and Recreation Center (Photo: Brandon Baker)**

a huge banner up above the lanes if you are lucky--or skilled-- enough to roll a perfect game of 300, something they call the Wall of Fame. The lanes also have an updated computer scoring system and screens.

And even though the bowling is the main attraction, the front of the building features some high-quality enter-

tainment as well.

There's the concession area within the bowling alley where bowlers and customers can order food--I recommend Perky's Pizza--and drinks. There is also a nice arcade that has a dozen or so video game machines and an air



7 23314 78334 5

# A Peek into Summers County's Past: 3rd Ave.

William Jones  
Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - I am going to start working in a piece or so every so often as a bit of a "show and tell," so to speak. And not have to provide as much historical information as I typically do because the subject matter is so well known throughout the county. This week is a rare early view of 3rd Ave. in Hinton.

There are many views of the 3rd, but most look down towards the river. This one is looking up from the lower part of 3rd Ave. A point of reference is the old Hinton Hospital, where the Big Four Drug Store still is currently. It is the whitish/light-colored building in the upper left.

The building directly across the street from it was Roses Drug Store. It burned, was torn down, and was eventually removed. The vacant lot left after



Photo provided by William Jones

the fire was converted into an event area for the town. And it is where music and other festival events now take place. After the Roses Department Store closed, this building became Davis Department Store. I found this postcard years ago with

Granddad Bernard Thompson. He would come to our house to eat on Sundays, and then after lunch, he and I would go walk through the Pence Springs Flea Market as the vendors were packing up. This is just one of many things we found

while doing what became a tradition for over two decades.

## Jesus, The Way To A Better Life

(Part 3)

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 found Jesus leads the way to true happiness by giving us what we do not expect.

For example, He promises the provision of those material things we need, if we will but put God first...

**"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33)**

Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time; houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life." (Mark 10:28-30)

In addition to material things, Jesus provides a form of pure pleasure or happiness: **"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)**

What kind of "joy" is Jesus talking about? A joy that is "unspeakable," unable to describe adequately with words, as Peter tells those Christians who were experiencing terrible persecution:

**"whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory," (1 Peter 1:8)**

And what about fame? Yes, if we will but follow Jesus and seek to lay up our treasure in heaven by following Him and His words, we will one day experience "fame" that is "out of this world"! Consider these passages which describes what lies ahead for the true disciples of Jesus Christ:

**When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)**

**When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:10-12)**

**To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:14)**

We can look forward to sharing in the wonderful glory (fame) that Jesus Himself will have when He comes again! How much "better" could life get?

Next week we will conclude this lesson and leave you with several questions for thought.

*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.

304-466-5907, 304-445-5115, 304-860-7179

## LIBRARY VISIT WORD SEARCH

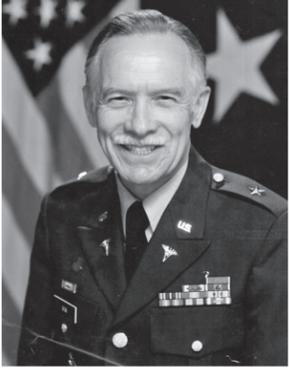
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 N A I R A R B I L D I B S G T U A A T E

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

### WORDS

ARCHIVES	CIRCULATION	LOAN	RESERVE
ARRIVAL	COLLECTIONS	MICROFICHE	RETURN
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# Community Obituaries



**General Robert E. Via, Jr. U.S. Army Veterinary Corps**

December 8, 1934 – January 30, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our father, Robert E. Via Jr., age 91, on January 30, 2026.

He was an only child born in Hinton, WV, in 1934, who grew up in Talcott, WV. He played basketball in high school, and graduated Valedictorian of his class. After high school, he graduated from Ohio State University

with a degree in veterinary medicine. He began his career in Peterstown, WV, where he practiced veterinary medicine for three years.

He was drafted in 1962, and he entered the U.S. Army. He served for 29 years. He served in numerous U.S. locations, as well as Germany and Vietnam. During his military career, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. He was assigned as Chief,

U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. He also served as Assistant Surgeon General for Veterinary Services in the Office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General. He was the senior veterinarian in the Department of Defense.

After his retirement from the military, he became a Tax Specialist and was recognized by the Department of Treasury as an Enrolled Agent, serving in that role for many years.

