



The Future is Electric: Summers County Debuts First EV School Bus

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Summers County Schools announced the arrival of its first electric school bus, marking an important step forward in student transportation, environmental responsibility, and community innovation.

The new electric school bus, a Thomas Jouley EV, was made possible through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant along with a \$50,000 investment from the Summers County Board of Education. This combined funding represents roughly one-third of the cost typically required to purchase a new diesel bus, demonstrating strong fiscal responsibility and strategic use of available resources.

In addition to immediate savings, the purchase increases the overall value of the county's bus fleet. This, in turn, positions Summers County Schools to receive additional transportation funding from the state based on fleet valuation.

The new electric bus will serve students in and around Hinton, being used for educational travel, including routes connected to the New River Gorge Na-

tional Park and Preserve. This unique opportunity allows students to experience firsthand the connection between modern technology and the preservation of one of the nation's most treasured natural resources.

"This is a proud day for Summers County," Transportation Director Bryan Boone said. "This bus represents our commitment to student safety, cleaner air, and being responsible with the resources entrusted to us."

Electric school buses provide a quieter ride for students and significantly reduce emissions compared to traditional diesel buses. In addition to environmental benefits, the district anticipates long-term savings through reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

As part of the rollout, Summers County hosted a hands-on safety orientation involving district mechanics, local first responders, and law enforcement personnel. This collaborative effort ensures that all involved agencies are fully prepared and trained to safely operate and respond to this new technology.

"Safety is always our top priority,"



Photo courtesy Summers County Schools Facebook page

Boone added. "Bringing our mechanics, emergency responders, and law enforcement together from day one ensures we are ready, informed, and working as a team."

The addition of the electric bus also provides new learning opportunities for students, exposing them to emerg-

ing technologies and potential career paths in transportation, energy, and advanced vehicle systems.

Summers County Schools continues to focus on innovation while maintaining its strong commitment to the students, families, and community it serves.

End of an Era: Greenbrier Valley Medical Center to Close Delivery Unit

Rebecca Stalnaker
Hinton News

LEWISBURG, W.Va. (Hinton News) — For decades, the Greenbrier Valley Medical Center (GVMC) has been the gateway for new life in the Greenbrier Valley. That era officially ends on April 24, when the hospital will shutter its labor and delivery unit as part of a transition to a "critical access hospital" status.

The closure marks a significant shift in the region's healthcare landscape, leaving local families with difficult choices and long commutes for essential maternity care.

The shuttering of GVMC's unit is not an isolated incident but part of

a troubling trend. According to a 2024 report by the March of Dimes, West Virginia is disproportionately affected by the loss of maternal services:

50% of West Virginia's 55 counties are now classified as "maternity care deserts."

22% of women in the state have no birthing hospital within a 30-minute drive.

Nationally, only 9.7% of women face such significant travel barriers.

Once the April 24 deadline passes, expectant mothers in Lewisburg will face a grueling one-hour drive to Beckley or a nearly two-hour trek to Charleston to reach the nearest delivery rooms.

Vandalia Health, which has owned GVMC since 2022, cited a "perfect storm" of logistical and financial chal-

lenges. In an article published by West Virginia Watch, hospital and industry experts identified several key issues:

Physician Recruitment: According to West Virginia Watch's report, Spokesperson Dale Witte said that the hospital has spent two years unsuccessfully trying to recruit obstetricians. Modern physicians often prefer larger group practices to avoid being on-call constantly in a small rural unit.

Financial Pressures: According to West Virginia Watch, Dr. Samantha Chaffin, a former GVMC physician, noted that labor and delivery units often provide little "monetary incentive" for health systems, particularly when serving a high volume of Medicaid patients.

Legislative Impacts: Changes to Medicaid under the One Big Beautiful Bill

Act are expected to cost state hospitals more than \$1 billion per year, according to reporting shared by the outlet.

While the delivery unit is closing, GVMC intends to continue offering obstetric prenatal services. Meanwhile, state leaders are looking toward the Rural Health Transformation program—a five-year federal initiative—to address the physician shortage.

By increasing medical residencies within the state, officials hope to retain more graduates from institutions like the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. However, for the families of Greenbrier County, the immediate future involves a much longer road to the delivery room.

Concord University names Dr. Tony Artimisi as next Provost

A T H E N S , W.Va. (Hinton News) — After a highly competitive national search, Concord University names Dr. Tony Artimisi as the institution's next Provost.

