



Easter Ornament Incident Leads to Battery Charge in Summers County

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - According to a criminal complaint, on March 7, around 22:43, an officer responded to a call received through Summers County 911 for a call regarding a domestic violence in progress. When the officer arrived on the scene, he reportedly spoke to the victim. The victim said that a man, later identified as Russell Lee Adkins, had taken an Easter ornament and

thrown it at her. The ornament allegedly ended up hitting her in the hand.

According to the report, the officer could see that there were red marks and scrapes on the victim's left hand. The officer spoke with Adkins, who allegedly admitted to throwing the ornament at the victim. The criminal complaint states that Adkins went on to say that he had thrown the ornament at the victim because she had first thrown it at him.

The victim reportedly told the officer she hadn't thrown anything. She said she had just come home from work and tried to hide in the bedroom when Adkins came after her, the complaint states.

At the time of writing, Adkins was still in Southern Regional Jail with bail set at \$1,500.

Disclaimer: A criminal charge is an accusation. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Russell Lee Adkins

Alderson to "Unleash" Community Spirit with Group Photo Honoring French the Lion

ALDERSON W.Va. (Hinton News) - Alderson Main Street will be celebrating French, the Alderson lion, on Saturday, March 28, at noon at the Historic 1896 C&O Depot in Alderson. Please wear your "Keep your lion on a leash" t-shirt

or sweatshirt and gather at the depot for a group photo. Designed by Cheryl Mansley for AMS, these shirts were extremely popular as Christmas gifts and just to show Alderson spirit. For those without a shirt who want to participate,

shirts are available at the Alderson Artisan Gallery, which is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10-5. This opportunity is for anyone with a shirt, not just AMS members.

Organizers said, "Join us and raise a cheer for French!"



Fishing in West Virginia: Spring Kickoff

Susan Smith-Linton
Hinton News

WEST VIRGINIA (Hinton News) - March marks a critical transition for West Virginia anglers, as waters warm and the statewide stocking program swings into high gear. For 2026, this month also brings notable regulatory highlights that shape your plans on the water.

These key highlights for March 2026 include:

License and identification: All anglers aged 15 and older must possess a 2026 West Virginia fishing license valid Jan. 1, 2026, plus a photo ID.

The spring stocking program resumes in March with more than 850,000 fish anticipated. A standout event is the Gold Rush, stocking 50,000 golden rainbow trout from March 30 through April 11, 2026. If you're lucky enough to catch one of the 100 tagged golden rainbow trout, you could win a prize including a lifetime resident fishing license, state park cabin stays or a \$25

gift card.

Plan for the Gold Rush; expect increased activity in stocked streams and creeks. Be prepared for crowding in popular spots. A trout stamp is required for fishing for trout, regardless of the other fish targeted that day.

In designated Delayed Harvest areas, trout must be released immediately from Nov. 1 to May 16, protecting populations during the spring surge. In WVDNR-stocked trout impoundments, it is illegal to fish with more than two lines or poles from Jan. 1 to May 31.

Tiger trout are officially listed as a game fish in the 2026 regulations, expanding targets for some anglers.

Spring Fishing in West Virginia offers many prime spots. The spring fishing scene is at its best as waters warm and stocked fish begin to move. Anglers can expect productive outings across rivers, lakes, and streams statewide, with trout in the Elk River and Shavers Fork, smallmouth bass on the New River, premier largemouth fishing at Stonewall Jackson Lake, and mountain trout in Anthony Creek. Stocking runs consistently from March through May, shaping prime opportunities for both novices and seasoned anglers.

The Elk River and Shavers Fork are the trout hotbeds in the spring. Rainbow and Brown Trout are common, with Brook Trout possible in cooler tributaries. The New River system stands out for smallmouth bass as water temperatures rise. Expansive shoals, ledges, and bends concentrate bass, with tactics ranging from shallow shoreline casts to deeper structure.

Stonewall Jackson Lake serves as a

premier largemouth destination, with bays and weedlines that heat up early in the season. Anglers can expect solid three- to four-pounders and the potential for larger fish as spring progresses. Anthony Creek provides a high-altitude, cold-water habitat ideal for mountain trout. Local variation exists by watershed and year, so anglers should check with the West Virginia DNR for current plans and waterbody-specific updates.

Fly Fishing Anglers venturing to streams marked "Fly Fishing Only" should expect stricter gear rules, seasonal restrictions, and targeted conservation aims. The designation is intended to protect fragile ecosystems while promoting low-impact fishing. Fly Fishing only designations span several counties and regions.

In Webster, Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, waterways carry fly-only designations. Edinburg in Hampshire County also features fly-only stretches, alongside Millcreek Gap in Greenbrier County. Other representative sites include Red Run of Dry Fork in Tucker County, Second Creek crossing Greenbrier and Monroe counties, Spring Run in Grant County, and Thorn Creek in Pendleton County. Waters designated as "Fly Fishing Only" require anglers to fish exclusively with a fly rod and fly line. Other gear is not permitted on these sections.

Open-water versus fly-only hours can vary, with some stretches alternating between permitted methods depending on the time of day, season, or stream health. When crossing a boundary into or out of a fly-only practice, responsible habits include using barbless hooks

where required, handling fish with care, and minimizing disturbance to habitat. Mountain streams around Webster, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and neighboring counties frequently designate fly-only sections to safeguard trout.

