



Academic Gains and Budget Audits: Highlights from the Summers County Board Meeting at Jumping Branch

David Ziegler
Hinton News

JUMPING BRANCH W.Va. (Hinton News) - The Summers County Board of Education met on April 14 at Jumping Branch Elementary School. Jumping Branch Principal Susan Newsome gave the first presentation concerning progress in the school's strategic plan. Specifically, she talked about yearly progress in math and English/language arts. Last school year, the school achieved a 72% success rate in math and a 51% success rate in English. This year, the goal is to reach 80% in both areas, and the school is on track to meet those goals. She also talked about progress in decreasing absenteeism. The State

defines a student as chronically absent if absent 18 days or more during the school year. To have a school absenteeism rate of less than 20% is acceptable. Right now, the Jumping Branch rate is 13% (prorated), and Newsome expects it to be even lower at the end of the school year. I questioned Newsome about the security in her school. As previously reported, one of the items in the proposed school levy is to provide a security door at her school. As she explained it, most, if not all, modern schools have a double-door entry system. Jumping Branch, built at least 70 years ago, does not. In a double-door system, a visitor goes through the first, unlocked door, is

identified, and then proceeds through the second, locked door. She proposes to have the porch at the school enclosed, so that would be the first door. Angela Gumm, the Principal at Hinton Area Elementary School, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed move of the Central Board Office from its present location to either the old Board office next to HAE or the high school. She is opposed to moving the Board to the old office. Her concerns are that there is more space at the high school, parking would be a problem at HAE, and the old office does not have the best space or layout. The Board once again tabled the proposal to move the office. Lauren Crook, Chief Business

Officer, was happy to report that the audit came back with no adverse findings. The only agenda item that created some controversy dealt with coaches' pay. The cheer coach is paid the same as a single-season coach. However, the cheerleaders perform at both the football games and basketball games. In addition, the Athletic Director is paid the equivalent of a one-season coach. The Superintendent's Office proposed to double those supplements. Its position was that it was righting an older wrong. However, the Board members were opposed to giving two people raises, and not the other coaches. The Board refused to follow the Superintendent's recommendation.

Former NFL Player Deon Butler to Speak at Community Event in Hinton

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Summers County Schools is proud to announce a special community event featuring former NFL player Deon Butler, to be held on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre in Hinton. This free event is open to the public and will offer an inspiring evening centered on perseverance, resilience, and the power of overcoming obstacles. Butler, who played in the National Football League and built a successful career through discipline and determination, will share his personal journey, including his challenges growing up with dyslexia. As a student, Butler struggled with reading and academics, often facing

frustration. Like many individuals with dyslexia, he had to work harder than his peers to process written information and succeed in the classroom. With the support of educators, mentors, and his own persistence, he developed strategies to overcome those challenges, ultimately excelling both academically and athletically. His story is especially meaningful for students and families in Summers County. Many local students face their own learning challenges, economic barriers, or personal obstacles. Butler's message reinforces that these challenges do not define a person's potential. Instead, with the right support system, determination, and belief in oneself, they can become a source of

strength. Leading up to the event, Butler will visit Summers County schools to speak directly with students about his experiences. These in-school sessions will focus on encouraging students who may struggle with reading, confidence, or motivation, helping them understand they are not alone and that success can take many different paths. The broader community will also find value in Butler's MESSAGE. His story highlights the importance of recognizing different learning styles, supporting youth through challenges, and investing in environments where all students can succeed. For parents, educators, and community members, the event serves as a reminder that en-

couragement, patience, and advocacy can have a lasting impact on a young person's future. "This is more than just a guest speaker event," organizers shared. "It's an opportunity for our entire community to come together, hear a powerful message of resilience, and reflect on how we can better support and uplift our young people." The event will take place at the historic Ritz Theatre in downtown Hinton and is expected to draw attendees from across Summers County and the surrounding region. For more information, follow Summers County Schools on social media or contact Kristin Richmond at knrichmond@k12.wv.us or 304-466-6007.

Hinton Man Charged with Malicious Wounding After Alleged Throat-Cutting Incident

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

H I N T O N W.Va. (Hinton News) - According to a criminal complaint, on April 14, around 6:22 p.m., an officer was on duty when he was sent by Summers County 911 to a possible ongoing assault in the vicinity of Hinton. According to the complaint, Summers County 911 advised the officer that a