Dr. Artimisi brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education, with a strong back-

ground in academic leadership, program development, and institutional effectiveness. He holds degrees from Eastern Illinois University, Tennessee State University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

At Winston-Salem State University, he has served as Associate Provost of Academic Strategy and Institutional Effectiveness, Department Chair of Liberal Studies, and tenured Associate Professor of Music, where he led important efforts to strengthen institutional policies related to student success, enhance accreditation processes, and advance a culture of continuous improvement. He has guided program devel-

opment, assessment planning, and curricular innovation while supporting faculty and student success.

"Dr. Artimisi's career demonstrates a deep commitment to academic excellence and collaboration," said President Bethany Meighen. "His work in articulating student learning outcomes, evaluating program effectiveness, and aligning academic offerings with institutional strategy reflects the kind of thoughtful leadership that will serve Concord well."

In his role as Provost at Concord University, Dr. Artimisi will work closely with deans, faculty, and campus partners to strengthen academic quality, support student achieve-

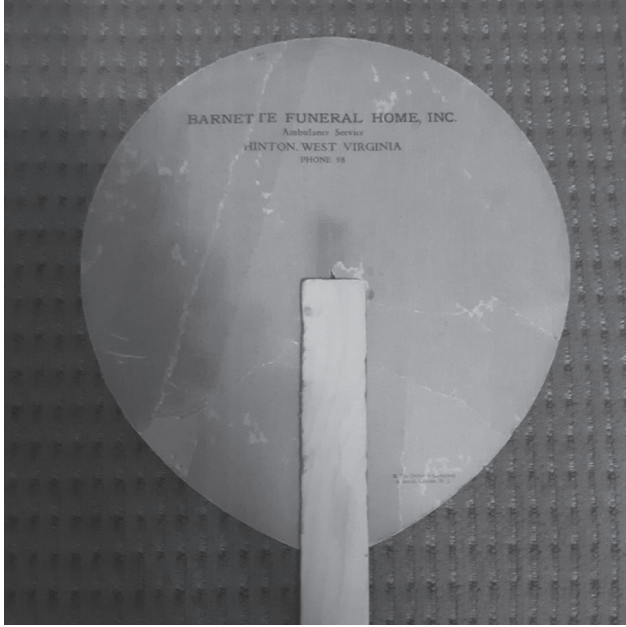
ment, and advance initiatives that align with Concord's strategic priorities.

"I am honored to be named Provost of Concord University, an institution whose commitment to transforming lives through accessible, high-quality education aligns closely with the values I have championed throughout my career," said Dr. Artimisi. "I am eager to partner with the campus community to strengthen academic programs, support student success, and advance a shared vision that prepares graduates to lead and serve southern West Virginia and beyond."

Dr. Artimisi will begin his appointment on July 1.



A Peek into Summers County's Past: Barnette Funeral Home



William Jones
Hinton News

This week's piece will lack much substance, but it is too interesting not to touch on. While sitting in church this past Sunday, my good friend and fellow Pence Springs neighbor, Mary Rudisill, walked up to and handed me something. After unwrapping it, I found this rare early-1900s fan from Barnette Funeral Home, Inc., in Hinton.

I thanked Mary for giving me such a great piece of Summers County history. I had seen one before in the showcase at Pivont Funeral Home in Hinton, alongside other old local funeral-related pieces.

I started doing some research on Barnette Funeral Home and ran across this old photo of a home in Hinton that was listed as having been its location. I couldn't stop thinking that it looked oddly familiar. Then it finally hit me, it is Zeigler and Zeigler law office.

I then emailed Mr. Zeigler to be 100% sure that it had been in

what is now his law office. He said that it had been Barnette Funeral Home at one point. He went a little deeper and explained that it was located in it for a brief period. He further told me that after moving to Hinton and opening his practice in 1974, he found out (to quote him) "the best information I've had about it is that it was a funeral

home for only one year, then it moved up James Street to the first or second house past Second Baptist Church."

He also told me that some time after opening his practice, an elderly client told him that his father had brought him to a funeral there in the office. The funeral was for a man who had died while constructing the

2nd Great Bend Tunnel in Talcott. This man's father worked on the construction of the tunnel as well. He told Mr Zeigler that the Railroad officials desired the other workers to

corpse to entice them to be more cautious on the job. If you know of any facts about Barnette Funeral Home, such as owners, dates, locations etc., please email me at greenbrierantiques@gmail.com.