His beloved wife, Elaine, preceded him in death a few years ago. He is survived by his three children, Cheryl, Kellan, and Robert. He is the proud grandpa of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He has a large extended family, whom he loved and who love him very much.

People knew him as a kind, humble, and gracious man, who loved God. We were blessed to have him as a father.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Porter Loring Mortuary North in San Antonio, TX. Committal will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, and the ASPCA - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



**Russell "Rusty" Pierce Jr.**

Russell "Rusty" Pierce Jr., 57, of Talcott, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, February 5, 2026, at his home following a short illness.

Born November 27, 1968, in Clifton Forge, VA, he was the son of Kenni Jackson Pierce of Talcott and the late Russell M. Pierce Sr. Rusty at-

tended Avis School, where he graduated in 1992. He participated in Special Olympics, where he won several medals in various competitions; enjoyed watching QVC, game shows; looking through Montgomery Ward, Sears, J.C. Penney catalogs; and listening to Christmas music; but most of all, he treasured his time

spent with his family.

Besides his father, he was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Mabel Pierce; and his maternal grandmother, Marie Jackson.

Besides his mother, those left to cherish his memory include one sister, Kenetta Dash and husband, Reginald, of Columbia, SC; one broth-

er, Jonathan Pierce and wife, Brooke, of Chambersburg, PA; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held 12:00 p.m. Tuesday February 10, 2026, at the Ronald Meadows Funeral Parlor Chapel with Rev. Phillip Copney Sr. officiating. Burial will follow in the Pierce Family Cemetery at a later

date. Visitation was from 11:00 a.m. until time of the services on Tuesday at the funeral parlors.

Family and friends served as pallbearers.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.ronaldmeadows-fp.com](http://www.ronaldmeadows-fp.com).

Arrangements are by the Ronald Meadows Funeral Parlors of Hinton.

## Greenrier Bowling... Continued from Page 1



**Inside view of the colorful floor (Photo: Brandon Baker)**

hockey table. Beside the arcade sits a legit hang-out for the high school and college kids on the weekends, a room with multiple pool tables and

even a couple more arcade games.

And what makes the bowling alley perfect for a day trip to Greenbrier County may just be the bar and grille restaurant attached to it, Spare Time Sports Bar & Grille. It has a lot of the typical American classic bar food, such as Burgers, steak sandwiches, chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, soft drinks, beer, and wine. They will show WVU games during football and basketball season, and it is just a great place to go relax and dine in after bowling several games.

The Bowling Alley's hours are:

- Monday: 5-10 p.m.
  - Tuesday: Closed
  - Wednesday: Closed
  - Thursday: Noon-10 p.m.
  - Friday: 5-11 p.m.
  - Saturday: Noon-11 p.m.
  - Sunday: Closed
- Spare Time Bar & Grille's hours:
- Monday: 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
  - Tuesday: 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
  - Wednesday: 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
  - Thursday: 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
  - Friday: 11 a.m.-1 a.m.
  - Saturday: 11 a.m.-1 a.m.
  - Sunday: 12 p.m.-10 p.m.

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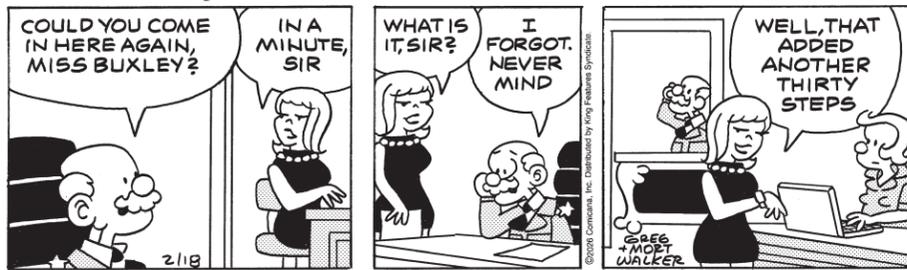
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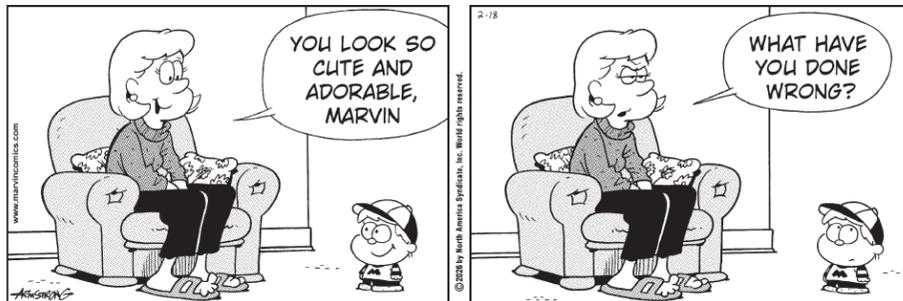
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# ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



