



Summers County Senior Victoria Epley Advocates for School Safety Amid New Gun Laws

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - With the new law allowing individuals as young as 18 to conceal carry a firearm, one thing has been on some minds: Will this help or hinder the ever-present threat of gun violence in the country?

According to statistics from the Gun Violence Archive, 32 people have been killed and 85 wounded in 26 separate shootings in 2026 as of Jan. 31.

Statistics based on a recurring study called the Self Defense Shooting Fallacy say that less than 1% of personal and property crimes involve defensive gun use. While some data is conflicting, data exists that suggests that permitless carrying of guns is resulting in a 32% increase in gun assaults in certain areas. This trend indicates it is not those with permits committing these heinous crimes.

How will this new law affect things? Only time will tell. In the meantime, Victoria Epley, a 2026 Senior at Summers County Comprehensive High School, had a few things to say about gun violence in schools and the Sandy Hook Promise.

Epley said that she was only four years old when the Sandy Hook tragedy took place. She went on to explain that as a student, she has experienced fear

coming to school. She said she grew up in a time when acts of gun violence were practically implemented into the educational criteria as the new normal for attending school. Additionally, she said they were taught how to prepare for it, but not how to prevent it. Epley believes prevention is possible and noted that the Sandy Hook Promise has been in place in communities all across the United States.

Since that time, at least 19 credible shootings have been averted because of Sandy Hook Promise programs that have been put into place. Epley said that potentially hundreds of lives were impacted positively by the Sandy Hook Promise program. She wants to emphasize the point that youth really matter and that they have a voice.

Epley feels that recognition of a very real fear among West Virginians, including those in her club at school, will bring solutions to the table for the legislature on preventing gun-related tragedies in schools and communities. Epley is, in her own words, momentarily non-partisan and non-political to encourage senators to provide protection here in West Virginia. Epley said, "I am fighting for gun violence to protect my community because anything is possible. Because that is a fear I and many students of my generation have."

Epley feels that programs like Sandy

Hook Promise bring more social awareness, creating a healthier environment. Also, Epley feels like knowing there's a community there for support would help avert disasters in the future.

In regard to the new law, Epley has strong feelings about allowing 18-year-olds to conceal carry. She said that her research turned up that six out of the nine most deadly shootings were carried out by people younger than 21. Epley feels that in recent years, firearms have been handed out to struggling individuals even when there were prominent signs that intervention was needed, along with accountability, before the tragedy ensued. Epley said the firearms were coming from family, friends, and firearms dealers, and that gun violence also includes suicide with a firearm. Epley said research shows more than 3,400 people die by suicide with a firearm each year. Among those, 18-20 year olds make a significant portion at 58.7%.

Epley said she and the Sandy Hook Promise program at the Summers County Comprehensive High School wrote to West Virginia Senator Capito regarding what can be agreed upon and if there are solutions to preventing gun violence, as well as intervention before it happens. Epley wants to emphasize the club is about prevention and awareness, rather than being political. She



Victoria Epley

said she hopes to help build a better future for students.

Victoria Epley said she is the first local youth facilitator for Sandy Hook Promise and that she is a 17-year-old senior at Summers County Comprehensive High School. Epley has many honors under her belt and plans to attend WVU in the fall and study to become a lawyer. She hopes to further her insights into politics and be a voice of reason. She hopes to make a difference in the world because she hopes for a better future for our children.

Hinton News reached out to the Summers County Sheriff's Office for a comment from the Resource Officer via Facebook, but at the time of publishing, a response has not been received.

Summers County Board of Education Appoints Dr. Linda D. Knott as Superintendent

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Summers County Board of Education is pleased to announce the official appointment of Dr. Linda D. Knott as Superintendent of Summers County Schools. Her three-year term will become effective July 1, 2026.

Dr. Knott has served as Interim Superintendent since March 1, 2025.

According to Board President Greg Angell, "The Board's decision reflects our confidence in Dr. Knott's focus on improving student achievement, building and strengthening community

relationships, and planning for the future of Summers County Schools."

"I am deeply honored to serve as Superintendent of Summers County Schools," said Dr. Knott after the Board of Education meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026. "Having moved to Summers County in 1990 and worked here since 2001 as a special education teacher, third-grade teacher, principal, director, and now superintendent, I know this district has a rich tradition of excellence. I am committed to keeping students at the heart of every decision we make by working alongside our dedicated educators and staff, families, and community partners. The goal of public education is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential, and that is my goal as well."

Dr. Knott noted that this marks her 42nd year as a public educator and shared that it is especially meaningful that the agreement was finalized during Public Schools Week.

The Summers County Board of Education looks forward to continued progress under Dr. Knott's leadership and remains committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students.

Summers County Commission proposes new countywide utility district

Rebecca Stalaker
Hinton News

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The Summers County Commission is moving to streamline water and sewer services by creating a new, countywide public service district.

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for March 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Summers County Commission Offices, located within the Summers County Courthouse in Hinton.

The Commission's motion seeks to establish the Summers County Public Service District. This new entity would hold the authority to provide both water and sewer services to residents who currently lack access to reliable utility infrastructure.

According to the official notice, the Commission believes a dedicated district is better equipped to manage and install these facilities than the county government itself. The move is designed to reach "gap" areas—those parts of the county not currently served

by existing municipal or public utilities and where no immediate service plans are in place.