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Jesus, The Way To God

(Part 2)
by Mark A. Copeland
https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html

In the Bible, whenever man came even close to approaching God in His Glory, it was terrifying! For example, notice what happened when God first spoke to Moses: **Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (Exodus 3:6)**

At Mount Sinai, the Israelites were likewise terrified: **Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (Exodus 20:18-21)**

How then can man hope to comprehend God and approach Him in a close relationship during this life? This difficulty was experienced and expressed by Job in one of the earliest books of the Bible. Speaking of God, Job said: **"For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both." (Job 9:32-33)**

But what may have been true in Job's day (that there is no "daysman," or "mediator") is no longer true today! **Jesus** is the means by which man can comprehend God and also approach Him in such a way as to enjoy a loving relationship with Him!

Let's see how...

HOW JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD

Jesus provides **The Way To God**, first by helping us to **comprehend** God. This Jesus did by coming to this earth. As John wrote in his gospel, Jesus declared or manifested God to us:

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (John 1:18)

How was Jesus able to "declare" (manifest) God? For one thing, He came to this earth from God, and is the only one who has truly seen Him: **"Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father." (John 6:46)**

But also, Jesus is able to "declare" God because **He is God Himself!** This John clearly states in the prologue to his gospel: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)**

Who is this **"Word"** that was with God and **was** God? The One who came in the flesh! As John says later: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)**

The **"Word"** was Jesus! Therefore, it is in seeing Jesus that we are able to comprehend the Father. Just as Jesus told His disciples: **"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." (John 14:7)**

Next time, we will continue looking at how Jesus is the Way to God.
Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30
Bible Study 10:30
Worship 11:15
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30
We would love to have you come and study with us.
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MILITARY SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS			
ARTILLERY	DEPLOYMENT	MANEUVER	SQUADRON
BARRACKS	FORTIFICATION	ORDNANCE	STRATEGY
BATTALION	GARRISON	PROTOCOL	TACTICS
CAMOUFLAGE	INFANTRY	RECONNAISSANCE	UNIFORM
COALITION	LIEUTENANT	REGIMENT	VANGUARD
COMMANDER	LOGISTICS	SKIRMISH	VETERAN

OP-ED: Common Sense for Our Kids: Why Safety Items Top the School Levy

David Ziegler

SUMMERS COUNTY W.Va. (Hinton News) - Because of the several security provisions in the upcoming school levy vote, I asked Dr. Green of the central Board office if there had been any security concerns in the last few years. He mentioned two angry parents at Jumping Branch, one at Talcott, one at the high school, a fight between a student and a teacher, and a drug deal at the high school.

The worst nightmare for school superintendents, principals, teachers, children, and, especially, parents is that some crazed individual will come onto school property with a gun. From Columbine to Sandy Hook to Parkland to Uvalde, it is obvious that a school tragedy can happen anywhere. If you believe it can't happen in West Virginia, you are turning a blind eye to reality.

Most of the funding for Summers County schools comes through the state school aid funding formula, a multi-step process specifying how the money must be used. There is no step in the formula for school security. The 20%

school levy on the May primary ballot has four provisions fashioned by the Superintendent's Office and the School Board to address security.

The fourth line item in the levy provides funds for a safe school entrance at Jumping Branch Elementary School. Jumping Branch is the oldest active school building in Summers County. It was built in a time when parents and others could come and go to schools any time during school hours without any thought of security. Those of us of a certain age learned to get under our desks in the event of a nuclear attack (as if that would help keep us safe!), but we had no fear of anyone coming through the unlocked front door. Unfortunately, those days are long gone. School doors are now locked, and they stay locked. All visitors are scrutinized. A safe en-

trance may not guarantee that no tragedy will occur, but it is standard on all new school construction, and Jumping Branch deserves the same.

The fifth line item in the levy provides funds for a School Resource Officer at Summers County Comprehensive High School. A School Resource Officer is a police officer charged with keeping children safe. The Summers County Comprehensive High School now has the Middle School and High School under one roof. Putting a School Resource Officer there is a commonsense precaution. There is no provision in the state school aid formula for a School Resource Officer.

The eighth line item in the levy provides funds for security window treatments and related improvements at our schools. Security windows allow a person inside to see out, but a per-

son outside cannot see in. There are several reasons why they are a good idea: bullets pierce glass easily, but if the shooter cannot see a target, it is unlikely he would shoot; replacing the windows with bullet-proof glass might be an option, but they would be prohibitively expensive; and these one-way windows would frustrate stalkers. Like the locked doors, this was not at all a problem when I was in school.