West Virginia's Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) is reinforcing a simple, essential message for every angler: leave no trace. By adopting strict "leave no trace" principles, anglers can help safeguard the state's delicate aquatic ecosystems while enjoying responsible, sustainable fishing. Another key is to avoid releasing unused bait into the waters. Discarded bait can introduce non-native species, pathogens, and other ecological disruptions that upset the balance of native fish and invertebrate communities. Properly dispose of unused bait and gear to minimize these risks.

Always following the state fishing regulations remains essential. Adhering to seasonal rules, size and bag limits, gear restrictions, and any fly-fishing-only designations helps sustain fish populations for future generations and preserves the health of West Virginia's ecosystem. For more on West Virginia's fishing rules and environmental guidelines, anglers can consult the WVDNR's official resources.

Fishing offers a relaxing way to boost physical health through activity while also supporting mental well-being by reducing stress and clearing your mind after a busy day. Fishing also encourages patience and a sense of connection with nature. Get out and enjoy the outdoors in West Virginia; you won't be disappointed.



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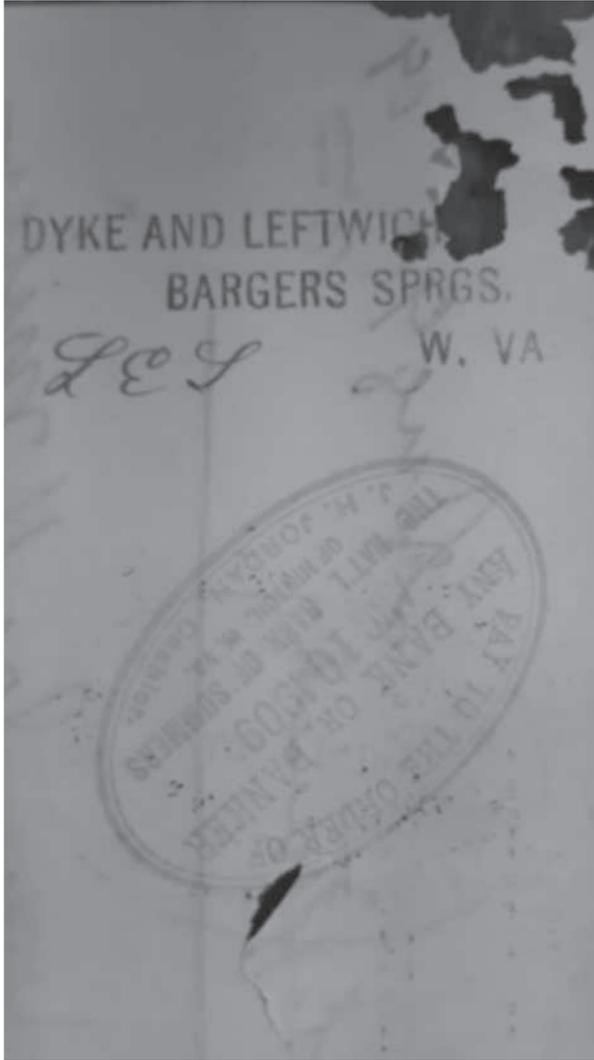
A Peek into Summers County's Past: Dyke and Leftwich and Leftwich

William Jones

Hinton News

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Growing up in Summers County and being obsessed with local history as I am, I learned early the names of the historians in the county. First, the late John Kesler became one of my first go-tos. Then, before Ashby Berkley passed, he and I became great history friends. Then I got to know historian Fred Long when he served, until recently, on the Summers County Historic Landmarks Commission with me. Steve Trail and I have become well acquainted in regard to local history, having served together on the commission since 2017.

Then Jimmy Costa, who is best known by us lo-



cals for his skilled County historian old-fashioned banjo and historic artifact and fiddle playing ability. He is also a strong Summers

A Peek into Summers » 3#

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES



Phyllis Vandall Foster

Phyllis Vandall Foster, of Hudson, NC, formerly of Sandstone, WV, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her daughter, Lori, and her son-in-law, Grumpy Cales, at Atrium Health Main in Charlotte,

NC, on March 5, 2026, following a brief illness. Phyllis was born in Summers County, WV, to the late Ulysses Earl Vandall and Ina Noel Taylor Vandall.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Lewis, who passed away in 1986; son, James Lewis, Jr.; daughter, Robin Gaynell; and four brothers and five sisters.

She was a homemaker and member of Sandstone Baptist Church in Sandstone, WV. Phyllis moved to North Carolina to be with her daughter, Lori, in 2015. She has enjoyed her time with her

family and extended family while being in North Carolina. She also enjoyed her time traveling back to her hometown in West Virginia.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Jennifer Newcomb and husband, David, of Prospect, VA, Lori Cales and husband, Grumpy, of Granite Falls, NC; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister; several nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

There will be no services per her request.

Drum Funeral Home in Hickory, NC, is honored to be assisting the Foster family.

Hinton A.A. Meetings

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Hinton Alcoholics Anonymous group holds multiple weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at noon, and Satur-

days at 5 p.m. in the lower level of Ascension Episcopal Church. Both are open meetings.