The proposed district would encompass the entire territory of Summers County, with several notable exceptions. Residents already served by the following providers would see no change in their service territory:

- City of Hinton: Water and sewer
- Jumping Branch-Nimitz PSD: Water
- Meadow Bridge PSD: Sewer
- Big Bend PSD: Water and sewer
- Oakvale Road PSD: Water and sewer

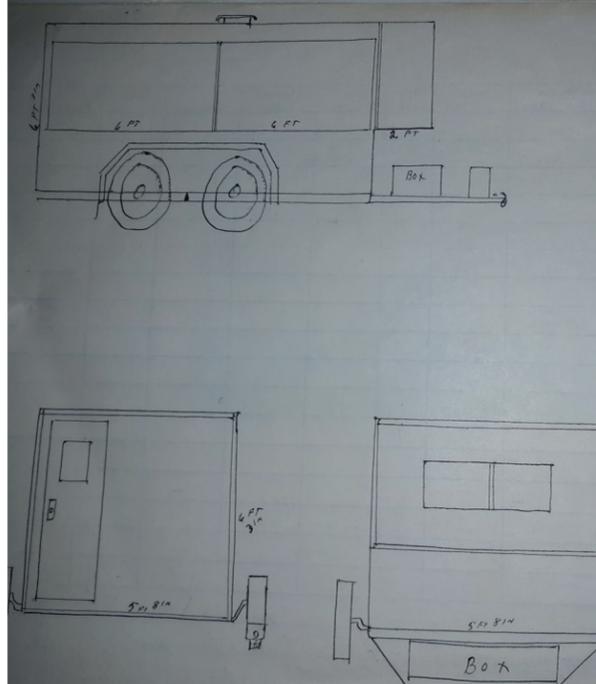
Meadow Creek PSD: Sewer

The Commission is acting sua sponte—on its own motion—under West Virginia Code to initiate this formation. Per state law, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia will be notified of the proceedings.

Commissioners are inviting the public to attend the March 11 hearing to ask questions or speak in favor of or in opposition to the plan.



A Peek into Summers County's Past: Jakes Kiddie Carnival



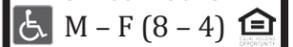
with the ledger book, and quite a few of the toy prizes.

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William Jones
Hinton News

S U M M E R S
C O U N T Y W.Va. (Hinton News) - I never realized how big of an influence my grandfather Bernard Thompson had on me growing up. From his love of antiques and local history, his fascination with odd and unusual "junk", his freehand ability, and others. Granddad helped shape the "quirky" historian I am today, ha.

He passed away in 2018, and I am still uncovering things nearly eight years later. I believe I had talked about the car-

nival trailer he built when my mother was a child. This was just one of the many "side gigs" he had his hands in at that time. From having a junk yard in Talcott, a Christmas Tree farm behind his house, building the Travlin Hillbilies truck and showing it throughout the two Virginias, having other antique cars, having rental properties, operating Thompsons Garage, and selling coal out of it in Talcott. He managed to find time to have a carnival tied in with other things he did as well. The drawing was

his design for it that he drew in November 1972. So the first time it was operational was in 1973. He designed it as a box he could slide on a trailer, his father, O.D. Tompson built. And then it could be slid off in the yard when it wasn't being used. It sat there and was used as an out-building till I tore it down in 2013.

Mom told me the main place she remembers taking it was the Alderson 4th of July celebra-

tion, Pioneer Days in Marlinton, a festival that was held in St. Albans and Nitro, West Virginia, at that time, and the Hinton Water Festival.

He named it "Jake's Kiddie Carnival". It had a tub ball, a spin the wheel game, a pull a prize game, a race car game, and others. He sold things as well. We still have the games in storage. The photo you see here is the first time he took it out.

I am thinking of Alderson. We still have the sign he used with it, the money box

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES



Arlene Anita Reich (Walker)

March 12, 1941 - January 9, 2026
 Arlene Anita Reich (Walker), 84, of Pikesville, MD, passed away peacefully January 9, 2026. Arlene was born in Brooklyn, NY. At seven years old, she and her family moved to East Patchogue to live on the bay and build Patchogue Shores Yacht Basin and Marina. Arlene had many adventures living in urban and rural areas across New York, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland. Her education spanned

diverse fields, creating a foundation for a successful career in Real Estate, a charismatic personality, and an ability to connect with anyone. Arlene was a bright beam of positivity and joy. Her laughter was contagious, and her smile lit up a room.

While attending Bellport High School, Arlene won various beauty pageants (Long Island Beauty Queen and Queen of the Advertising Association) and was the captain of the Volleyball Team. In her late teens and early 20s, she was a model for artist Rafael De Soto, resulting in countless paintings, comic book, and pulp fiction book covers. In the mid-1960s, Arlene worked as a Flight Attendant for American Airlines, until she was recruited by A & M

Rosenthal Dessy Creations as New England/Canadian Bridal Gown Sales Representative. She also attended New York School of Interior Design, where she received a certificate in Interior Decorating. In the late 1970s, Arlene attended Wilfred Academy of Hair and Beauty Culture (New York) and received her Beautician/Hairstylist License. In 1998, Arlene received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Concord University. However, Real Estate was Arlene's passion, and she practiced for 20 years holding licenses in New York, West Virginia, and Virginia.

Arlene was an independent woman raising her children alone - and beautifully balanced work and motherhood. She lovingly called

her children her "greatest accomplishment." Arlene pursued a Norman Rockwell-like existence for her family, instilling a love of nature. She loved snowshoeing, skiing, ice skating, hiking, gardening, and swimming in the ocean as a family.

Arlene was a beloved member of the Pikesville, MD, community, where she enjoyed art museums, concerts, being with family, and playing Scrabble and Dominoes. Arlene is survived by her children, Erika (Paul) Bruce of Daphne, AL, Jessica (Matthew) Zinder of Annapolis, MD, and Michael (Sara) Reich of Roanoke, VA; grandchildren, Ariel, Erin, Logan, Sofia, Vivian, Olivia, and Savannah; and her brother, Eric. Arlene is preceded in death by her parents, Anna and Raymond Carlson; and her brother, Raymond.

Arlene was a beloved member of the Pikesville, MD, community, where she enjoyed art museums, concerts, being with family, and playing Scrabble and Dominoes. Arlene is survived by her children, Erika (Paul) Bruce of Daphne, AL, Jessica (Matthew) Zinder of Annapolis, MD, and Michael (Sara) Reich of Roanoke, VA; grandchildren, Ariel, Erin, Logan, Sofia, Vivian, Olivia, and Savannah; and her brother, Eric. Arlene is preceded in death by her parents, Anna and Raymond Carlson; and her brother, Raymond.

A Celebration of Life will be held March 14, 2026, at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Art League of Ocean City, MD. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Arlene Anita Walker please visit www.simplicitycfs.com/obituaries/arlene-walker-3/.