The ninth line item in the levy would provide funds for exterior lighting and related improvements at Summers County Comprehensive High School. If you have been to a football or basketball game at the High School, you probably already realize that the parking lots are dark when the game is over. Lighting those lots is just another commonsense solution to the problem.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES



Dianne Elizabeth Gore Johnson

Dianne Elizabeth Gore Johnson was born May 10, 1961, to Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Carter Gore (deceased) and Charles Rudolph "Rudy" Gore (deceased). On March 9, 2026, after a long illness, Dianne went home to be with those whom she loved who had gone on before.

While Dianne was always fashionably late for every family or social event, she was far too early for our liking this time. The world is less colorful and a bit colder without her.

Services to honor Dianne were held at Pivont Funeral Home on Saturday, March 21st, 2026. Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Matthew Saunders, Bishop Fred Simms and Rev. John Burnett officiating. Burial followed in the Gore Family Cemetery at Talcott, WV. The family received friends from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

Online condolences at www.pivontfuneralhome.com.

Submitted by Pivont Funeral Home, Hinton, WV.

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Weekly + HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have a certain energy that is building this week. Momentum increases the second you stop overthinking, so jump into whatever you were planning to do with two feet.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Something cozy, such as a hobby, recipe or routine could turn into something surprisingly productive, Taurus. Don't dismiss passion projects this week when comfort meets opportunity.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, your words equal magic this week. Conversations open doors and can help clear up confusion about important topics, even about budding relationships.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Peace will look good on you this week, Cancer. You will be exuding quiet confidence. It is a good time to organize your space or schedule a spa session. Relax as stress levels drop.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

The spotlight is yours, Leo, even when you are not trying to be in it. This is a great week to share ideas, pitch something creative or post fun content on social media.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

A small, healthy habit or tweak to your lifestyle can change your whole week, Virgo. Tiny improvements will produce a huge payoff that you will enjoy.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

A random invite or chat leads to a helpful connection, Libra. Say yes to invitations to go out, as it is time to be a social butterfly for the foreseeable future.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you are giving off quiet power vibes this week. Your focus and follow-through is all based on trusting your instincts. Someone in your circle is noticing your efforts.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, going on an adventure doesn't have to necessarily mean traveling. This is a good time to try a new class, go to a show or experiment with new cuisine.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you are building something solid behind the scenes. It may take a lot of time, but steady effort now will likely lead to bragging rights.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Collaborations sparkle for you this week, Aquarius. All of those ideas that you think are unusual will turn out to be genius. It's all about perspective and looking at things the right way.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Your inner world could intersect with the outside world this week, Pisces. Expect a few days of creative, dreamy and intuitive moments where you daydream on purpose.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 12 Claire Danes, Actress (47)	APRIL 14 Adrien Brody, Actor (53)	APRIL 17 Jennifer Garner, Actress (54)
APRIL 13 Rick Schroder, Actor (56)	APRIL 15 Chris Stapleton, Singer (48)	APRIL 18 Conan O'Brien, TV Host (63)
	APRIL 16 Sadie Sink, Actress (24)	



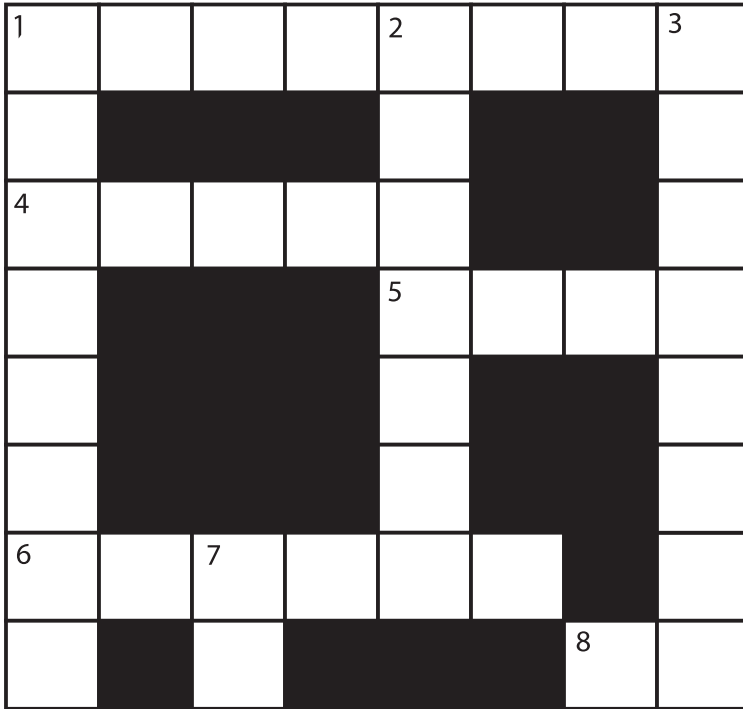
April Library Craft Lab

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - Join the Friends of the Summers County Public Library for their monthly craft lab. April's session will be on April 24 from 5-7 p.m. at the Summers County Public Library. They will be creating four red-white-and-blue coasters and one tissue box cover using plastic canvas and yarn. Just in time for Memorial Day and Independence Day!