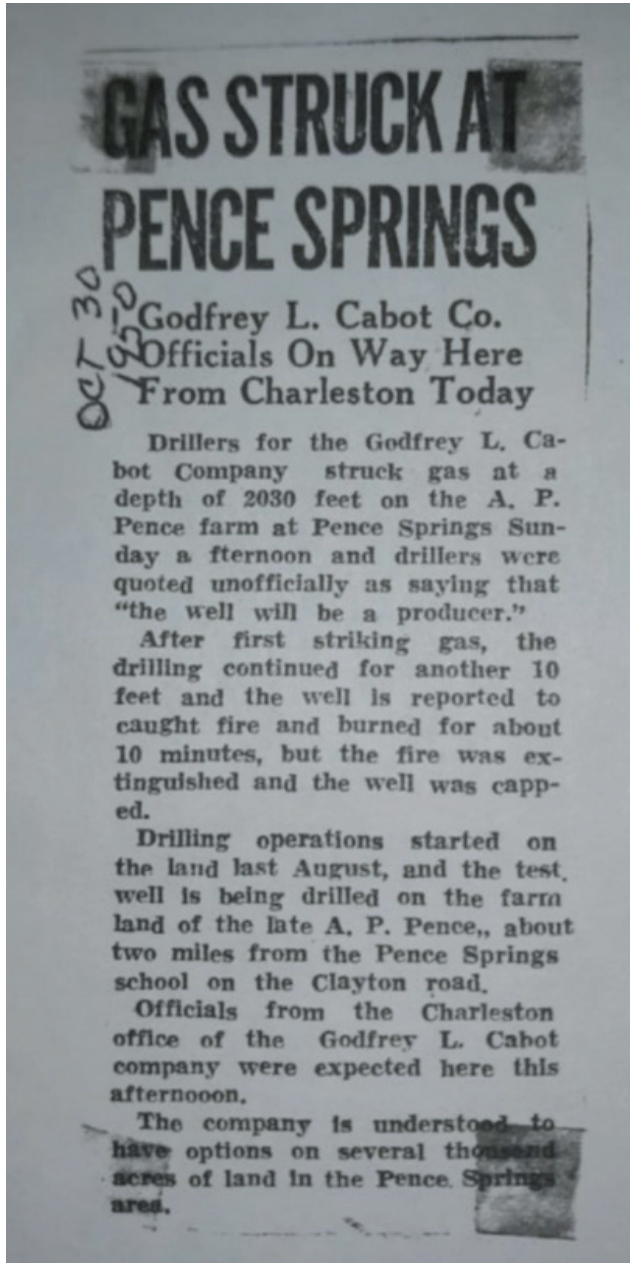
male and female were having a verbal argument when the male subject produced an object from his back pocket and allegedly cut the female across the throat. Also dispatched to the scene were emergency medical services. When the officer arrived on scene, EMS was already there providing patient care to the victim. The officer located the accused, later identified as Bobbie Dix Galloway Jr. He was detained without incident. Over the course of the investigation, Galloway allegedly said he had been arguing with the victim for almost the entire day. The complaint states that he said the victim told him to get off her porch and to stop sitting on her bench. Galloway also reportedly said the victim continued to yell and scream at him while leaning over the porch banister towards his face. Galloway said he walked away from the

victim. The victim's statement reportedly matched up with the account of the earlier argument, but amended that as Galloway was walking away, he reached into his pocket, produced an object, and swung it at her throat, causing a bleeding laceration. With an inspection of the wound, the victim reportedly had a visible laceration to her throat that matched being cut by a sharp object. The victim was bleeding and being treated by emergency services personnel. According to the criminal complaint, emergency services personnel said that the nature of the victim's wound required her to be transported to the hospital for possible sutures. The victim allegedly kept saying she didn't want Galloway on her property, and that he had tried to kill her, the complaint states. The victim was then

transported to the hospital to receive further treatment. A search reportedly turned up that Galloway had in his possession methamphetamine wrapped in aluminum foil. There was also reportedly Marijuana in a clear plastic sandwich bag that was located in the front right pocket of his jeans. Based upon the findings from the investigation, Galloway was charged with malicious wounding and possession of a controlled substance. These incidents occurred within the city limits of Hinton. At the time of publishing, Galloway is no longer listed as an inmate at Southern Regional Jail; however, the charges remain pending. Disclaimer: A criminal charge is merely an accusation. All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.



A Peek into Summers County's Past: Natural Gas Found



William Jones
Hinton News

PENCE SPRINGS W.Va. (Hinton News) - Gas is something you don't think about in relation to Summers County. But a Hinton News article dated October 30, 1950, and titled "Gas Struck at Pence Springs," was about that subject matter. It begins by telling that Godfrey L Cabot Co. officials were on their way to a location in the Pence Springs vicinity.

The late John Kesler and fellow Summers County Historian gave me this article because it talked about Pence Springs. We knew what each other's passions were; he always thought of me when he ran across something from Pence Springs. And I made him copies of anything from Talcott or Lowell I would find.

This gas was struck on farm land that remained in the Pence family, having originally belonged to A.P. Pence. This company

was said to have options on several thousand acres of land in the Pence Springs/ Clayton area. From what I have been told by "the locals" over the years, the gas was found on farm land more towards the Clayton side.

This company struck gas at 2030ft and at the time said, "The well will be a producer." After first drilling the well, it caught fire, burning for roughly 10 minutes before it was extinguished. Drilling had been occurring on this property for 15 months before it was found on this Sunday afternoon.

Over the years, I have looked and looked for other articles about this. But I have not been able to find any further information about what transpired after this discovery. If you know anything about this strike or any other gas-related historic news in Summers County, please email me at greenbrierantiques@gmail.com.

Beckley Man Arrested on Multiple Child Sexual Abuse Material Charges



Bryan Seth Taylor,

Beckley, W.Va. (Hinton News) — On Monday, April 13, 2026, Trooper First Class J. B. Fox initiated an investigation after receiving a complaint of a juvenile being sexually exploited in the Rock area of Mercer County, West Virginia.

On Tuesday, April 14th the suspect, Bryan S Taylor, 30, of Beckley, was arrest-

ed at his residence in Beckley and charged with Possession of Child Sex Abuse Material, Solicitation of a Juvenile, Use of Obscene Matter, and Distribution of Child Sex Abuse Material. Mr. Taylor was transported to Southern Regional Jail to await arraignment.

This investigation is still ongoing.

The Ministry Place to Host Daily 'Spring Mini Mart' Offering Free Clothing and Food

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) — The Ministry Place announced it will host a week-long "Spring Mini Mart" from April 27 through May 1, providing essential goods to the community at no cost.

The event will run daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 225 Temple St. Organizers confirmed the market will operate rain or shine.