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Jesus, The Way To Forgiveness
 (Part 1)
 by Mark A. Copeland
https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html

In this series of lessons, we have been looking at Jesus as the Way.

Introduction
 We have seen that Jesus is **The Way To A Better Life**, even here on earth. But much more importantly, Jesus is the way to forgiveness for our sins!
 To understand **why** we need forgiveness and **how** Jesus provides the way to forgiveness is the purpose of this lesson. It is important, then, that we begin by properly defining sin...

THE DEFINITION OF "SIN"
 Many people have **The Wrong Conception** of sin. They think it is nothing more than a violation of human relationships; that an action is sinful ONLY if it is frowned upon by society, violates their own conscience, or is harmful to someone else.
 Such a misconception of sin leads people to a misconception of how the problem of sin can be corrected. For example, some believe that correcting sin involves nothing more than making things right with other people. With this misconception, they think they are forgiven of all past actions if they simply change their behavior.
 But what is **The Biblical Definition** of sin? The Bible actually defines three different types of sin. First, there is the direct violation of God's Law. The apostle John describes sin in this way:
Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)
 For example, where God's law tells us not to steal, we sin when we steal something. This is commonly referred to as the **Sin Of Commission** (where we commit something that displeases God). Another kind of sin is found in James' epistle:
Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17)
 This is the **Sin Of Omission**, where you fail (omit) to do that which you know to do. For example, when I know Jesus tells me to love my enemies, I sin when I do not display love towards them. The apostle Paul mentions yet another kind of sin:
But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin. (Romans 14:23)
 For lack of better words, this is the Sin Of Violating Your Conscience. In this case, the thing you are doing may be right in and of itself, but if you cannot do it with a clear conscience, you are sinning! The example found in **Romans 14** pertained to someone who because of earlier religious training before becoming a Christian had difficulty eating meat without a guilty conscience. Paul would have the brother whose faith is weak to abstain from eating meats, and even calls upon brethren who are strong in faith to be careful not to put any enticements in the brother's way which might wound his conscience.
 So we see that sin is more than simply a violation of human relationships (though it often involves that); sin is a serious matter that involves God and His Will! How serious is sin? By considering the consequences of sin as described in the Bible, we begin to appreciate its terrible nature. As Paul wrote in the book of Romans:
For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23)
 Continued next week where we will learn about the nature of God and how it relates to the problem of sin.
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NUTRITION WORD SEARCH

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

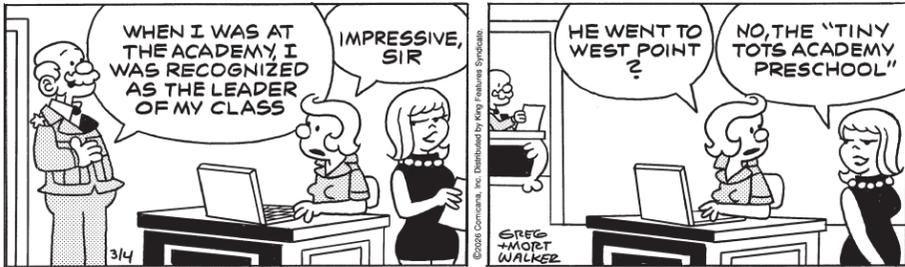
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AMINO ACIDS	CELLS	FIBER	METABOLISM
ANTIOXI-DANTS	DIETARY	FORTIFICA-TION	MICRONU-TRIANTS
BASAL	ELECTRO-LYTES	GLYCEMIC INDEX	PROBIOTICS
BIOAVAIL-ABILITY	ENERGY	IRON	PROTEIN
CALORIES	ENRICH-MENT	LIPIDS	SATIETY
CARBOHY-DRATES	FATTY ACIDS	MACRONU-TRIANTS	VITAMINS

ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

Beetle Bailey



Marvin



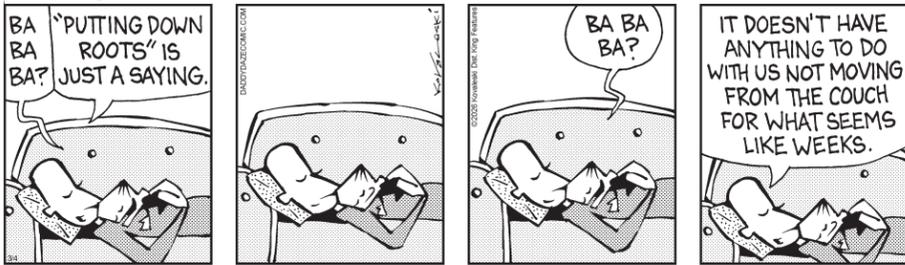
Blondie



Mutts



Daddy Daze



Zits



Dustin



Hi and Lois



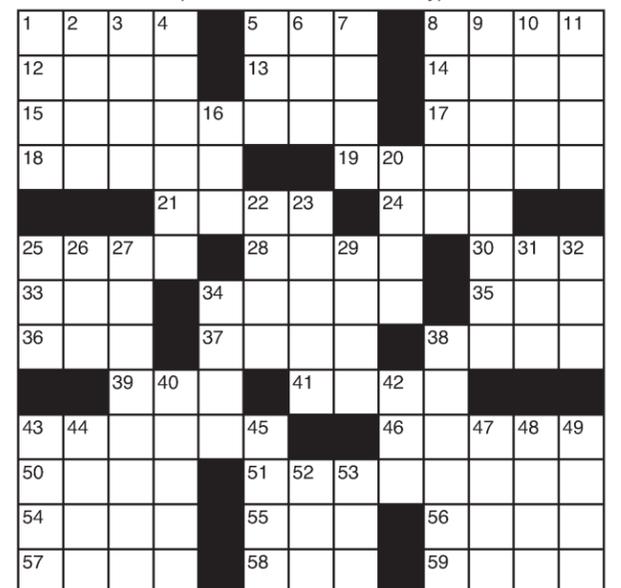
SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Unfeeling | 1 "Peter Pan" dog |
| 5 Pouch | 2 Japanese noodle |
| 8 Links org. | 3 Creche trio |
| 12 Purim's month | 4 Soup stocks |
| 13 Online address | 5 California's Big — |
| 14 Actor Rickman | 6 Live and breathe |
| 15 Restricted zone | 7 Potter's medium |
| 17 Corn seasoning | 8 Rodeo rope |
| 18 "West Side Story" role | 9 Romper room |
| 19 Emphatic agreement | 10 Big wind |
| 21 Corned beef recipe | 11 Picnic intruders |
| 24 Extinct bird | 16 Small battery |
| 25 Binges | 20 CPR pros |
| 28 Fulfilled, as a promise | |
| 30 Scepter | |
| 33 Blunder | |
| 34 Frasier's brother | |
| 35 Wide sandal letters | |
| 36 — Maria (coffee liqueur) | |
| 37 Avenue liners | |
| 38 Org. for seniors | |
| 39 "Home-going" author — Gyasi | |
| 41 Chimney grime | |
| 43 Not wobbly | |
| 46 Coral reef | |
| 50 Mrs. Dithers | |
| 51 Turnpike feature | |
| 54 Mellows | |
| 55 Annoy | |
| 56 Family | |
| 57 "The Daily Show" host Trevor | |
| 58 Aye canceler | |
| 59 Actress Sedgwick | |
| 22 Power tool brand | |
| 23 Big wheels at sea | |
| 25 Lustrous black | |
| 26 Onassis nickname | |
| 27 Vague situation | |
| 29 Cuban money | |
| 31 Not 'neath | |
| 32 Bankbook abbr. | |
| 34 Actress Patricia | |
| 38 Assault | |
| 40 Shame | |
| 42 Feedbag morsel | |
| 43 Read quickly | |
| 44 Takeout request | |
| 45 Activist Brockovich | |
| 47 Paris airport | |
| 48 Jet type | |
| 49 Actress Turner | |
| 52 Notable time | |
| 53 Chicago — (WNBA team) | |

Solution time: 23 mins.



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)



SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

3/4

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column, or box.

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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JUMBLE

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

SAUEM

FHRES

CIHTEC

TFEALR

AS THEY UNRAVELLED HIS CLAIMS, HIS STORY CAME APART

Last Wednesday's Answers

Jumbles: STOOD BLAND NEPHEW LAVISH
Answer: When she stepped off the plane in Antarctica into 70 below, she thought — "LOW" AND BEHOLD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	3		9
19		20	57
	15	14	45
37	36	38	

14	15	16
20	18	19
4	3	2

Solution

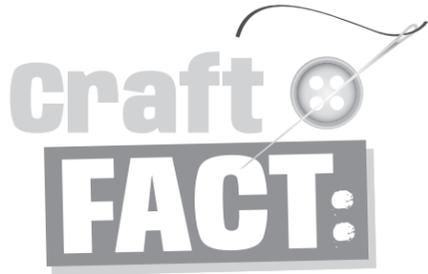
DAY IN HISTORY



1766: Antonio de Ulloa, the first Spanish governor of Louisiana, arrives in New Orleans.

1953: Joseph Stalin dies in Moscow.

2021: Pope Francis begins an historical visit to Iraq during the COVID-19 pandemic.



This craft involving yarn gets its name from a French term meaning "small hook."

Answer: Crochet

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

BBYA LBKNATE

Answer: Baby blanket

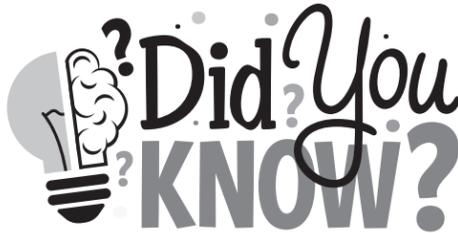


CHAIN

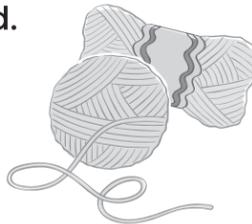
the starting stitches of crochet



- English:** Blanket
- Spanish:** Manta
- Italian:** Coperta
- French:** Couverture
- German:** Decke



In crochet, the thickness of the yarn should coordinate to the gauge of the crochet hook being used.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Crochet project



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NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY
PERMIT APPLICATION
ACCEPTED FOR FILING
AND SOLICITING COM-
MENTS, MOTIONS TO IN-
TERVENE, AND COMPET-
ING 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, (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.

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)

NOTICE OF
TRUSTEE'S SALE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in her by that certain Deed of Trust executed by and between **Cecil Romanello, ("Borrower")**, and **Amy L. Mann (First Trustee)**, and **First Century Bank, Inc., n/k/a Burke & Herbert Bank, ("Lender")**, dated the 16th day of May, 2014, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Summers County Commission in Summers County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 272, at Page 182.

Whereas, said Lender having nominated and appointed **ANNA R. ZIEGLER, ROBERT A. GARDNER, DAVID L. ZIEGLER, and the law firm of Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C., any one of whom may act, ("Substitute Trustees")**, by Substitution of Trustee dated November 5, 2025, and of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Book 324 at Page 742. Said Deed of Trust being presently in default, the said Substitute Trustees having been requested by the beneficiary thereof so to do, **NOW, THEREFORE, we, ANNA R. ZIEGLER, ROBERT A. GARDNER, DAVID L. ZIEGLER, and the law firm of Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C.,** Substitute Trustees as aforesaid, will proceed to sell the hereafter described real estate at public auction on the 11th day of March, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., to the highest bidder for cash in hand, 10% down the day of the auction, remainder due within 30 days of the sale, at the front door of the Courthouse of Summers County, West Virginia, which real estate is located in the Forest Hill District, Summers County, West Virginia, and is more

particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 12" red oak, corner to Charles W. Mitchell and James R. Hart and proceeding thence with said Hart and Robert Cales S. 31° 53' 50" W., 885.02 feet to a large fence post found, being a distant N. 32° 20' 18" E., 147.40 feet from a 5/8" rebar and cap found on northeast line W. V. Route 12 in old road; thence with Brent Romanello and Joyce Miller along said road the following, N. 35° 22' 49" W., 44.19 feet; N. 44° 05' 14" W., 152.79 feet; N. 19° 41' 39" W., 67.24 feet; N. 19° 41' 39" W., 33.63 feet; N. 18° 49' 37" W., 66.06 feet; N. 22° 53' 15" W., 27.20 feet; N. 28° 37' 24" W., 27.14 feet; N. 19° 46' 44" W., 50.33 feet; N. 15° 46' 51" W., 46.67 feet; N. 04° 43' 11" W., 37.92 feet; N. 00° 21' 38" E., 56.00 feet; N. 10° 57' 51" E., 95.05 feet; N. 16° 17' 06" E., 43.58 feet; N. 16° 17' 06" E., 51.53 feet to a 5/8" rebar and cap set; thence leave said road with Joyce Miller, N. 60° 40' 09" W., 85.80 feet to a 5/8" rebar and cap set at walnut stump; thence N. 31° 40' 09" W., 152.62 feet to a 5/8" rebar and cap set on easterly line of W. V. Route 12, thence with said Route 12, N. 11° 05' 07" E., 479.86 feet to a point on said Route 12, being distant N. 53° 32' 08" W., 8.92 feet from the northeast corner of a 2 story building; thence S. 75° 26' 52" E., 15.00 feet to appoint on said Route 12, being distant N. 68° 55' 25" W., 16.88 feet from the northeast corner of said block building; the (sic) continue with Route 12 N. 14° 33' 08" E., 175.00 feet to a 5/8" rebar and cap set, corner to Elmo Allen and Ronald Bolling; thence with said Bolling S. 75° 07' 18" E., 131.08 feet to a 16" sugar maple found marked; thence S. 13° 15' 24" E., 110.06 feet; thence S. 13° 15' 24" E., 446.09 feet to a spring; thence S. 88° 04' 16" E., 25.77 feet to a 5/8" rebar and cap set on line of said Mitchell; thence with said Mitchell, S. 03° 58' 08" E., 196.46 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

AND BEING the same property conveyed unto Cecil Romanello from Cecil Romanello by deed dated January 12, 2012, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Summers County Commission in Deed Book 240 at Page 713.

AND FURTHER BEING the same property that descended unto Anthony Romanello, Elizabeth Romanello, Carol Horney, Lilly Romanello, Hannah Romanello, Brent Romanello, and Jacob Romanello upon the death of Cecil Romanello on August 16, 2016, by virtue of intestate succession.

AND FURTHER BEING the same property conveyed unto Anthony and Tommi Lynn Romanello from Anthony Romanello, Elizabeth Romanello, Carol Horney, Lilly Romanello, and Hannah Romanello by deed dated July 31, 2020, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Summers County Commission in Deed Book 270 at Page 665.

THIS SALE IS MADE subject to such easements, rights-of-ways, restrictive covenants, reservations and agreements as are contained and set forth in prior deeds of conveyance pertaining to said real estate.

SAID SALE SHALL BE
SUBJECT TO THE FOL-
LOWING CONDITIONS:

1) 10% of the successful bid shall be paid by the successful bidder unto the Substitute Trustee(s) the day of sale, by cash or certified funds. The balance of said bid shall be due via certified funds unto the Substitute Trustee(s) within 30 days of the sale.

2) Subject to any and all mineral rights and reservations, stipulations, restrictions, reservations, easements, conditions and covenants contained in all former conveyances of the subject property or appearing of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office except any pertaining to race, color or creed.

3) Subject to all real estate taxes against said property and any taxes which constitute a lien upon the said property but which are not yet due and payable.

4) The subject property will be sold in AS IS condition. The trustees shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

5) The property will be conveyed by the undersigned Trustee(s) to the purchaser without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied.

6) The aforesaid sale may be adjourned from time to time as the undersigned Trustee deems advisable, which adjournment may be made by oral proclamation at the time and place of the sale or any adjournment thereof.

GIVEN under our hands on this the 30th day of January, 2026.

/s/Robert A. Gardner

Robert A. Gardner
Trustee
Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C.
110 James Street
Hinton, WV 25951

/s/David L. Ziegler

David L. Ziegler
Trustee
Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C.
110 James Street
Hinton, WV 25951

/s/Anna R. Ziegler

Anna R. Ziegler
Trustee
Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C.
110 James Street
Hinton, WV 25951
PREPARED BY:
ZIEGLER & ZIEGLER, L.C.
110 James Street
Hinton, WV 25951
(25fe4mr)

NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
TO CREDITORS &
DISTRIBUTEES &
LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following estates have been opened for probate in the Summers Fiduciary Supervisor's Office at 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 100, Hinton, WV 25951-0097. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code § 41-5-11 - 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Summers County Fiduciary Supervisor's office within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever

is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code § 44-2 or 44-3A.

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

First Publication Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Claim Deadline: Sunday, May 3, 2026

ESTATE OF: BRUCE EDWARD CLARK**ADMINISTRATRIX: PATRICIA NORTHERN****ESTATE OF: FRANK JONES JR.****EXECUTRIX: CAROLYN JONES****ESTATE OF: DOLORES JEAN AKERS****ADMINISTRATOR: MARK MASSEY****ESTATE OF: LINVILLE FRANKLIN GOINS****ADMINISTRATRIX: DEBRA SUSAN GOINS****ESTATE OF: WANDA GAY SEARS****EXECUTRIX: BRENDA WHITESIDE****ESTATE OF: NORMAN H. COLE JR.****EXECUTOR: NORMAN H. COLE III****ESTATE OF: NORMA KAY LAWHORN****ADMINISTRATRIX: JENNIFER LAWHORN****ESTATE OF: JAMES CLYDE CANTERBURY****EXECUTOR: W. CHARLES CANTERBURY**

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 25, 2026.