The entrance to the meeting area is through the rear of the

church, which is located at the corner of Temple Street and 5th Avenue

For more information, please call 304-660-7073 or 1-800-333-5051.

Jesus, The Way To Forgiveness

(Part 3)

by Mark A. Copeland

https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html

Last week we ended by noting how holy God must be and how terrible sin must be.

As we begin to realize these things, we should see that man is in a terrible predicament. For you see, the Bible has judged that all of mankind is guilty of sins:

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)

And the very nature of God (holy and just) demands separation of sinners from God and punishment for our sins!

Can man do anything to help himself? There are no "works" that a person can do to make himself innocent of the guilt of his or her sins. For example, a man who commits murder is not made innocent of that crime by living the rest of his life by the law! Yet many people think that they save themselves by balancing their good deeds against their sins!

But sin of any kind is so repulsive to God's holiness that His justice requires punishment. Look again at the sins referred to earlier:

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

Whether the sin is fear, lack of faith, lying, or murder, the "second death" is reserved for those who are guilty. Do you think that your sins are few and therefore not worthy of such punishment? Even if you commit just one sin, the nature of sin in the sight of a holy God is such that you are as guilty as one who broke every law:

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10)

Since we are all sinners (Romans 3:23), it appears that we are all doomed to suffer God's justice! Is there any way that God can be both holy and just and yet allow sinful man to be "reconciled" to Him? Yes, there is, and **Jesus is The Way!**

JESUS, THE WAY TO FORGIVENESS OF SINS

God has provided the way by offering Jesus as a "propitiation" for our sins:

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

The word "propitiation" originally referred to an act or sacrifice that a man offered designed to appease a god. As used in the Bible, it refers to that which God has done (not man). In other words, what man cannot do for himself, God has done! He has offered His Son Jesus on the cross as a means to appease His justice. Such was foretold by Isaiah nearly 700 years earlier:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:10-12)

Next week, we will begin to see how we have redemption through the blood of Christ.

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

SPRING CLEANING WORD SEARCH

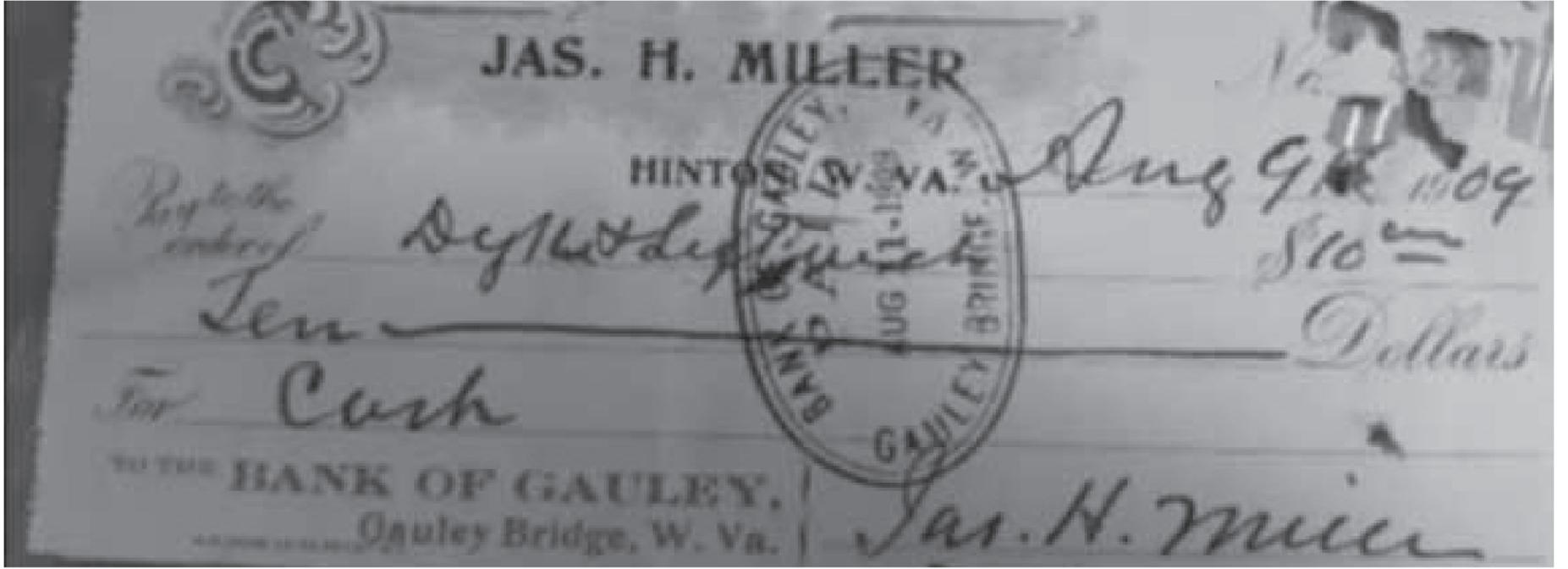
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 V F S I E C F L Y G E E X Y R D N U A L

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

WORDS

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| AIRING | DUSTING | MINIMALISM | RENEWAL |
| DECLUTTER | FRESH | MOPPING | SANITIZE |
| DEEP-CLEAN | HOME | ORGANIZE | SCRUBBING |
| DETOXIFY | LABELING | POLISH | SORTING |
| DISINFECT | LAUNDRY | PURGE | STORAGE |
| DONATIONS | MAINTENANCE | RECYCLING | VACUUM |

A Peek into Summers... Cont' from Page 2



collector/preserver. He recently took several old, cancelled checks from Judge Miller's estate to Hinton Hardware to give to Richard Leftwich.