The Spring Mini Mart will feature a wide selection of clean, pre-owned clothing and footwear for men, women and children. In addition to apparel, the ministry will distribute non-perishable food items to attendees.

"Clothes will be exchanged out throughout the week," organizers said in a statement, encouraging community members to visit multiple times to browse the rotating selection.

All items are available for free to the public. For more information, visitors can stop by The Ministry Place during the event's scheduled hours.

- What: Spring Mini Mart
- Where: The Ministry Place, 225 Temple St.
- When: April 27 – May 1, 2026
- Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily
- Cost: Free

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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
heather@wvdn.com

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Exceeding Expectations: Talcott Elementary Reports Major Gains in Attendance and Test Scores



Talcott Elementary School
TALCOTT, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Talcott Elementary is making strong, measurable progress across multiple areas! One key focus has been attendance. The school set a goal to reduce chronic absenteeism by 3 percentage points but has exceeded expectations thus far, decreasing from 25% last year to 20% this year-- a 5% improvement. This success reflects the ongoing efforts of the SAIL Team (Student Attendance Impacts Learning), which continues to drive strategies that keep students engaged and present.

Academic growth is also trending upward. Last year, state assessment scores increased by 9 percentage points in English Language Arts and 4 points in math for grades 3-5. This year, grades 3-5 ELA benchmark scores have increased by 14 percentage points, while math has grown by 24 points from the beginning to mid-year. Grades K-2, ELA benchmark scores rose from 50% to 63%, and math improved from 49% to 58%. With continued focus and support, even greater gains are anticipated by the end of the year!

This progress is supported by a strong commitment to high-quality instruction by the Talcott staff. Nine teachers and two support staff are currently participating in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training, including three who are enrolled in multiple courses. Additionally, two teach-

ers are working toward Wilson Level 1 Certification, strengthening the school's capacity to deliver research-based literacy instruction. To further enhance instruction, the school was awarded the Dollar General Literacy Grant, which will support professional development in Kagan Cooperative Learning strategies to increase student engagement.

Beyond academics, Talcott Elementary continues to create a well-rounded experience for students. At the heart of the school's culture is the House System, where every student belongs to a team that promotes leadership through friendship, generosity, courage, and dreaming. Through this system, students engage in service projects, set goals, and are recognized for positive behavior, building a strong sense of belonging and responsibility.

Family and community engagement remain essential to the school's success. Parent luncheons, hosted by grade level, give families the opportunity to observe instruction, share a meal with their child, and learn ways to support learning at home. School-wide events also foster excitement and connection. The popular

Masked Reader event brought energy and enthusiasm to literacy, with students eagerly guessing the identities of costumed staff readers. This year's winner was Communities in Schools coordinator, Joy Bowling, who delighted students as the Summers County Bobcat.

Student achievement extends beyond the classroom. In the Young Writers Contest, Emryn McLaughlin, a second-grade student, earned district recognition, while Joshua Ramsey, a fourth-grade student, placed first in the state for his division and will be honored in Charleston.

Several students including Kynadee Pence, Joshua Ramsey, Marshall Bennett, Kaylee Whittaker, Clare Fitts,

and more were recognized in the Youth Arts in the Park contest. Kaylee Whittaker earned Best in Show for the K-2 division! Their artwork will be displayed at Tamarrack in Beckley.

Opportunities for creativity and enrichment continue to grow. The Drama Club, with 29 students in grades 2-5, is preparing for its upcoming production of Matilda jr., giving students valuable performance experience. Additionally, 54 students participate in the after-school program, where they receive academic support, explore STEM activities, and build skills in a structured, supportive environment.

Through a combination of strong academics, intentional leadership development, and

meaningful community involvement, Talcott Elementary is creating an environment where students are supported, challenged, and inspired to thrive.

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Jesus, The Way To God
(Part 3)
by Mark A. Copeland
https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html

We ended the last lesson with John 14:7 where Jesus told the disciples: "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

In similar fashion, the apostles of Jesus proclaimed that He was the complete manifestation of God:
For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; (Colossians 2:9)

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Yes, it is in **Jesus** that God is revealed in terms that mortal, finite man can comprehend and personally relate to. Therefore, as we study the gospels, we see Jesus and His attributes (power, wisdom, holiness, love, mercy, divine wrath). As we see Jesus, we see God and His attributes!

But Jesus also provides **The Way To God** by helping us to **approach** God. This we touched upon in our previous lesson, how that by offering Himself as a propitiation for our sins Jesus has made it possible for a sinful man to approach God who is supremely holy and just. But Jesus helps us to approach God in yet another way, as our **High Priest** in heaven. As the author of Hebrews wrote:
Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (Hebrews 4:14)

Though Jesus was truly God (as stated by John and Paul), by becoming man He fully understands our difficulties:
For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

With such a wonderful high priest in heaven, One who is both God and has been man, Jesus makes it possible for us to approach God with great confidence:
Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

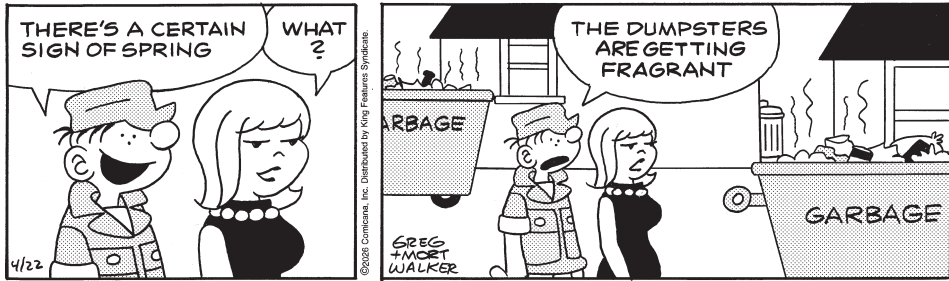
Yes, through Jesus we can both **comprehend** God and **approach** God, making it possible to have a close relationship with our Heavenly Father, enjoying all the blessings such a relationship provides!