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

Notice To Creditors,
Distributees, and Leg-
atees Proposed / Short
Form Settlements

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

I have before me the Final settlements and Proposals for the estates of the following deceased persons, which shall be presented to the County Commission of Summers County, at the Courthouse thereof, in the

City of Hinton, West Virginia on the 11th day of March, 2026, at or near 10:00 a.m. These proposed settlements and short form settlements have been presented to me by the fiduciary of such estates which settlements I have approved as indicated below:

Estate: Mary Frances Meador**Fiduciary:** Vivian E. Meador**Estate:** Harry Herman Hicks**Fiduciary:** Adam Hicks**Estate:** Ruth Wayn Kessler**Fiduciary:** Shirley James Kessler**Estate:** Dessie Marie Ward**Fiduciary:** Gwendolyn Gail Ward**Estate:** Rita Jane Pack**Fiduciary:** Stephen Ronald Pack

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

Given under my hand this the 25th day of February, 2026.

Donnie Basham
Fiduciary Supervisor
(4mr)

NOTICE

CellCo Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 161.5 feet on a 166.26-foot monopole communications tower in the vicinity of 2335 Freetland Mountain Road, Hinton, Raleigh County, West Virginia 25951 (Lat: N 37-41-2.2, Long: 80-53-25.1).

Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Maggie Vincent, m.vincent@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, (410) 853-7128. (4mr)



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681-293-1173
tia@wvdcn.com

THE
HINTON NEWS

LEGAL NOTICE**NOTICE OF
SUBSTITUTE TRUST-
EE'S SALE**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned, **STEPHEN J. GOLDER, ESQUIRE** ("**Substitute Trustee**"), by NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF TRUSTEE, which Notice is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Summers County, West Virginia (the "**Clerk's Office**"), in Book No. 324, at Page No. 705, and by a DEED OF TRUST, ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES AND RENTS, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING executed and dated August 4, 2014, but effective August 15, 2014, executed by **RITE WEST PARTNERS LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company ("**Borrower**"), to **CAMDEN P. SIEGRIST, ESQUIRE**, Trustee, to secure the payment of Five Million Five Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and No/100 (\$5,554,875.00) to **BASIS REAL ESTATE CAPITAL II, LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company, of record in the Clerk's Office, in Trust Deed Book No. 273, at Page No. 497, as assigned to **WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF WFRBS COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE TRUST 2014-C22, COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2014-C22** ("**Beneficiary**"), by ASSIGNMENT OF DEED OF TRUST, ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES AND RENTS, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING executed and dated September 29, 2014 and of record in the Clerk's Office in Assignment Book No. 6, at Page No. 531 (the "**Deed of Trust**"), and by a UCC FIXTURE FILING naming Borrower as Debtor recorded in the Clerk's Office on August 21, 2014 as Instrument No. 174967, assigned to Beneficiary by UCC FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT recorded in the Clerk's Office on May 11, 2015 as Instrument No. 178234, continued by that CONTINUATION recorded in the Clerk's Office on February 28, 2019 as Instrument No. 195960, and further continued by that CONTINUATION recorded in the Clerk's Office on February 29, 2024 as Instrument No. 211856 (the "**Fixture Filing**"), the undersigned Substitute Trustee has been requested, in writing, by Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and the Fixture Filing to sell the real estate and personal property described below, as there has been a default under the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust, the Fixture Filing and the Promissory Note secured thereby. Therefore, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell the real estate (the "**Land**") and the personal property described in the Deed of Trust, at a public auction, on **FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 AT 1:00 P.M., EASTERN STANDARD**

TIME, to the highest bidder at the front door of the courthouse of Summers County, West Virginia, 120 Ballengee Street, Hinton, West Virginia 25951, which real estate and personal property is more completely described as follows:

513 Stokes Drive
Hinton, Summers County,
West Virginia

Being a parcel or tract of land situated on the waters of the New River, in the City of Hinton, Summers County, West Virginia to which a more particular description is made to wit:

Beginning at a 1/2" IRON PIN IN CONCRETE FOUND being a common corner with the northeast corner of the Summers County Commission Property, Deed Book 133, page 561, known as Tract No. 25, thence with a line through the CSX property:

S 33° 36' 15" E a distance of 198.12 feet to a 5/8" REBAR FOUND marking a common corner of McDonald's Corporation, Deed Book 175, page 581, thence with the common line of said McDonald's;

S 56° 25' 52" W a distance of 247.22 feet to a 5/8" REBAR FOUND on the northern right-of-way line of State Route 107, thence with said right-of-way line 25' parallel to the Project 3603A centerline thereof;

N 41° 25' 08" W a distance of 200.00 feet to a 1/2" IRON PIN IN CONCRETE FOUND, said POINT being a common corner with previously mentioned Summers County Commission Property, thence with the common line of said Summers County Commission Property;

N 56° 25' 52" E a distance of 274.45 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing in all 51,677 square feet or 1.186 acres more or less.

Less and Except an out conveyance made by Linco, Inc. to the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, by Deed dated May 3, 2001, of record in said Clerk's office in Deed Book 205, Page 226, and being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the eastern existing right of way line of West Virginia Route 107, said point being in the division line between land now or formerly owned by McDonald's Corporation and Linco, Inc., and 25.47 feet right of and at right angle to West Virginia Route 107 centerline at Station 27+64.84, Project U345-107-0.17, Summers County, West Virginia;

Thence, northwesterly, with the meanders of said existing right of way line 200 feet, more or less, to a point in the division line between land now or formerly owned by Greenbrier Valley National Bank and Linco, Inc., and 25.51 feet right of and at right angle to centerline at Station 29+67.36;

Thence, southwesterly with said division line 10 feet, more or less, to a point in the eastern proposed right of way line 35.51 feet right of and at right angle to centerline at Station 29+66.13;

Thence, southeasterly, in a reverse centerline direction, with said proposed right of way line 200 feet,

more or less, to a point in the division line between land now or formerly owned by McDonald's Corporation and Linco, Inc., and 45.47 feet right of and at right angle to centerline at Station 27+64.88;

Thence southwesterly, with said division line 10 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning and containing 2,000 square feet, more or less.