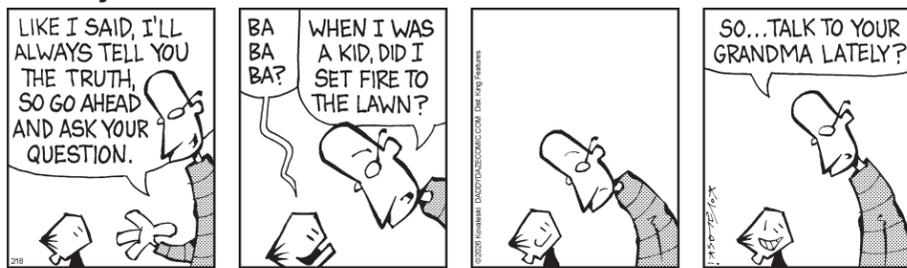
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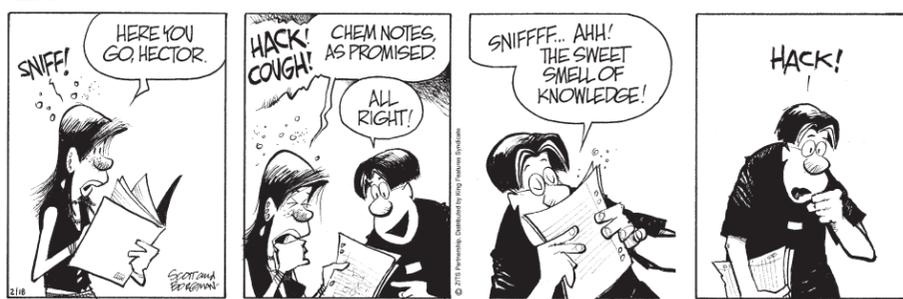
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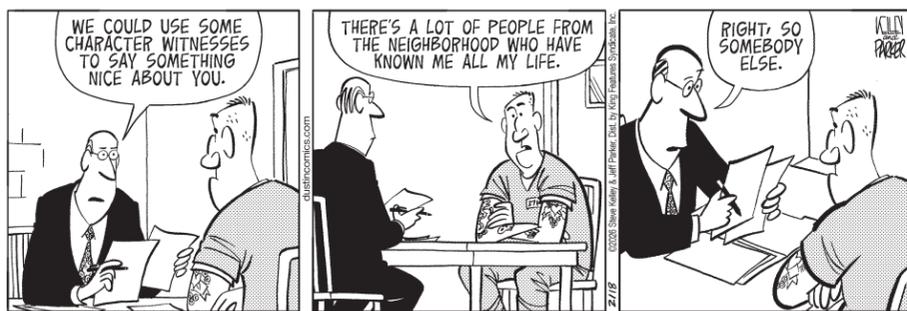
## Daddy Daze