Next week, in order that we might better appreciate the beauty of this relationship available with God through Jesus, we will notice some terms used in the New Testament to describe this relationship.
Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.

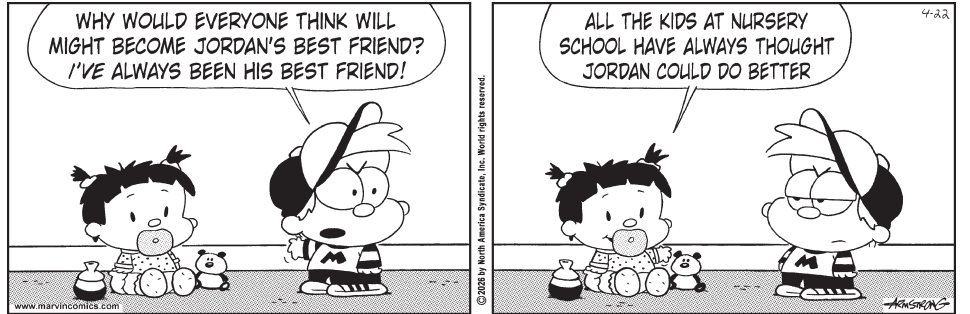
We meet at 3293 Tug Creek Mountain Road
Sunday Morning Worship 9:30
Bible Study 10:30
Worship 11:15
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30
We would love to have you come and study with us.
304-466-5907, 304-445-5115, 304-860-7179

ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

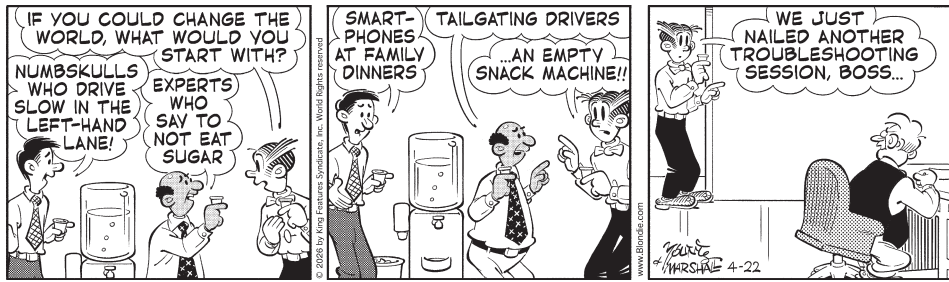
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