All ages are welcome. This craft is easy to learn, so bring a friend to create and chatter with organizers for a couple of peaceful hours. Cost is \$15, of which \$5 is for supplies and \$10 to support library programs. Register in advance to be sure they have enough supplies on hand. Register by contacting Cheryl Kula at 304-445-6748 or email cheryl.kula@gmail.com or through Facebook.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Speed
- 4. Walks through woods
- 5. Slightly open
- 6. Motor
- 8. For example

DOWN

- 1. Cars and trucks
- 2. Group of travelers
- 3. One year old animal
- 7. Move from one place to another

Answers:
 ACROSS
 1. Velocity 4. Hiker 5. Ajar 6. Engine 8. EG
 DOWN
 1. Vehicles 2. Caravan 3. Yearling 7. Go

DAY IN HISTORY



1736: The ultimately short-lived Kingdom of Corsica is founded.

1861: President Abraham Lincoln tries to calm the insurrection that will become the Civil War.

1923: Insulin becomes generally available for those with diabetes.

People FACT:



People are urged to avoid doing this in their driveways and instead rely on facilities that recycle water.

Answer: Wash their cars

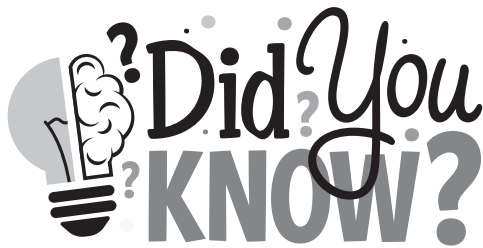
NEW WORD

PRESSURE

application of force exerted against an object

How they say that in...

- English:** Engine
- Spanish:** Motor
- Italian:** Motore
- French:** Moteur
- German:** Motor



Maintaining proper tire tread and air pressure are two vehicle maintenance tips that help keep drivers safe.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Dashboard



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& Maxwelton Dental Center
 (681) 318-3611

Midland Trail Health Center
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Lewisburg Health Center
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Meadow Bridge Clinic
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 Meadow Bridge, WV 25976
 • (304) 484-7755

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Rupert Health Care Center
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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)

Summers County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
County of: Summers, West Virginia

In accordance with WV Code §11-8-10, as amended, the Summers County Commission proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the current year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

General Fund	Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance	\$ 1,000,000
Property Taxes Current year	3,356,846
Prior Year Taxes	304,435
Tax Penalties, Interest & Publication Fees	103,842
Property Transfer Tax	165,000
Gas and Oil Severance Tax	36,012
Wine & Liquor Tax	5,913
Hotel Occupancy Tax	300,000
Miscellaneous Energy Tax (Coal Bed Methane)	3,245
Licenses	109
Building Permits	2,976
Federal Grants / Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes	82,090
Sheriff's Service of Process	7,650
Sheriff's Earnings	7,168
County Clerk's Earnings	32,259
Circuit Clerk's Earnings	10,569
Prosecuting Attorney's Earnings	797
Accident Reports	852
Motor Vehicle License Fee	2,637
Parks & Recreation Fees	210,000
Rents & Concessions	37,740
Franchise Agreement	40,032
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	61,758
Fines, Fees & Court Costs	322
Regional Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement	17,092
Interest Earned	7,580
Miscellaneous Revenue	12,547
Sheriff's Commission	15,000
Gaming Income	40,374
Filing Fees	2,432
Video Lottery	7,517
Refunds/Reimbursements (External Sources)	27,809
Transfers From Other Funds	25,000
General School Reimbursements	26,883
Magistrate Court Reimbursements	3,778
Worthless Check Reimbursements	92
Transfers Assessor's Valuation Fund	339,938
Total Estimated General Fund Revenues	\$ 6,298,294

Coal Severance Tax	Estimated Revenues
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 15,000
Coal Severance Tax	20,000
Total Coal Severance	\$ 35,000