## Zits



## Dustin



## Hi and Lois



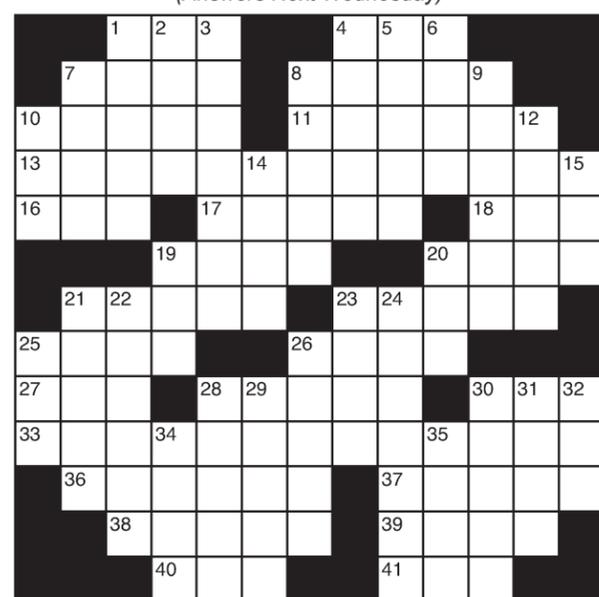
## SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- |                                   |                              |                              |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                     | <b>26</b> First-rate         | <b>DOWN</b>                  | <b>14</b> Exceptional                              |
| <b>1</b> Near the ground          | <b>27</b> Abbr. in an email  | <b>1</b> "— man put asunder" | <b>15</b> — Halles (historic food market of Paris) |
| <b>4</b> Rockies hrs.             | <b>28</b> New Zealand native | <b>2</b> It takes the cake   | <b>19</b> Hosp. scan                               |
| <b>7</b> Jeans innovator          | <b>30</b> Actress Farrow     | <b>3</b> Apple variety       | <b>20</b> Asner and Harris                         |
| <b>8</b> Computers from Taiwan    | <b>33</b> Doggedly persist   | <b>4</b> Jazz singer         | <b>21</b> Desert flora                             |
| <b>10</b> Devoured                | <b>36</b> Roma's land        | <b>5</b> Pursues             | <b>22</b> Louisa May —                             |
| <b>11</b> Hogs the mirror         | <b>37</b> Unconventional     | <b>6</b> Fir or yew          | <b>23</b> Lawn mower brand                         |
| <b>13</b> Poker tournament format | <b>38</b> Suit material      | <b>7</b> Secular proper way  | <b>24</b> Ideal example                            |
| <b>16</b> Green prefix            | <b>39</b> Apportion          | <b>8</b> In a way            | <b>25</b> Small ammo                               |
| <b>17</b> Red-tag events          | <b>40</b> D.C. base-baller   | <b>9</b> En-trapped          | <b>26</b> Sound-related                            |
| <b>18</b> Bagel variety           | <b>41</b> Spiritual leader?  | <b>10</b> Lamb's parent      | <b>28</b> Sasha's sister                           |
| <b>19</b> Crèche figure           |                              | <b>12</b> In a sneaky way    | <b>29</b> Cockeyed                                 |
| <b>20</b> "Electric" creatures    |                              |                              | <b>30</b> Catchers' needs                          |
| <b>21</b> "— diem!"               |                              |                              | <b>31</b> Concerning                               |
| <b>23</b> Kennedy or Roosevelt    |                              |                              | <b>32</b> Mature                                   |
| <b>25</b> Indonesian island       |                              |                              | <b>34</b> Hock                                     |
|                                   |                              |                              | <b>35</b> Colorations                              |

Solution time: 23 mins.



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)



## SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/18

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)

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

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →

Difficulty: ★★★

2/11



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

- RPEIG
- RKUYM
- LEOJST
- LTEKET

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Print answer here: ○○○○ ○○○○



WHEN THE DOORS PERFORMED "LIGHT MY FIRE," RAY MANZAREK PLAYED A ---

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

Last Wednesday's Answers: Jumbles: HOLLY FLINT SLUDGE DRAGON Answer: Becoming a member of the Olympic ice hockey team had been his — LIFE-LONG GOAL



### Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3			4
				5			
6	7						
8							

### DAY IN HISTORY



**1792:** The Postal Service Act is signed in the United States.

**1824:** William Buckland announces Megalosaurus as the first non-avian dinosaur species.

**1986:** The Soviet Union launches its Mir spacecraft, which remains in orbit for 15 years.

### Fun FACT:

Although the claims cannot be confirmed, some link this device to an early Chinese philosopher.

Answer: Kite

#### ACROSS

- 1. Connects kite to person
- 5. Defrost
- 6. Southern U.S. state
- 8. Hand spinning tool

#### DOWN

- 1. Flying devices
- 2. Part of a kite
- 3. Gain height
- 4. Twist together
- 7. Slap hands together

Down  
1. Kites 2. Tail 3. Lift 4. Entwine 7. Clap

Across  
1. Kite 5. Thaw 6. SC 8. Spindle

### NEW WORD

#### TAIL

a part of a kite that improves stability and adds color

### How they say that in...

- English:** Windy
- Spanish:** Ventoso
- Italian:** Ventoso
- French:** Venteux
- German:** Windig

### Did You Know?

Guinness World Records says Australian Robert Moore's kite reached the highest altitude by a single kite in 2014. Moore's kite reached 16,009 feet, or 4,879.84 meters.



### Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Kite

## Rainelle

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**& Maxwelton Dental Center**  
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**Lewisburg Health Center**  
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24901 • (304) 647-4747

**Meadow Bridge Clinic**  
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Meadow Bridge, WV 25976  
• (304) 484-7755

**White Sulphur Springs  
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# Featured Dog of the Week: Abby



HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The Summers County Humane Society/ACWP is seeking a permanent home for Abby, a 1.5-year-old dog described by shelter staff as a “gentle soul” with a heart of gold. Abby weighs 50 pounds, a size the res-

cue organization characterizes as ideal for both outdoor adventures and indoor relaxation. According to a recent announce-

ment from the shelter, she has demonstrated a temperament that makes her a versatile candidate for various household types.

Shelter highlights for Abby include:  
**Compatibility:** She is reported to be great with cats and good with children.

**Social Skills:** She is dog-friendly, provided her canine companions are respectful toward her.

**Disposition:** Staff describe her as sweet, gentle, and loyal.

The Summers County Humane Society emphasized that Abby is looking for a “forever family” to provide the stability and kindness she deserves.

Potential adopters interested in meeting Abby or learning more about the adoption process can fill out an ap-

plication through the organization’s official website at [acwp-wv.org](http://acwp-wv.org).

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## Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady, I have been tearing off the corner of stapled papers before putting them in recycling. Is it possible to recycle paper with staples in it? Interested Recycler

Dear Interested Recycler,

Yes, paper can be recycled with staples left in it. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “paper mills that process recovered paper are set up to remove common contaminants such as staples, from the pulped paper.” Therefore, it is not necessary to remove staples before recycling the paper. However, all paper clips MUST be removed as they can tear up the belts during processing. As with all recyclables, the paper must be dry and clean.

Dear Recycle Lady,

When I receive my prescriptions in the store or delivered, they are packaged in a white paper bag. Are these bags recyclable with office paper? Savvy Shopper

Dear Savvy Shopper,

I am happy to say

that today most every kind of single-use bag is recyclable. Your white paper bags are recyclable with office paper. Brown paper bags are recyclable with cardboard and single-use plastic bags are recyclable at Kroger, Walmart and Lowes. Have you considered taking your own bags when shopping, especially at the grocery store? Many sizes and shapes are available that are environmentally friendly. It takes a while to get into the habit of taking your own bags, but it is worth the effort.

Dear Recycle Lady, What are plant-based cleaners? Cleaner-Upper

Dear Cleaner-Upper,

Good question. Plant-based cleaners are cleaners made with environmentally friendly ingredients. Natural ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda have excellent antibacterial, degreasing, and stain-removing properties. Used properly, they can be just as effective

as chemical cleaners; however, they work more slowly, so let them sit a while before removing them. See <https://thenerdyfarmwife.com/natural-cleaning-recipes/> for making your own cleaning products. There are several commercial cleaners that are plant-based. Look for the EPA Safer Choice label or the USDA BioPreferred certified. Tide Pur-Clean ingredients are 75% plant-based and Clorox Ecoclean is made with 99% plant-based cleaning ingredients. Seventh Generation has many plant-based cleaning products, as does Mr. Clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also approves natural cleaners with ingredients like thymol (from the oil of thyme), including Seventh Generation Disinfecting Wipes and Cleaners. There are several brands of laundry detergents available now that come in the form of laundry detergent sheets. These sheets are eco-friendly as they are plastic-free and lightweight, so

no more heavy plastic bottles of detergent. They dissolve in the wash and are as tough on stains as liquid detergents. Even the packaging is environmentally friendly so there is no leftover waste to send to the landfill. You may have to try more than one brand to find the perfect one for you, but I highly recommend them. Google laundry detergent sheets for more information and choices available.

Good News: Coral reefs in the southern Pacific Ocean are showing signs of recovery from the natural disasters that have occurred in recent years. Coral is growing again and clownfish, starfish and turtles have been seen in the corals.