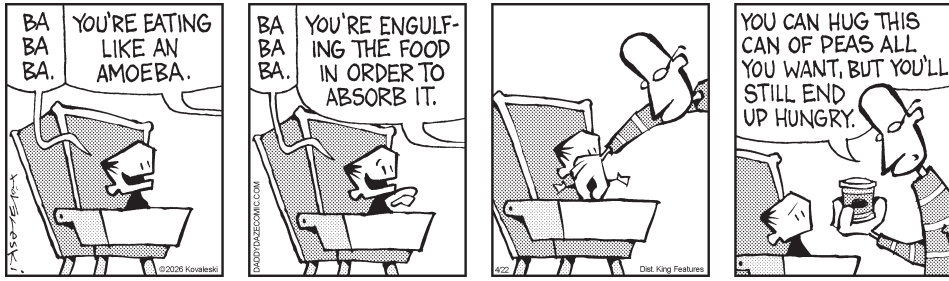
Blondie



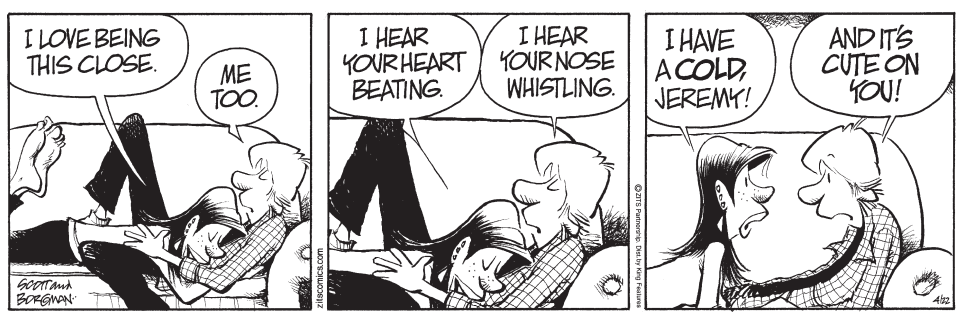
Mutts



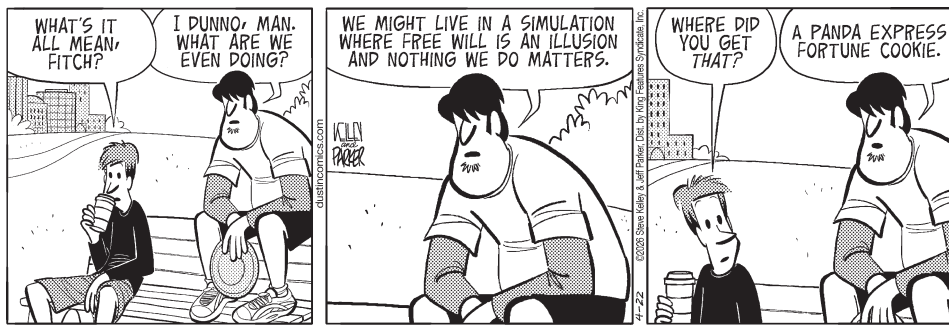
Daddy Daze



Zits



Dustin



Hi and Lois



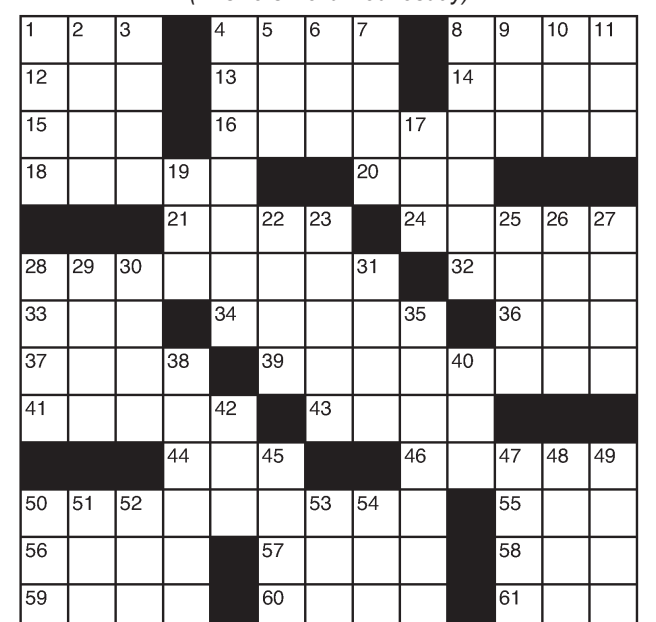
SHEFFER CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lustrous black
 - 4 Sings like Doja Cat
 - 8 Swampy goo
 - 12 Mentalist Geller
 - 13 Canyon come-back
 - 14 K thru 12
 - 15 Diarist Anaïs
 - 16 Game with birdies
 - 18 Reeves of "Speed"
 - 20 Dig in
 - 21 Picnic desserts
 - 24 Twangy
 - 28 "Ben-Hur" star Heston
 - 32 Traditional tales
 - 33 Paul Newman film
 - 34 Profession
 - 36 Ga. neighbor
 - 37 Egyptian deity
 - 39 Chicago suburb
 - 41 Desk go-with
- DOWN**
- 1 Rubbish
 - 2 Buffalo's lake
 - 3 Turner or Fey
 - 4 Con-structed anew
 - 5 Fed. health law
 - 6 Third degree?
 - 7 Not all
 - 8 Tele-pathic
 - 9 Last (Abbr.)
 - 10 Stand-up comic Margaret
 - 11 Family Author Fleming
 - 19 "Morning Edition" ailer
 - 22 To be, in Toulon
 - 23 Italian wine
 - 25 Ice cream variety
 - 26 Folk singer Guthrie
 - 27 Be inclined
 - 28 Stylish
 - 29 "Be quiet!"
 - 30 Sarah McLachlan hit
 - 31 Minn. neighbor
 - 35 Web search tools
 - 38 Auto-graphed
 - 40 Lith., once
 - 42 Rock's Ocasek
 - 45 Salamander
 - 47 Leer at
 - 48 Yuletide song
 - 49 Thanks-giving veggies
 - 50 Mac alternatives
 - 51 Sinbad's bird
 - 52 Writer Tarbell
 - 53 AAA job
 - 54 Acapulco gold

Solution time: 23 mins.



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)



SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 8 | | | | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | 8 | | | | 4 | |
| | 4 | | 5 | | 1 | 9 | | |
| | | | 6 | | 2 | | | |
| | | | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | | |
| 3 | 5 | | 9 | | | | | |
| 9 | 8 | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | 5 | 6 | |

Difficulty: ★★★ 4/22

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)

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 4/15



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.

EDBNL

DAGRU

PCSMUA

DEPLDU

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

When he dozed off in math class, the teacher said ---

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

“ ”

(Today's Answers Next Wednesday)

Last Wednesday's Answers: Jumbles: CLOUT JOIST BRUNCH WEIGHT Answer: They invested their money in beachfront real estate, saying it was a — "SHORE" THING

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-A-01 IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF: M. K. H., A Minor Under the Age of 18 By BARRY HARMAN and DEBRA HARMAN, Petitioners.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION It appearing by petition and affidavit filed in this action that Kimberly Harman, is the mother of M.K.H., the minor who is the subject of this action, and that Petitioners know not her residence nor whereabouts. Therefore, it is the purpose of this publication to provide notice to said Respondent that a hearing shall be held on the "Petition for

Adoption" in the Circuit Court of Monroe County on June 18, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. before the Monroe County Circuit Court Judge at her courtroom located at 55 Green Hill Road, Union, West Virginia and that you may be present at said hearing should you so desire. Please be advised that the hearing may be rescheduled without further notice or publication and further that if you wish you may serve upon Schuyler Olt, attorney for the Petitioners, an answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the "Petition for Adoption" filed in this action within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice at 125 Green Lane, Lewisburg, WV 24901. A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the Circuit Clerk at his office located in the Monroe County Courthouse, Union, West Virginia. If you fail to

answer said petition or appear at the hearing please be advised that judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court. /s/ Daniel Tickle Clerk of Court (15,22ap)

NOTICE

At the December 9, 2025, regular Board of Health meeting, the Summers County Board of Health voted to add a Reinspection Fee for establishments to the Environmental Health Fee for Permit Payment Schedule. The newly proposed fee is open for public comment from April 1, 2026 through June 15, 2026. A copy of the new fee may be provided upon written request.