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
County Commission	\$ 260,644	\$ -
County Clerk	356,899	-
Circuit Clerk	245,725	-
Sheriff - Treasurer	361,004	-
Prosecuting Attorney	379,203	-
Assessor	284,582	-
Assessor's Valuation Fund	339,938	-
Statewide Computer Network	35,000	-
Fiduciary Supervisor	70,000	-
Agricultural Agent	9,000	-
Elections - County Clerk	103,649	-
Purchasing Department	565,600	35,000
Courthouse	415,634	-
Other Buildings	81,500	-
Regional Development Authority	12,000	-
Economic Development	15,500	-
County Clerk Operations	15,050	-
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,550,928	35,000
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	955,703	-
Sheriff - Service of Process	7,650	-
Regional Jail	320,000	-
Emergency Services	20,552	-

Summers County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Dog Warden/Humane Society	59,546	-
Flood Control	18,830	-
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,382,281	-
CULTURE AND RECREATION		
Parks & Recreation	105,566	-
Swimming Pools	-	-
4 - H Camp	257,252	-
Civic Promotion	-	-
Visitor's Bureau	150,000	-
Library	6,000	-
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	518,818	-
CAPITAL PROJECTS		
General Government	846,267	-
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	846,267	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,298,294	\$ 35,000

Summers County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
CAPITAL PROJECTS		
General Government	846,267	-
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	846,267	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,298,294	\$ 35,000

Summers County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

SUMMERS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA REGULAR CURRENT EXPENSE LEVY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027

	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ 0	14.07	\$ 0
Public Utility	0		0
Total Class I	\$ 0		\$ 0
Class II			
Real Estate	\$ 363,043,400	28.14	\$ 1,021,604
Personal Property	2,016,854		5,675
Total Class II	\$ 365,060,254		\$ 1,027,279
Class III			
Real Estate	\$ 151,342,240	56.28	\$ 851,754
Personal Property	48,461,554		272,742
Public Utility	204,208,902		1,149,288
Total Class III	\$ 404,012,696		\$ 2,273,784
Class IV			
Real Estate	\$ 37,384,930	56.28	\$ 210,402
Personal Property	17,425,790		98,072
Public Utility	19,694,878		110,843
Total Class IV	\$ 74,505,598		\$ 419,317
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 843,578,548		\$ 3,720,380
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes		7.00%	260,427
Less Tax Discounts		2.00%	69,199
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
Total Projected Property Tax Collection			3,390,754
Less Assessor Valuation Fund (Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)		1.00%	33,908
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes			\$ 3,356,846

Summers County Commission Levy Estimate (Budget) 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year

	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
County Commission	\$ 260,644	\$ -
County Clerk	356,899	-
Circuit Clerk	245,725	-
Sheriff - Treasurer	361,004	-
Prosecuting Attorney	379,203	-
Assessor	284,582	-
Assessor's Valuation Fund	339,938	-
Statewide Computer Network	35,000	-
Fiduciary Supervisor	70,000	-
Agricultural Agent	9,000	-
Elections - County Clerk	103,649	-
Purchasing Department	565,600	35,000
Courthouse	415,634	-
Other Buildings	81,500	-
Regional Development Authority	12,000	-
Economic Development	15,500	-
County Clerk Operations	15,050	-
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,550,928	35,000
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	955,703	-
Sheriff - Service of Process	7,650	-
Regional Jail	320,000	-
Emergency Services	20,552	-

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF SUMMERS

I, LYNN REED, CLERK OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF SAID COUNTY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ARE TRUE COPIES FROM THE RECORD OF ORDERS MADE AND ENTERED BY SAID COMMISSION ON THE 25th DAY OF MARCH 2026.

Lynn Reed
(Signature)

LEGAL NOTICE

TO: The Lincoln School Alumni Association
 FROM: Anna R. Ziegler
 Attorney for the City of Hinton
 Ziegler & Ziegler, L.C.
 110 James St.
 Hinton, WV 25951
 RE: Notice of Condemnation Hearing for 203 Hill St. Hinton, WV 25951
NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION HEARING
 Pursuant to the City of Hinton's "ORDINANCE FOR DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES IN HINTON, WV" and West Virginia Code § 8-12-16 you are hereby NOTIFIED that the Municipal Court of Summers County, West Virginia, will be holding a hearing to determine the property's state of disrepair, dilapidation, or dangerous condition on **Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.** at the Hinton City Hall located at 322 Summers Street, Hinton West Virginia, 25951. You, members of the Association, or any occupants of the Property may appear with or without counsel to submit testimony and evidence concerning this matter. Failure to appear at this hearing may result in the condemnation of the property and a lien on said property. A copy of the complaint can be obtained from the undersigned, at her office located at 110 James Street, Hinton, West Virginia, 25951. Respectfully Submitted,
 The City of Hinton,
 By Counsel:
 /s/ Anna R. Ziegler
 Anna R. Ziegler
 (WV State Bar 9954)
 Ziegler and Ziegler, LC
 110 James Street
 Hinton, West Virginia 25951
 304.466.1224
 (8,15ap)