One of those checks was to Dyke and Leftwich. Which brings me to asking you for help with this week's piece. Richard was showing me this 1909 cancelled check of Judge Miller's. Judge Miller was the author of the rare 1908 Summers County history book, History of Summers County from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time.

When you flip the check over, it is stamped Dyke and Leftwich Barger Springs, W.Va. I have never heard of a business having this name in Summers County. The only point of reference I have is that you occasionally hear the names Dyke and Leftwich mentioned in Summers County history around Barger Springs.

I uncovered this 1886 photo in the WVU Archives of the camps in Barger Springs. One of the ladies is identified as "Mrs. Dyke." Barger Springs was

a popular mineral springs resort from 1903 to 1929. The lady identified by the last name Dyke must have had some connection to the business in ques-

tion.

Then the name Leftwich is mentioned twice in his book. On page 531, it says "Leftwich" (in bold), then it reads "There are but two families of this name now residents of Summers County - George W. Leftwich, the veteran school teacher, and Jabez F., farmer of Barger Springs." It later mentions Jabaez F. Leftwich as being an enterprising farmer in the Talcott District. It then further breaks down these two names and their families.

Leftwich is not a common last name around these parts,

at least not as common as Jones, ha. So we are trying to figure out if the owners of this business in Barger Springs are related to Richard Leftwich of Hinton and his family. If you know anything more about this business, please email me at greenbrierantiques@gmail.com. Thank you.

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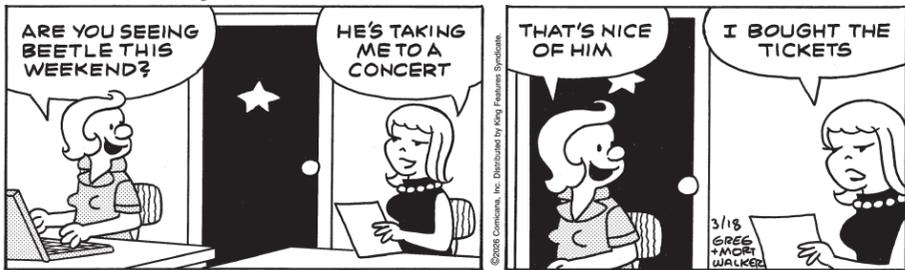
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ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Blondie