Requests for the proposed fee should be sent to: Summers County Health

Department, PO Box 898, Hinton, WV 25951, or by e-mail to celenah.cooper@wv.gov.

All comments about the proposed fee must be received - postmarked or via email - by June 15, 2026, for consideration. (22,29ap6my)

NOTICE

The Summers County Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Budget of the Summers County Schools for fiscal year 2026-2027 on April 28, 2026. Proposed budget documents will be available for public inspection beginning Friday, April 17, 2026.

Date: April 28, 2026 Time: 6:00 p.m. Place: Summers County High School, 37 Bobcat Drive, Hinton, WV 25951 (15,22ap)

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION AND DEMOLITION:

To: Letha & Mattie O Via, their heirs or assigns (Sandra Via) Property Location: Madams Creek Rd, Hinton, WV 25951

Property Parcel: 45-05-0006-0013-0000

You are hereby given notice, on accordance with West Virginia State Code § 7-1-3ff, the Summers County Commission (hereafter "Commission") is authorized and empowered to regulate dilapidated structures within Summers County, which they do through the Dilapidated Structures Ordinance of Summers County, WV. An external inspection of the property was completed by our code enforcement agency. It is the recommendation of the enforcement

agency for the property to be demolished and debris removed. The Commission is issuing this order for the demolition of the structure within 30 days of this notice or the Commission may impose daily civil monetary penalties which shall not exceed \$50.00 per day thereafter. The Order may authorize the Commission to have the right to enter onto the property and execute the demolition.

If you disagree with the recommendations of the enforcement agency or if you wish to discuss your corrective actions for the property with the Commission, a written request for a hearing can be made within 10 days of this notice by sending it via mail or dropping it off to the County Clerk, Lynn Reed, at 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 104, Hinton, WV 25951. (22ap)

PUBLICATION BALLOT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Table with columns for National Ticket, State Ticket, and County Ticket. Includes candidates for US Senator, House Representatives, State Senator, and County Commissioner. Includes instructions to voters and poll clerk information.

Table with columns for County Ticket, District Ticket, and Official Levy Ballot. Includes candidates for Delegate District Executive Committee, County Executive Committee, and Board of Education. Includes detailed financial information and instructions to voters regarding levies.



Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,
How can waste ever be considered as a future nutrient? Waste is Waste

Dear Waste is Waste,
According to sustainability-directory.com, Waste Resource Utilization is "transforming discarded materials into valuable resources within circular systems for ecological and economic sustainability." In other words, there are valuable resources in materials that are being discarded as waste that can be made into valuable resources. Just ask Mother Nature. She will tell you that nature operates in a circular system where waste doesn't exist. For example, decaying leaves and composting food scraps both transform organic waste into nutrient-rich soil. The Nature newsletter gave this as an example: In the United Kingdom, the Cardboard to Caviar project shreds cardboard waste into horse bedding, which is then fed as compost to worms, which are then fed to sturgeon to produce caviar. Each stage makes money, and the whole thing is an example of how to rethink the way we design municipal and industrial processes, writes architect Michael Pawlyn. Instead of a linear approach of "take-make-dispose," let's begin taking a circular approach where outputs from one product become input for another. If waste is not considered worthless material, but rather as a future nutrient or as an underused resource, a new economic model emerges - one that creates wealth by consuming less.

Dear Recycle Lady,
What is electronic recycling? Need Clarification
Dear Need Clarification,
Electronic recycling, also called e-waste re-

cycling, is recycling, reusing, or repurposing old, broken, or outdated electronic devices. According to www.earth.org, it is the process of extracting valuable materials and converting them into tiny pieces that could be reused in new electronic appliances. Electronic waste contains toxic substances such as lead, mercury, and cadmium, which must be disposed of carefully. The local Recycling Center accepts all cell phones and electronic waste connected to a cord, with the exception of TVs, and TV-like monitors that were on earlier computers. Flat screen monitors are acceptable. When you are at the Recycling Center, go to the door for aluminum cans and drop your electronic items in the yellow basket by the aluminum can door. All electronic items are collected and sent to a company that specializes in recycling e-wastes. Many manufacturers and sellers of electronics offer recycling programs. Check out Staples, Office Depot, Best Buy, Amazon, Sprint, and Apple for their recycling

programs. Dell Reconnect partners with Goodwill to accept "just about anything that can be connected to a computer." Before donating or recycling used electronics, be sure to delete all personal information.

Dear Recycle Lady,
I use duplicate checks for my business. Can the paper that duplicates checks as they are written be recycled? Duplicate Check Duplicator
Dear Duplicate Check Duplicator,
Good catch. The carbon copies of your checks are not recyclable. Shredded carbon copies of checks must not be taken/sent to the Recycling Center for disposal or included in shredded paper, as they are a contaminant. Carbon copies contain several pieces of your information (name, address, phone number, etc.), so you would be wise to dispose of this information carefully. It could be used to steal your identity. Before putting carbon copies in the trash, cut the duplicate checks into small pieces or shred them. Your bank may provide shredding as a service.