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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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Bluestone Hydro AE, LLC  
Project No. 15418-000  
NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY PERMIT APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND COMPETING APPLICATIONS  
(February 9, 2026)

On September 23, 2025, Bluestone Hydro AE, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of hydropower at the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Bluestone Dam located on the New River in Summers County, West Virginia. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed Bluestone Hydroelectric Project would consist of the following: (1) a new 180-foot-wide, 180-foot-long reinforced concrete powerhouse to be located downstream along the right bank looking downstream; (2) an existing intake and trashracks; (3) three 5-megawatt (MW) turbine-generator units with a total generating capacity of 15 MW; (4) a new 180-foot-wide by 300-foot-long tail-race; (5) an existing access road; (6) a new 60-foot-long by 60-foot-wide substation with a three-phase step-up transformer; (7) a new 2.1-mile-long, 36.7-kilovolt transmission line; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an estimated annual generation of 83 gigawatt-hours.

Applicant Contact: Roy Powers/Zac Osgood, Agilitas Energy Inc., 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 570, Wakefield, MA; phone: 914-805-2522.

FERC Contact: Monir Chowdhury; phone: (202) 502-6736.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 10, 2026. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 10,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact

FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or [OPP@ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the "eLibrary" link of the Commission's website at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/elibrary/search>. Enter the docket number (P-15418) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

**(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)**  
Debbie-Anne A. Reese,  
Secretary.  
(18,25fe4,11mr)

**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 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](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. (11,18fe)

# Gov. Morrisey Announces Local \$2m Water Project

Rebecca Stalnaker  
Hinton News

SMOOT, W.Va. (Hinton News) — Gov. Patrick Morrisey announced Thursday a \$2 million infrastructure investment in Greenbrier County to extend public water service to Smoot Elementary School and dozens of local residents.

The funding, provided through the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization program, will extend water lines from Sam Black Church to the school. The project is expected

to connect approximately 85 residential and commercial customers.

"Infrastructure is the foundation of economic development," Morrisey said. "You cannot grow jobs, attract businesses, or support schools and healthcare without dependable water and sewer systems."

State officials said the project is designed to improve public safety and health at Smoot Elementary while removing a significant barrier to local economic growth. For the school, the

extension ensures reliable water for food service, sanitation, and emergency preparedness. Morrisey noted that access to public water is often a "deciding factor" for developers and employers considering the region.

The AMLER program allows states to reinvest federal resources into communities impacted by historic coal mining. West Virginia has invested hundreds of millions of dollars through the program since 2016.

Tariff Form No. 8  
(RULE 23)

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE**

NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company's Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$ 9.63	% 10.57
Commercial	\$ 14.23	% 4.09
Large Commercial	\$ 1,058.29	% 1.31
Industrial	\$ 378.26	% 1.69
Resale	\$ 125.36	% 1.31
Other	\$ -	% -

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website ([www.psc.statwv.us](http://www.psc.statwv.us)) using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the Company's tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

**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

# Bethlehem Farm assists local residents with home repair needs

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Bethlehem Farm, a nonprofit organization serving parts of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties, is accepting applications for its 2026 low-income home repair program.

Bethlehem Farm partners with low-income individuals and families to make necessary repairs on their homes. Applicants must provide the home repair supplies or consistent monthly payments for these supplies,

while Bethlehem Farm provides free skilled and volunteer labor to enact the home repair projects.

For example, if a person would like assistance building a wheelchair ramp, that person would provide the money for the lumber and fasteners up front, or make (zero-interest) monthly payments to Bethlehem Farm to cover the cost of these supplies. Bethlehem Farm would contribute knowledge, tools, and labor to the project.

Eligible projects

can include:

- Wheelchair ramps,
- Painting,
- Siding,
- Insulation,
- Roof repairs,
- Windows and doors,
- Flooring repairs,
- Health and safety related porches or decks.

They do NOT perform:

- 2-story roof repairs,
- Steep roof repairs,
- Electrical work,
- Plumbing work,
- Help paying utility bills.