Together with the following:

(a) **Improvements.** The buildings, structures, fixtures, additions, enlargements, extensions, modifications, repairs, replacements and improvements now or hereafter erected or located on the Land (collectively, the "**Improvements**");

(b) **Easements.** All easements, rights-of-way or use, rights, strips and gores of land, streets, ways, alleys, passages, sewer rights, water, water courses, water rights and powers, air rights and development rights, and all estates, rights, titles, interests, privileges, liberties, servitudes, tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances of any nature whatsoever, in any way now or hereafter belonging, relating or pertaining to the Land and the Improvements, and the reversions and remainders, and all land lying in the bed of any street, road or avenue, opened or proposed, in front of or adjoining the Land, to the centerline thereof and all the estates, rights, titles, interests, rights of dower, rights of curtesy, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, both at law and in equity, of Borrower of, in and to the Land and the Improvements, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances thereto;

(c) **Fixtures and Personal Property.** All machinery, equipment, fixtures (including, but not limited to, all heating, air conditioning, plumbing, lighting, communications and elevator fixtures), furniture, software used in or to operate any of the foregoing and other property of every kind and nature whatsoever owned by Borrower, or in which Borrower has or shall have an interest, now or hereafter located upon the Land and the Improvements, or appurtenant thereto, and usable in connection with the present or future operation and occupancy of the Land and the Improvements and all building equipment, materials and supplies of any nature whatsoever owned by Borrower, or in which Borrower has or shall have an interest, now or hereafter located upon the Land and the Improvements, or appurtenant thereto, or usable in connection with the present or future operation and occupancy of the Land and the Improvements (collectively, the "**Personal Property**"), and the right, title, and interest of Borrower in and to any of the Personal Property which may be subject to any security interests, as defined in the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted and enacted by the state or states where any of the Property is located (the "**Uniform Commercial Code**"), and all pro-

ceeds and products of the above;

(d) **Leases and Rents.** All leases, subleases, subsubleases, lettings, licenses, concessions or other agreements (whether written or oral) pursuant to which any Person is granted a possessory interest in, or right to use or occupy all or any portion of the Land and the Improvements, and every modification, amendment or other agreement relating to such leases, subleases, subsubleases, or other agreements entered into in connection with such leases, subleases, subsubleases, or other agreements and every guarantee of the performance and observance of the covenants, conditions and agreements to be performed and observed by the other party thereto, heretofore or hereafter entered into, whether before or after the filing by or against Borrower of any petition for relief under any Creditors Rights Laws (collectively, the "**Leases**") and all right, title and interest of Borrower, its successors and assigns therein and thereunder, including, without limitation, cash or securities deposited thereunder to secure the performance by the lessees of their obligations thereunder and all rents, additional rents, rent equivalents, moneys payable as damages or in lieu of rent or rent equivalents, royalties (including, without limitation, all oil and gas or other mineral royalties and bonuses), income, receivables, receipts, revenues, deposits (including, without limitation, security, utility and other deposits), accounts, cash, issues, profits, charges for services rendered, and other consideration of whatever form or nature received by or paid to or for the account of or benefit of Borrower or its agents or employees from any and all sources arising from or attributable to the Property, including, all receivables, customer obligations, installment payment obligations and other obligations now existing or hereafter arising or created out of the sale, lease, sublease, license, concession or other grant of the right of the use and occupancy of property or rendering of services by Borrower and proceeds, if any, from business interruption or other loss of income insurance whether paid or accruing before or after the filing by or against Borrower of any petition for relief under any Creditors Rights Laws (collectively, the "**Rents**") and all proceeds from the sale or other disposition of the Leases and the right to receive and apply the Rents to the payment of the Debt;

(e) **Insurance Proceeds.** Subject to the terms and conditions of the Leases, all insurance proceeds in respect of the Property under any insurance policies covering the Property, including, without limitation, the right to receive and apply the proceeds of any insurance, judgments, or settlements made in lieu thereof, for damage to the Property (collectively, the "**Insurance Proceeds**");

(f) **Condemnation Awards.** Subject to the terms

and conditions of the Leases, all condemnation awards, including interest thereon, which may heretofore and hereafter be made with respect to the Property by reason of any taking or condemnation, whether from the exercise of the right of eminent domain (including, but not limited to, any transfer made in lieu of or in anticipation of the exercise of the right), or for a change of grade, or for any other injury to or decrease in the value of the Property (collectively, the "**Awards**");

(g) **Tax Certiorari.** Subject to the terms and conditions of the Leases, all refunds, rebates or credits in connection with reduction in real estate taxes and assessments charged against the Property as a result of tax certiorari or any applications or proceedings for reduction;

(h) **Rights.** The right, in the name and on behalf of Borrower, to appear in and defend any action or proceeding brought with respect to the Property and to commence any action or proceeding to protect the interest of Lender in the Property;

(i) **Agreements.** All agreements, contracts, certificates, instruments, franchises, permits, licenses, plans, specifications and other documents, now or hereafter entered into, and all rights therein and thereto; respecting or pertaining to the use, occupation, construction, management or operation of the Land and any part thereof and any Improvements or any business or activity conducted on the Land and any part thereof and all right, title and interest of Borrower therein and thereunder, including, without limitation, the right, upon the happening of any default hereunder, to receive and collect any sums payable to Borrower thereunder;

(j) **Intangibles.** Subject to the rights of Tenants under the Leases, all tradenames, trademarks, servicemarks, logos, copyrights, goodwill, books and records and all other general intangibles relating to or used in connection with the operation of the Property;

(k) **Accounts.** All reserves, escrows and deposit accounts maintained by Borrower with respect to the Property, including, without limitation, the Accounts and all cash, checks, drafts, certificates, securities, investment property, financial assets, instruments and other property held therein from time to time and all proceeds, products, distributions or dividends or substitutions thereon and thereof;

(l) **Proceeds.** All proceeds of any of the foregoing items set forth in subsections (a) through (k), including, without limitation, Insurance Proceeds and Awards, into cash or liquidation claims; and

(m) **Other Rights.** Any and all other rights of Borrower in and to the items set forth in subsections (a) through (l) above.

TERMS OF SALE:

1. Cash in hand paid on the day of sale.
2. Sale of the property shall be made subject to all matters having priority over the Deed of Trust and Fix-

ture Filing referred to here-in including, but not limited to, any and all assessments and taxes against said property, all prior liens, rights of redemption, deeds, encumbrances, leases, restrictions, reservations, covenants, conveyances, conditions, rights-of-way and easements of any nature whatsoever.

3. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by West Virginia Code § 11-22-1, *et seq.*, and any additional recording costs.

4. The subject property will be sold in an "**AS IS**" physical condition by deed containing no covenants or warranties, express or implied. Substitute Trustee makes no representations or warranties of any kind or character, including, but not limited to, the condition of the real estate and personal property or the title to the real estate or personal property to be conveyed and transferred.

5. Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property or to remove any personal property from the subject property.

6. Substitute Trustee reserves the right to adjourn the sale for a time, or from time to time, without further notice by announcement at the time and place of the sale described above.

7. Beneficiary, or servicer, of the Deed of the Trust and holder of the Promissory Note thereby secured reserves the right to submit a bid for the property at the sale, which bid may be in the form of a credit bid.

8. Substitute Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

9. Such other terms as may be announced at the time of sale.

Given under my hand this 24th day of February, 2026.

STEPHEN J. GOLDER,
ESQUIRE
Substitute Trustee
(304) 523-2100
(4,11mr)

"LEGAL NOTICE"

Request for Proposals (RFP):

Notice of available funding to serve as the One-Stop Operator and/or Title 1 Comprehensive Youth Service Provider under the guidelines of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 for the eleven-county area of Region 1 in West Virginia (Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh Summers, Webster & Wyoming). Interested parties can review the RFP's at www.r1wib.org on or after Monday March 2, 2026. Youth Services Prover Contract is \$789,342.33 and One-Stop Operator Contract is \$100,000.00

The Mandatory Bidder's Conference for this Request for Proposal will be held on Friday March 13, 2026, at 2 PM at the Raleigh County WORKFORCE American Job Center, 200 New River Town Center, Beckley, WV 25801.
(4,11mr)



Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,
Do black plastic kitchen utensils release toxic microplastics? Say it Isn't True

Dear Say it Isn't True,
It really isn't true.

In 2024, an alarming study of black plastic kitchen utensils resulted in people across the nation tossing out black plastic kitchen utensils. The journal Chemosphere reported that "toxic brominated flame retardants and organophosphate flame retardants (decaBDE) might be present at dangerous levels in some products containing black recycled plastic." This included black spatulas and spoons, black plastic to-go containers, and some toys. Their recommendation was to replace all black plastic kitchen utensils

with stainless steel or wooden options. The Consumer Federation of America sued the EPA, saying that "EPA is not adequately regulating decaBDE because it allows recycled decaBDE into everyday products, such as black plastic kitchen utensils and containers."

A savvy scientist reviewed the mathematics of the study and found a large error in the calculations. When made aware of this error, the authors said that "we miscalculated the reference dose for a 132 lb. adult, initially estimating it at 42,000 ng/day instead of the correct value of 420,000 ng/day." The EPA came to the correct conclusion, saying, "Unless you regularly stir molten lava with your spatula, there is

no need for anyone to throw out their black kitchen utensils."

Dear Recycle Lady,
What are "ghost nets" that have been found in oceans? Need Explanation

Dear Need Explanation,
Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been lost, discarded or abandoned in oceans, harbors or on beaches. They are also part of "ghost gear," which includes all types of fishing gear, such as nets, lines, traps, pots, and other gear that is no longer in use. It also includes fishing gear that may have been lost due to weather conditions, poor maintenance, retrieval costs, or an overloaded catch. Ocean currents cause the ghost gear to go far from its ori-

gin, often drifting for thousands of miles. It then ends up on coral reefs, beaches, or deep on the ocean floor, where it can remain for years. It is a major source of ocean plastic pollution and a real danger to marine life. Fish, whales, dolphins, sharks, sea turtles and other marine animals, as well as sea birds, don't recognize the ghost gear as a danger and can easily become entangled and die. Fortunately, many organizations are working to remove the entangled ghost gear and to educate fishing communities on the hazards of ghost gear.

Dear Readers,
Did you know that bubble gum is made with plastic? Not only is chewing gum sold in plastic packaging, but

with the exception of a few natural brands, bubble gum is mostly made from a type of plastic. Approximately 374 billion pieces (374,000,000,000) of bubble gum are sold worldwide every year! Research suggests that chewing just one piece of gum can release hundreds to thousands of microplastics into saliva. (www.cnn.com. March 25, 2025)

Interesting Information: Oceans cover roughly 71% of the surface of our planet! Not only that, but about 97 percent of the Earth's water can be found in our oceans. Of the tiny percentage that's not in the oceans, about two percent is frozen up in

glaciers and ice caps. In 1875, the British Royal Navy's Challenger expedition first discovered the deepest part of the ocean by using a weighted rope to record its depth. Named after the expedition, the Challenger Deep is located in the Pacific Ocean at the southern end of the Mariana Trench and is 35,876 feet deep!

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

Musings From Memory Lane: Spring is Eternal

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

This ice we've experienced this winter tries to trick us into thinking spring won't ever be back. It seems as if Jack Frost has a tight grip on the seasons that won't let go.

I remember as a child anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring. Those first robins seen in the yard were one of the most beautiful sights in the world. Spring also meant new clothes. I was anxious to wear them, and I would start before it was warm. New clothes had a way of lifting one's spirits after a hard winter.

My Grandma Marie had those little grape hyacinths in her yard. I would pick them for the sheer beauty of the flower. Grandma thought they should

be left for everyone to enjoy. I remember getting down, crawling like a snake to pick those flowers, and getting in trouble afterwards.

The hardest spring I remember was when I was probably 6 years old. My Mom was in the hospital over Easter. I remember being scared she wouldn't come back. My Dad, who coincidentally was the best Dad in the history of ever,

took me to the Fort Pit shoe store in Hinton for Easter shoes. Then we went to GC Murphy's, and he bought me a Victorian Jody doll. He tried so hard to make everything okay for me, all the while working and going to see Mom in the hospital.

Eventually, Mom got out of the hospital, and everything got back to normal. One thing I've learned in my years on this earth is that

spring is eternal. It always comes back around, no matter how cold the winter.

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