Good News: Over 4,000 companies worldwide are reporting climate commitments. (Source Price-waterhouseCoopers)

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

(Continued From Previous Page)

NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION BALLOT

Summers County, WV Primary Election May 12, 2026

| INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER | OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT | OFFICIAL LEVY BALLOT |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To vote you must darken the oval (●) completely next to the candidate or issue of your choice. | FOR CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (Vote for ONE) ○ RON TESTERMAN Southern District ○ Write-in, if Any | In addition to the funds obtained from this Excess Levy. To the extent permitted by then-existing law, the Board reserves unto itself as the levying body the right and authority, in its discretion, to reduce the rates of the excess levy, should increased assessments produce funds in excess of projected needs in any year specified in the levy call in accordance with section six-g, article eight, chapter eleven, of the West Virginia Code. |
| NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS | OFFICIAL LEVY BALLOT | Special Levy Election to Authorize the Additional Levies According to the Order of the Board of Education of the County of Summers Adopted and Entered on February 23, 2026 Special election to authorize additional levies (the "Excess Levy") for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029, in the approximate average amount of \$990,235 annually, for the purpose of the payment of the general current expenses of the Board of Education of the County of Summers (the "Board"), including for the purposes hereinafter set forth, all according to the Order of the Board entered on the 23rd day of February, 2026, and as more particularly described below. The purposes for which additional funds are needed during the term of this four-year levy, and the approximate average annual amount for such purposes after due allowances for discounts, delinquencies, exonerations, uncollected taxes and shrinkage, subject to variation from year to year, are as follows: a. To provide supplemental funds for the hiring of teachers and school level service personnel for student support and academic services in the annual amount of \$422,235 b. To provide funds for curricular and extracurricular trip support in the annual amount of \$75,000 c. To provide funds for playground renovations at Hinton Area Elementary School and Talcott Elementary School in the annual amount of \$165,000. d. To provide funds for a safe schools entrance at Jumping Branch Elementary School in the annual amount of \$75,000. e. To provide funds for a School Resource Officer at SummersCounty Comprehensive High School in the annual amount of \$65,000. f. To provide funds for facilities improvements, additions, equipment and/or renovations at various Summers County Schools and/or the Transportation Garage in the annual amount of \$133,000. g. To provide funds for a service vehicle for use by the school district's Transportation Department in the annual amount of \$20,000. h. To provide funds for security window treatments and related improvements at various Summers County Schools as an additional safety measure in the annual amount of \$10,000. i. To provide funds for exterior lighting and related improvements at Summers County Comprehensive High School in the annual amount of \$25,000. |
| NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA - DIVISION 1 (Vote for ONE) ○ LAURA V. FAIRCLOTH Berkeley Co. Martinsburg ○ MARTIN P. "RED HAT" SHEEHAN Ohio Co. Wheeling ○ H.L. "KIRK" KIRKPATRICK Raleigh Co. Beckley ○ TODD A. KIRBY Raleigh Co. Beckley ○ GERALD TITUS Kanawha Co. Charleston Write-in, if Any | | The Board is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this Excess Levy and one additional year, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the above amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, plus excess collections due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation, operation, and improvement of educational services, schools and/or facilities in the public schools of Summers County, West Virginia, including, without limitation, student instructional supplies, materials, equipment, facility improvements and/or capital projects, as Board may determine from time to time, in its discretion. In the event that the actual amount collected is less than the amounts noted for the above-stated purposes for any one or more fiscal years, the Board is hereby authorized and empowered to determine, in its discretion, which one or more of the above-stated purposes shall be reduced for each such fiscal year, and the amount of each such reduction for such fiscal year; provided, that the total of all such reductions shall not exceed the amount of such collection shortfall each year. The additional levy, in cents per \$100 of assessed value on each class of property, shall be on Class I property 4.84 cents; on Class II property 9.88 cents; on Class III property 19.36 cents; on Class IV property 19.36 cents. That the proposed years to which the additional rate of levies shall apply are the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029. |
| NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA - DIVISION 2 (Vote for ONE) ○ TOM EWING Fayette Co. Edmond ○ BILL FLANIGAN Marshall Co. Wheeling Write-in, if Any | | INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS: Those favoring the additional levies, fill in the oval before "FOR THE LEVIES"; and those against such additional levies, fill in the oval before "AGAINST THE LEVIES". ○ FOR THE LEVIES ○ AGAINST THE LEVIES |
| NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUDGE OF THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS - DIVISION 1 (Vote for ONE) ○ DAN GREEAR Kanawha Co. So Charleston ○ JIM DOUGLAS Kanawha Co. Charleston Write-in, if Any | | |
| NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE UNEXPIRED (Vote for ONE) ○ NATHAN J.W. ALLEN Summers Co. Hinton Write-in, if Any | | |
| OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SUMMERS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION | | |
| NONPARTISAN BOARD OF EDUCATION (Vote for Not More Than THREE) Maximum eligible to be elected from the districts: Bluestone River (1); Greenbrier River (1); New River (2) ○ RENEE MEADOR FARLEY New River District Hinton ○ GREGORY "GREG" ANGELL Bluestone District Jumping Branch ○ MARY "MEGAN" HARVEY Greenbrier District Talcott Write-in, if Any Write-in, if Any Write-in, if Any | The amounts set forth above are the anticipated average annual amounts for each purpose. The actual amounts for each purpose likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next. If any item in the above-stated purposes is declared unconstitutional or invalid due to judicial or legislative action, then any affected funds will be distributed among the remaining constitutional and valid itemized purposes. The total amount necessary to carry out the above purposes over four fiscal years, after making reasonable allowances for discounts, delinquencies, exonerations, uncollected taxes and shrinkage, is \$3,960,940, or the average sum of \$990,235 annually. If the amounts budgeted by the Board for a specific purpose or purposes for a fiscal year are not able to be spent entirely in such fiscal year, then the unspent amounts shall be carried over and, in the Board's sole discretion, spent on such specific purpose or purposes in subsequent fiscal years. If additional State, Federal, private or other special funds are made available to the Board for any of the above-stated purposes, the amounts herein set forth may be used, solely or on a matching basis, to secure said additional funds or provide additional services. Additional funds received by grant, donation or otherwise from the state or federal government, or from any agency of either, or from any other public or private source, for the above-stated purposes, may be used either in substitution for or | |