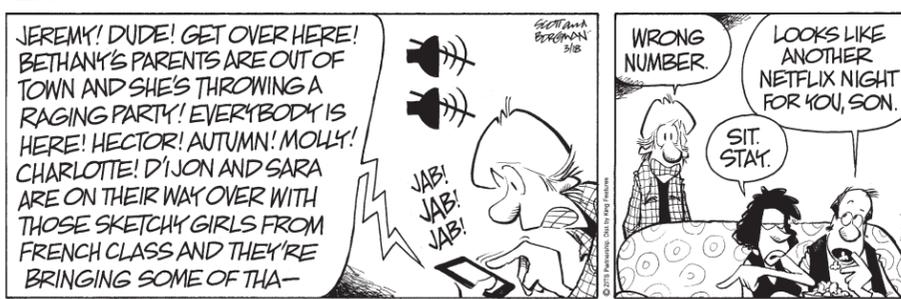
Mutts



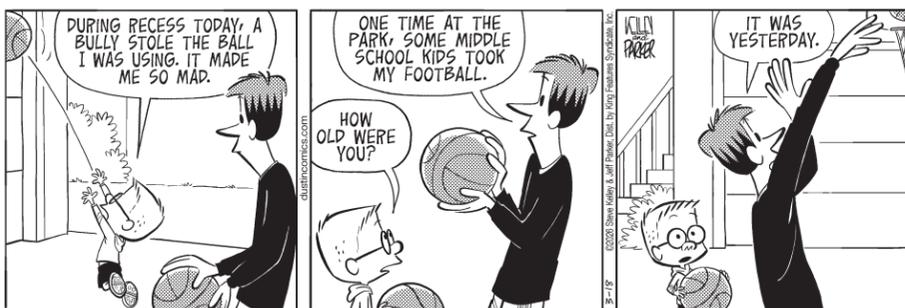
Daddy Daze



Zits



Dustin



Hi and Lois



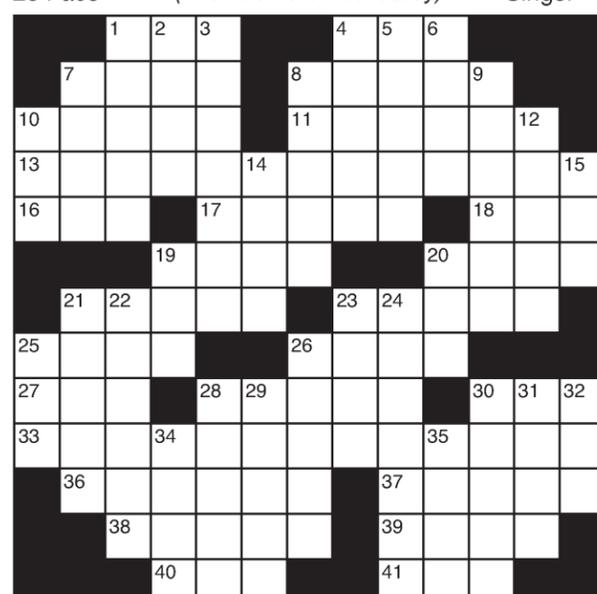
SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 27 Farm squealer
 - 1 Business mag
 - 4 "Keep it down!"
 - 7 — B'rith organza
 - 8 Like equip
 - 10 Equip anew
 - 11 "Platoon" actor
 - 13 Depot for a river vessel
 - 16 Crime lab evidence
 - 17 Leg-endarry gymnast Simone
 - 18 Lab eggs
 - 19 Sword fight
 - 20 Painter Mondrian
 - 21 Boorish
 - 23 Ship's rear
 - 25 War god
 - 26 Pace
- DOWN**
- 41 Fall from grace
 - 8 "Peachy!"
 - 9 "The Bathers" painter
 - 10 "May-berry —"
 - 12 Expert director
 - 14 Alliances
 - 15 Long. crosser
 - 19 German article
 - 20 Favorite county
 - 5 Big wheels
 - 21 Sobbed at sea
 - 23 Swedish auto
 - 24 Morsels
 - 25 LAPD alert
 - 26 Splendor
 - 28 Waffle topper
 - 29 Amtrak express
 - 30 Take hold
 - 31 Boast
 - 32 Donkey
 - 34 Scarce
 - 35 Actress Singer

Solution time: 23 mins.



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)



SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

3/18

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)

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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JUMBLE

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

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

ABOTO
GWNUS
TEDANT
SNFIHI

Ans. here: _____



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

Last Wednesday's Answer: They took the day off to just watch TV, and midway through it was — "SOFA", SO GOOD

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Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
			5				
6							
7					8		
9							

DAY IN HISTORY



1861: The Kingdom of Italy is proclaimed.

1958: The United States launches the first solar-powered satellite.

1966: Off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean, a submarine finds a missing American hydrogen bomb.

People FACT:



The collapsible version of this device was made popular by Parisian merchant Jean Marius in the early 18th century.

Answer: Umbrella

ACROSS

- 1. Rainy day tool
- 5. Incorporated
- 6. Widely admired
- 7. A sea eagle
- 8. Opposite of stand
- 9. State of atmosphere

DOWN

- 1. Positive notion
- 2. Most rain
- 3. Sport with netted stick
- 4. Means or skill

Down
1. Upside 2. Rainiest 3. Lacrosse 4. Ability

Across
1. Umbrella 5. Inc. 6. Icon 7. Erne 8. Sit 9. Weather

NEW WORD

RUNNER

part of an umbrella that slides up and down

How they say that in...

- English:** Rain
- Spanish:** Lluvia
- Italian:** Pioggia
- French:** Pluie
- German:** Regen

Did You Know?

A vented canopy on an umbrella is an extra layer that allows air to pass through. This helps to prevent the wind from carrying larger umbrellas away.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Umbrella



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• (304) 438-6188

**& Rainelle Medical Center
Pharmacy (304) 438-6186
& Rainelle Dental Center**
(304) 438-1922

**Lewisburg Pediatrics
And Family Health Center**
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200, Lewisburg, WV 24901
• (304) 660-1155

**Maxwelton Health Center
& Pharmacy**
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Maxwelton, WV 24957
• (681) 318-3610

& Maxwelton Dental Center
(681) 318-3611

Midland Trail Health Center
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25854 • (304) 969-8080

Lewisburg Health Center
296 Fair Street, Lewisburg, WV
24901 • (304) 647-4747

Meadow Bridge Clinic
1502 Meadow Bridge Road,
Meadow Bridge, WV 25976
• (304) 484-7755

**White Sulphur Springs
Health Center**
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White Sulphur Springs, WV 24996
• (304) 956-2577

Eastern Greenbrier Health Center
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24901 • (304) 645-1052

Rupert Health Care Center
458 Greenbrier St., Rupert, WV
25984 • (304) 632-6602



Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,
What is seaweed packaging, and will it replace some single-use plastic packaging? Hopeful

Dear Hopeful,
Seaweed packaging is slowly becoming an alternative to single-use plastic packaging. It is a non-toxic, chemical-free product that is safe, more effective, and more sustainable than plastic, especially in items that come in direct contact with consumers, such as cosmetics and food. The plastic liners on take-out food containers are being replaced with seaweed-based liners that break down when exposed to oxygen, thus reducing plastic waste. Seaweed grows rapidly and doesn't require fresh water, fertilizers, or pesticides. It also ab-

sorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Harvested from the ocean, seaweed is biodegradable, renewable, and compostable. After harvesting, it is cleaned, processed and mixed with natural ingredients such as cellulose or starch to give it more strength and flexibility. Since it is versatile and flexible, seaweed packaging can be molded into various sizes and shapes of sturdy boxes. Seaweed films and wraps are made for single-use food packaging, such as ready-to-eat meals, snacks, and sandwiches. As it is still in the early stages of development, seaweed packaging is more expensive to produce and is not as

available as plastic. However, both cost and availability of are expected to go down as technology advances and production becomes more efficient.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Are perfume bottles recyclable? Can old perfume be poured down the sink? Smelling Good