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
 The Summers County Commission will conduct a public test of the automatic tabulating equipment (ExpressVote and DS200) to be used in the May 12, 2026 Primary Election.
 The test will be held in the Summers County Commission Office, 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 203, Hinton, WV on the 24th of April, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, the press and the public.
 Lynn Reed, Clerk
 Summers County Commission
 (15ap)



Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,
 What do bee-sniffing dogs do? I read that Mack, a famous bee-sniffing dog, was retiring. Curious
 Dear Curious,
 According to earth-island.org, bee sniffing dogs assist apiary inspectors (someone who checks the health of beehives) by moving from one beehive to the next and sniffing for the distinct odor of dead fish that is associated with the deadly disease for bee colonies called Foulbrood (AFB). Foulbrood is a bacterium that doesn't hurt humans but can kill an entire beehive and then spread to other hives if not caught. When the dog detects this odor, he sits by the beehive, indicating that inspection of that hive is needed. Once identified as infected, the hive is either isolated or destroyed. These dogs are on the front lines when it comes to securing our country's food supply since honeybees pollinate about one-third of the crops in the United States. Fruits, nuts, and veggies, which comprise 70 of the top

100 human food crops, are all pollinated by bees. One healthy beehive can contain about 20,000 to 30,000 bees in the fall and winter, and closer to 60,000 in the summer. In 2025, there were approximately 2.63 million colonies in the US. An enterprising apiary inspector trained her yellow lab, Mack, to sniff out a honeybee population for American Foulbrood. As a bee-sniffing dog for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Mack once inspected more than 1,600 bee colonies over a period of three weeks and correctly identified 100% of the infected hives. Human inspectors would take about a year to work on that many colonies, says Cybil Preston, a Maryland beekeeper who works as an apiary inspector. In 2017, Mack and his owner, Cybil Preston, received the Customer Service Heroes Award from the governor of Maryland. Mack has now retired after nine years of bee sniffing, but fortunately, there are several dogs trained to take over his bee sniffing job.
 Dear Recycle Lady,

Why does the Recycle Center accept only bottles and jugs? Must laundry detergent bottles be rinsed out before recycling? Wants to Recycle More Plastics
 Dear Wants to Recycle More Plastics,
 The big reason the Recycle Center only accepts #1 and #2 bottles and jugs is that our buyers will only buy bottles and jugs. Any other plastics collected would be sent to the landfill as there is presently no market for them. Yes, laundry detergent bottles need to be rinsed out before placing them in the recycling bin. (Readers, any ideas you could share on uses for the soapy rinse water?) According to www.treehugger.com, only 30% of the one billion laundry jugs that are used in the U.S. yearly are recycled. Thus, more than 700,000,000 plastic laundry jugs end up in landfills, rivers, and oceans every year! Fortunately, several alternative greener types of detergents and packaging are becoming available. Eco-friendly laundry soaps can now be found in the form of eco-strips,

flakes, and powder. Also, a home-made powder laundry detergent can be made with a grated bar of soap, a cup of borax, and a cup of washing soda.
 Dear Recycle Lady,
 Why is the pesticide chlorpyrifos considered so dangerous? Concerned About Pesticides
 Dear Concerned About Pesticides,
 Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate that, according to www.epa.gov, is used to control foliage and soil-borne insect pests. It was developed by the Nazis for chemical warfare and later adapted for use as a commercial pesticide. It was banned by the EPA in 2021, but a federal court overturned this ban in 2023. According to Friends of the Earth, chlorpyrifos is highly toxic and can cause brain damage to children. It has been banned in the European Union and Canada and in several US states - California, New York, Maryland, and Hawaii. Chlorpyrifos is also highly toxic to bees and other pollinators and may threaten their survival. Corteva, the primary manufacturer

of chlorpyrifos, discontinued its production in 2020. However, Chlorpyrifos is currently an ingredient in three other brands of weed killers: Martin's Eraser, Groven, and Hatchet. All three of these pesticides are available locally. So, be sure to carefully check ingredients whenever purchasing a weed killer. Fortunately, there are effective alternatives for pest management that are safer for children, farm workers, rural communities, and the environment. Washing and scrubbing fresh fruits and vegetables in a solution of baking soda and water will help remove traces of bacteria, dirt and chemicals. Purchasing certified organic produce will eliminate the risk of pesticide residues altogether.
 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: Easter as I knew It