Bethlehem Farm is located near Alderson. The Bethlehem

Farm home repair program's Eastern limit is White Sulphur Springs, Southern limit is Pickaway, Western limit is Nimitz, and Northern limit is Rupert. Residents of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties in these limits who are prepared to provide supplies or monthly payments and who are interested in applying should call Marcus at Bethlehem Farm at 304-445-7143. [www.bethlehemfarm.net/need-home-repair](http://www.bethlehemfarm.net/need-home-repair) [homerepair@bethlehemfarm.net](mailto:homerepair@bethlehemfarm.net)

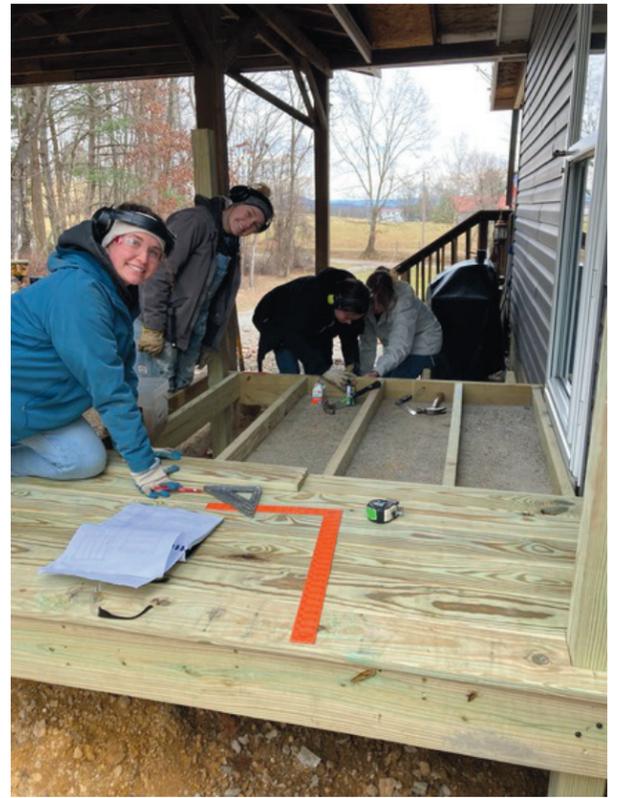


Photo provided by Bethlehem Farm

# West Virginia Scholar Calls for Equity and Recognition of Living Black History Contributors

WEST VIRGINIA (Hinton News) - As Black History Month is observed nationwide, a Monroe County scholar, historian, and author is calling attention to a persistent gap in West Virginia's recognition and support of African American scholars, authors, historians, and cultural workers—particularly those whose work preserves and advances Black history today.

“West Virginia has a powerful African American past,” the author said, “but it has yet to consistently recognize or invest in the people who are actively carrying that history forward in the present.”

The author is an African American genealogist, historian, ordained minister, associate pastor, and the writer of seven published books. Her body of work includes rigorously researched biographies and Christian memoirs and devotionals that explore Black faith traditions, caregiving, perseverance, and intergenerational memory. Together, her writings document African American history as both an archival record and a lived experience. Her most recent biography, *The Business of Emancipation*, examines the life and legacy of Freeman Henry Morris Murray, co-founder of the Niagara Movement and the NAACP. Mur-

ray attended the historic 1906 Niagara Movement meeting at Harpers Ferry, later recognized by the National Park Service as a foundational moment in the struggle for Black civil and political rights. Murray was also the author's great-grandfather. Despite documented historical ties and extensive scholarship, the author notes a lack of formal recognition or sustained institutional support for Black authors and historians in West Virginia.

“While general humanities and preservation programs exist,” she said, “there is no clear, sustained statewide framework dedicated to identifying, elevating, and supporting Black scholars and cultural researchers whose work strengthens the state's historical record, moral imag-

ination, and civic understanding.”

She emphasizes that African American history in West Virginia did not conclude with coal camps, Reconstruction classrooms, or early twentieth-century reform movements. That history continues today through living scholars, ministers, educators, writers, and community historians—many of whom labor without institutional backing.

Her call urges cultural institutions, agencies, media outlets, and the public to broaden Black History Month beyond commemorating the past and to include meaningful recognition of those who preserve that history today.

About the Author: Anita Hackley Lambert is an African American historian, genealogist, ordained

minister, and author of seven published books. She resides in Monroe County, West Virginia, and her work focuses on African American history, faith, family, and generational memory. Contact: [aHackleyLambert@gmail.com](mailto:aHackleyLambert@gmail.com) Email: [aHackleyLambert@gmail.com](mailto:aHackleyLambert@gmail.com)

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