Dear Smelling Good,
Perfume bottles are made of both glass and plastic, but only the plastic bottles can be recycled locally, and only if they are more than three inches tall. As with all plastic bottles, be sure perfume bottles are clean and dry before placing them in the recycling bin. One word of caution when disposing of leftover perfumes. According to [wikihow.com/Dispose-of-Perfume](http://www.wikihow.com/Dispose-of-Perfume), perfumes are made with

strong ingredients and chemicals and should not be poured down the drain as they are made with potentially hazardous materials. No regulations currently exist for the disposal of perfumes; however, pouring them down the drain is not a good idea. Not only are the chemicals not good for the water supply, but the scent may also linger quite a long time! Treat old or unwanted perfume as you would leftover paint. Put the perfume in a container, mix it with kitty litter or coffee grounds to change the liquid into a solid, and put it in the trash. Although not recyclable, many perfume bottles are made of glass and can be repurposed. See [Fragrance.com](http://www.fragrance.com) for 15 ways to upcycle perfume bottles.

Dear Recycle Lady,
I just read that oceans can have legal rights. How can that be? Confused

Dear Confused,
In 2024, the Constitutional Court of Ecuador ruled that since the water off the coast of the Pacific Ocean is a marine ecosystem, it has legal rights. Manta rays, sharks, whales, dolphins, sea turtles, underwater marine plants and corals all live in this ecosystem. Explaining that "oceans and seas are essential for the healthy functioning of the planet, the court affirmed that marine ecosystems have a legal right to maintain their natural life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes. This includes having stable animal populations, water temperatures,

and salt levels." Bolivia and New Zealand have also ruled that marine ecosystems on their country's coast have legal rights.

Good News!
Non-compostable single-use coffee cups are now banned throughout Western Australia. Cafes can use compostable cups, and customers can bring in their own. With 500 billion disposable coffee cups used worldwide every year, this is a move in the right direction! (fto.com)

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.



Weekly Recipes

Create Your Own Portable Energy Booster Right At Home

Protein bars are a convenient energy booster that's easy to carry. That portability makes protein bars a go-to for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy activities like hiking that burn lots of calories. Though it's easy to pick up a protein bar at the store, it's also possible to make your own at home. Anyone interested in doing so can try their hands at this recipe for "Homemade Protein Bars With Peanut Butter and Hemp Protein" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Homemade Protein Bars With Peanut Butter and Hemp Protein
Makes 8 bars

- 13 ounces peanut butter, no added sugar, divided
- 2 1/2 ounces pure maple syrup
- 3 ounces almond flour
- 3 ounces coconut oil
- 6 ounces chopped dark chocolate, at least 70 percent cocoa, divided
- 3 ounces hemp seeds
- 1 pinch salt

1. Grease and line the base and sides of an 8-inch baking dish with parchment paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, thoroughly stir together 1 cup with the maple syrup and almond flour until well combined. Transfer to the baking dish, evenly pressing it across the base. Cover and chill until needed.
3. Meanwhile, combine the remaining 1/2 cup peanut butter, coconut oil, half the chocolate, hemp seeds, and salt in a heatproof bowl. Set the bowl over a half-filled saucepan of simmering water, stirring until smooth.
4. Remove from the heat and pour the mixture over the chilled base. (Keep the water simmering.)
5. Place the remaining chocolate in a clean bowl. Set it over the simmering water, stirring until melted.
6. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the topping in the tin. Cover and chill until set, about 4 hours.
7. When ready to serve, cut into slices and turn out.





Weekly + HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Sometime this week you may discover a hidden talent you didn't know you have, Aries. Embrace this new aspect of your identity and put it to good use.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
This is a time when you might feel grounded and secure, Taurus. Your inner strength will allow you to take a calculated risk that will pay off, either with your finances or relationships.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
You might find that this week a mental fog will lift, leaving you with a crystal-clear vision for the future, Gemini. Start moving toward your goals as soon as possible.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Your emotional intelligence is your greatest asset right now, Cancer. You help a friend navigate a tricky situation with ease midweek, and by the weekend you're still going strong.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Right now your confidence is unshakable, Leo. Use all of your energy to advocate for something you fully believe in. Chances are you will evoke some change as a result.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, order brings you joy, which means you may want to tackle transforming your work space into a more detailed operation. This will boost your mood and your performance.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Romance is a priority right now, Libra. Whether you are single or in a relationship, expect a moment this week when the spark is ignited once more.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
A small change in your routine may lead to a big increase in energy, Scorpio. Try rearranging your schedule to see what works best for you, and then make it a habit.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a dream you had is more attainable than you might think. Take the first step and quickly the path will open up for you. Enlist friends to push you even further along.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Leadership comes naturally to you now, Capricorn. People will be looking to you for guidance this week. Try to deliver it with kindness and no sense of ego.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Your "Eureka!" moment might come sooner than you would imagine, Aquarius. Pay attention to the details this week and tune your way of thinking toward innovation.