Precinct 1
Typ:03 Seq:0001 Spl:01

Delegate District 40 Precincts 1, 4, 9, 11, 28, 30, 31
Delegate District 41 Precincts 12, 15, 17, 22, 23, 27, 32
Bluestone River Precincts 9, 22, 23, 27, 28
Greenbrier River Precincts 1, 11, 12, 30
New River Precincts 4, 15, 17, 31, 32

Submitted by:
Paula Hephner, Republican Ballot Commissioner
Myra Ziegler, Democratic Ballot Commissioner
Lynn Reed, County Clerk

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NOTICE
Notice of Application

Notice is given that Summers Concrete Supply Inc. has applied to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality for a Rule 13 Construction Permit for a concrete batch plant located on 2794 Greenbrier Dr. in Hinton, in Summers County, West Virginia. The latitude and longitude coordinates are: 37.65588, -80.84037.

The applicant estimates the potential to discharge the following Regulated Air Pollutants will be:

| Pollutant | Tons/yr |
|-----------|------------|
| PM | 155.06 tpy |
| PM-10 | 46.05 tpy |

Startup of operations is planned to begin on or about the 1st of July 2026. Written comments will be received by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304, for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice. Written comments will also be received via email at DEPAirQualityPermitting@WV.gov.

Any questions regarding this permit application should be directed to the DAQ at (304) 926-0499, extension 41281, during normal business hours.

Dated this the 22nd day of April 2026.

By:
Summers Concrete Supply Inc.
Jake Parker, Owner
Hinton Concrete Plant
2794 Greenbrier Drive
Hinton, West Virginia

Musings From Memory Lane: Bobcats, Camping and Spring

Lisa Abshire

Spring always brings a smile to my face. The trees and flowers are coming back to life. Remembering stories my parents told about camping. Although I wouldn't exactly say they were successful but amusing.

My Dad had a favorite spot; he loved to camp up the narrows, as he called it. Which was simply a little way up the road from where we all live. Back in those days, not all of the land was posted for no trespassing.

Mom, Dad, and several relatives went and set up camp. They had food because they were staying the night. The campfire was going well until the middle of the night. Then the fire started to die down, and Mom said you could hear something walking around the campsite. Then a squall like nothing she had ever heard. By that time, the entire group was awake. Mom said all around the camp were sets of eyes they determined to be Bobcats after their food. Mom and Dad, you had never seen people pack up so fast. They actually left a lot of their stuff and decided to get into the daylight. They threw the food to the hungry Bobcats and made a run for the car. Mom never did go camping again, but Dad did.

That wasn't to be their last encounter with Bobcats either.

Mom and Dad lived less than a quarter mile from

where they encountered the Bobcats the first time. I guess they were all around the area.

My aunt Ruth was staying with them for a while. She was asleep on the couch one night when she heard what she described as horrible screaming. Mom and Dad jumped out of bed. Dad ran out with a broom and saw a bunch of Bobcats in

the yard. Mom always told he ran out screaming and swinging that broom at the Bobcats. She would tell how scared she was. My aunt said she decided she needed a new place to stay soon after.

Years later, it was a funny story, but it definitely wasn't funny to them at the moment.

In the years since, I've

seen a Bobcat or two on the property myself. Beautiful, majestic animals running in the night without a car in the world. They never gave me a second look. Kept right on going to their destination. I felt incredibly blessed to have witnessed them in motion. I hope to one day see them again, flying through the night on an unknown mission, beautiful and free.



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GORE

★ FOR ★

COMMISSIONER

paid for by candidate

ATTENTION VOTERS!

Polling Place Locations for the Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Primary Election Summers County, West Virginia

| Precinct # | Polling Place Location |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| #1 - Forest Hill | Forest Hill Volunteer Fire Department |
| #4 - Riverview | Memorial Building Auditorium |
| #4A - West End | Memorial Building Auditorium |
| #9 - Hinton Area | Memorial Building Auditorium |
| #11 - Bellepoint | Lifeline Church |
| #12 - Upland | Summers County VFD Station 13 Substation |
| #15 - Green Sulphur | Lick Creek Baptist Church |
| #17 - Sandstone | Green Sulphur Volunteer Fire Department |
| #22 - Jumping Branch | Jumping Branch Elementary School |
| #23 - White Oak | Jumping Branch Elementary School |
| #27 - Pipestem | Pipestem Volunteer Fire Department |
| #28 - Indian Ridge | Pipestem Volunteer Fire Department |
| #30 - Talcott | Talcott Elementary School |
| #31 - Lowell | Talcott Elementary School |
| #32 - Pence Springs | Talcott Elementary School |

Early Voting will be held in the Summers County Memorial Building located at 451 1st Avenue, Hinton WV 25951

Early Voting Dates & Times:
April 29th - May 9th
Mondays - Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Lynn Reed, County Clerk at 304-466-7104, if you have any questions about your Voter Registration or Polling Place



"Mom continued to decline, and I didn't know what to do."

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www.greystonebeaver.com