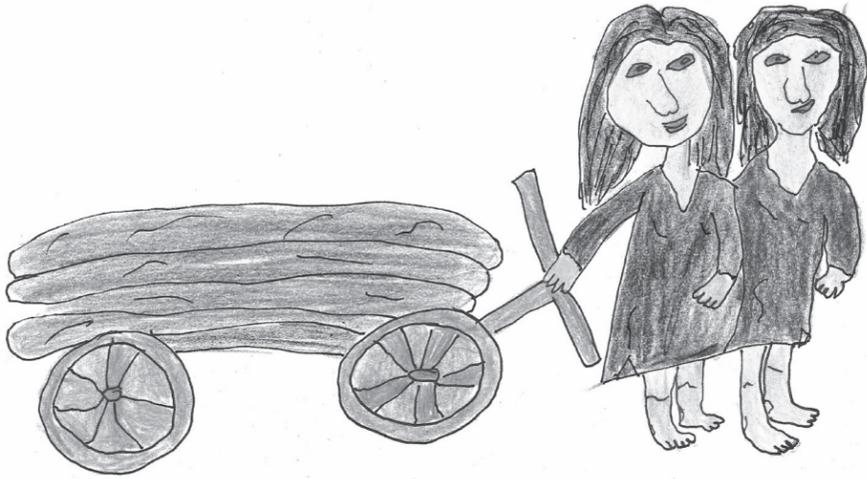
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Nature walks or creative hobbies may nourish your soul this week, Pisces. You might find yourself deeply attuned to the world around you and the beauty you discover.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 15 Kellan Lutz, Actor (41)	MARCH 17 Rob Lowe, Actor (62)	MARCH 20 Holly Hunter, Actress (68)
MARCH 16 Lauren Graham, Actress (59)	MARCH 18 Adam Levine, Singer (47)	MARCH 21 TINI, Singer (29)
	MARCH 19 Glenn Close, Actress (79)	



The Hillbilly Storyteller: How Mona Got Her Bread



Picture by The Hillbilly Storyteller

The Hillbilly Storyteller
Hinton News

Hi. This is the Hillbilly. I am sitting in a park on 3rd Avenue across from the Big 4 Drug Store. I seen Mark getting ready to go in to work at the drug store. He sure is a contribution to the community and I am glad to know him. And the ladies that work at the drug store treat me like a king. I am glad to know them all. The sun has just peeked out and, my, it is good to be in the sunshine after being plugged up in the house all winter.

I got to thinking about all the things that have been going on and it was good to get out and socialize. It is good to start thinking about stories that I can write and to think about something other than being sick. I was thinking about some of the stories that I would change if I had them to do over. I reckon it was the warm weather. Everybody who came along had a smile on their face. As I was looking toward 2nd Avenue I saw a little man coming my way. As he got closer I seen a smile come across his face. I said, "This has either got to be good or bad. I won't know until he gets here."

The closer the little gentleman got the more of a smile he had on his face. He said to me, "Are you the Hillbilly Storyteller?" I knew by his accent that he was from a different part of the world than little old Hinton, West Virginia. I told him that I liked to tell the stories of the past, of the people's good times

and their bad times, but that I preferred the good times. He said his family had been looking for years for someone to tell the story of the family. I could tell the gentleman was very excited to talk to me about his family. I said to myself, "I need to ask him some more questions about what he wants."

I looked over and I could see in the storefront that it was 12:30. I said, "I need to know a little bit more. I don't even know your name." He said, "My name is Salvatore but everybody calls me Sal. I came from the old country about 20 years ago. It has been very good but it has been hard." I said, "Let's go across the street and get us something to eat. I will buy." I saw a smile come across his face at that point. I knew that he didn't eat out much. I asked him a few simple questions about his family. I said to Sal, "Do you want me to order you some pasta or spaghetti?" He quickly said, "No, no, no. I like hamburgers." I ordered us two hamburgers and fries with the works. He never said a word until the food was gone. He said, "Good, good, very good. I have eat a lot of pasta but very little hamburger." I said to Sal, "You wanting me to tell the story of your family's past." He said, "Yes. It is very important that it is preserved."

He said, "It was very important to me when I was a young man to get to the land of the free and the brave. I save all I can to give to my family to come here and to live here. Some of the family has been

here for hundred's of years. They have married in with the locals and they know very little about their history. That is where I come in. I was sent by the elders to find someone to tell the stories of the past. I have read some of your stories and they are very good and have got humor and compassion and explain how life was. You are the one that we are really interested in in giving us advice on how to do this history and put some gusto in it." Sal said, "We got to put in the good stuff and the bad. It all comes together."

I said, "How in the world, Sal, are you going to be able to tell me everything that happened since 1500?" He said, "The Family wrote down and saved everything in little books. The Elders are the caretakers of the books. To them it is worth more than gold."

I said to Sal, "You mean to tell me that you have got books going back 4 to 5 hundred years ago?" Sal said, "I would like for one of the Elders of the family to come and talk to you. Would that be all right?" I said, "Yes." I hope I can get a better understanding out of the elders than I do from Sal. Sal said, "It will take a while to get everything set up." I said, "How about a week from today a 10:00a.m here?" He looked at me and said, "How about 2?" I said that would be fine.

One week later I was sitting on the park bench. I was early. I was known for being early. It gives me time to think about what I

was going to ask them. In the corner of my eye I saw a big black Lincoln car pull into the curb below me. I said to myself, "There are not many cars like that in the Hillbilly State, especially in Summers County." About that time the driver got out of the car and came over to where I was. He asked if I was the Hillbilly Storyteller and I told him I was. He asked me if it was alright for the elder, Antonio, to come over. I said, "Yes, yes. I would be pleased."

As the driver opened the door, I was totally surprised to see two young people get out. Two very young people. One was a young man and the other was a young woman. Then the elder came out and stood between them. I knew it had to be the elder because he was very old and he looked like Italy. The younger people introduced themselves to me and told me of the elder. They said his name was Antonio. Then I was very surprised how many questions the two people could ask. They asked me from the birth of Christ from the death of the Devil. The old Italian man raised up his arm and looked at both of them and they were then silent. They knew that he thought they were going overboard with all the questions.

Antonio could not speak except for a little broken English. The two young people were there as translators. For some reason an uneducated Hillbilly had in his mind that they were going to show me some real books from the past. They did. But they was on a tablet. They said there was no way they could take a chance in exposing the real books to the

air. They figured they would disintegrate and they were unwilling to take a chance.

The first one of the books that they showed me was something I had never seen before. It looked like it was made out of animal hide. It was tied with rawhide to keep it shut. It had been carried for so many years that the leather was worn and slick and time had took its toll on the outside cover. It had a picture on the first page but it was so worn that I could not tell what it was. At that point as they turned the pages in the tablet I could tell that we had a bad problem. There was not one word of it that I could read. I figured it was Italian but wasn't sure. I could not read one word.

I said to the young people, "Explain to Antonio what the problem

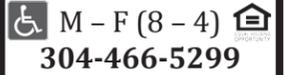
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Publisher:
Scot Refsland, Ph.D.
publisher@wvdn.com

Editor:
Rebecca Stalnaker
rebecca@wvdn.com

Director of Operations:
Susan Smith-Linton
susan@wvdn.com

Advertising Rep:
Tia Mattox
tia@wvdn.com

Circulation Manager:
Heather Felts
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Hillbilly Storyteller... Continued from Page 7

is.” They had a little conference that lasted for 30 minutes. Antonio looked at me and smiled and said, “We understand what the problem is.” And asked if I knew of anybody who could read Italian.

I had the young people tell Antonio that he need not change anything in the books but to copy them exactly as they are. At that point they had another conference. I could tell by the tone of Antonio’s voice that what he was telling the young people is what they would do.

All at once all three agreed. They all had a smile on their face. The young woman who spoke wonderful English said, “We have been looking for years for someone to do this for us and that nothing would be changed and we would have our own people do it.”

Antonio said in his language to the young people and they translated to me that Antonio would like for me to just write one of the stories down that they could give to the family members who did not speak Italian. I said to Antonio through his translators that he needed to have it wrote down in both languages. He thought that was the best idea in the world. Antonio reached over and took and kissed my hand and said through the translators, “We have been looking for this advice for years.” He said he wanted to give me a story that came out of one of the first books and to have me to write it in my own words in my own language and my own way of saying things. Antonio started smiling and his smile was from ear to ear.

So this is how the story starts. In one of the oldest books it was written that there was a painter who came through town and did paintings and family portraits just to make enough money to go from town to town. The only thing that the book said about the painter was that his name was Leo. That is all it said. Leo did several paintings in the town. One of the people that Leo wanted to paint was as older lady that he had seen sitting on her front porch. She had a slight smile that

intrigued him and he wanted to get that on his canvas. He came to find out that her name was Mona. Leo had done several paintings in the town but this was a poor town and he had to moved on. He moved from town to town just to get by. No one knew of his greatness.

The elder said to me through his translators “Would you like to know what happened to Mona?” I was about to bust. I said, “I would like to know.” Antonio said, “Would you like to know why Mona had a smile on her face?” I said, “I would love to know.”

In the little Italian town there was very little money even to buy food with. Every morning at daylight there were two women going through town with a little wagon. One of the wheels on the wagon

when it turned made a squawking noise. They were two sisters. One was named Mona and Antonio said that the book did not say what the other sister’s name was.

Every morning they would go to the forest to gather wood for the bakers. In payment the bakers would give them a loaf of bread and a few pennies. They would do this every day except Sunday. When the townspeople every morning heard the little wagon coming through town they knew it was time to open their shops. Antonio said that it says in the book that when Mona died they used 2 pieces of firewood for her cross. Antonio said that it says in the book that the smile that was in her face was the kind that was in her heart.

Moral of the story –

If you look back in your family history, you will always find somebody who worked as hard or maybe even harder than you do. Copyright © 2026 by Paul D. Bragg



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