Lisa Abshire
 Hinton News

If I concentrate hard enough and close my eyes, I can still feel the excitement of Easter when I was a little girl. I was a girly girl back in those days. Ruffles on the dress, socks, and gloves. A hat with a big ole ribbon. Those shiny patent leather shoes that I couldn't stand to get a scuff on. If I concentrate hard enough, I smell the food cooking in my Mom's kitchen. Oh, to go back and have Easter dinner with her one more time.

My Easter goodies always consisted of more than candy. My favorite was when a Barbie was included. One year, a tornado warning topped off Easter in a way none of us expected. I vividly remember asking my Mom if I could take my new Barbie into the cellar with me. My young child's version could not comprehend losing my gift to a storm. I've always been terrified of windstorms. Thankfully, no tornado came through to damage anything.

Another Easter memory I fondly recall every spring is my Granny's daffodils. They were the big double ones, and to me, the most beautiful flowers in the world. I would inevitably always sneak and

pick some. My mom taught me how to add food coloring to water to make it take on different colors.

I remember my uncles swinging me in a huge beach towel one Easter near that beautiful daffodil patch, and the sky was blue, and my heart was so very happy. I wish I had known to soak up even more of the holiday perfection I was in the middle of. My Mom always made sure every holiday was special. I know now it was the love pouring over

into everything she did. For me, my dad, and later on, my kids. I've tried over the years to replicate holidays as I knew them when Mom was alive. I, of course, found that it's impossible because when people are gone, it's simply not realistic to expect.

So I go on with traditions and appreciate my kids being with me because time has taught me to take nothing for granted. I hope this Easter you make beautiful memories with the people you care about most.

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The Heart of the Tigers: Jumping Branch Elementary Celebrates a Year of Growth

Jumping Branch Elementary School

JUMPING BRANCH W.Va. (Hinton News) - Jumping Branch Elementary is a wonderful school located in Jumping Branch. We are a small school, but our enrollment is growing each year. We have grown from 89 students last year to 112 students this year. Jumping Branch is a PBIS school that focuses on the HEART of the Tiger character traits, which stand for honesty, encouragement, ambition, respect, and tolerance. The school has a low discipline rate due to teachers and students modeling the high expectations.

Our school also focuses on high academic standards. Last year, our students increased by 16% in Math and 6% in ELA. We were awarded the Exceed Standards performance award in ELA from the West Virginia Department of Education. All teachers at JBE are fully certified in their subject areas, with many holding multiple certifications. Our instructional aides also play an essential role in supporting student learning and are all certified as ECCATs.

Attendance is another important goal that JBE is achieving. This year, our chronic absence rate decreased from 22% last year to as low as 7% this year. Currently, we are at 11.6%. Our community in schools' coordinator works hard at creating attendance rewards and campaigns that encourage students to come to school.

JBE offers a wide range of enriching opportunities for our students. Our after-school program includes tutoring, physical education, homework support, and drama. Students can also participate in activities such as Book Club, Girl Scouts, Daisies, Student Council, and 4-H. In addition, our students proudly represent JBE in regional events like Math Field Day and the Social Studies Fair.

Our school has a family-based atmosphere in which parents and community members are encouraged to attend. Our PTO plays a crucial role in our school by hosting such things as Santa's Secret Shop, the Book Fair, and our an-

nual carnival. They also provide funding for supplies, field trips, adopt-a-child at Christmas, and any other student needs. JBE parents are fully involved and support the success of our students.

We have plenty of chaperones on field trips and well-attended programs by the families

and community. Surveys from parents and social media demonstrate high satisfaction with JBE. We promote a team atmosphere between all stakeholders to ensure that our students are successful.

This year, we participated in a pilot program to keep our sixth-grade students at JBE.

This was due to parents asking the board of education to allow our students to remain another year at JBE. This has been highly successful with our students. They scored among the highest in the county on their benchmark assess-

ments. We are very proud of JBE. We have had a successful year and are continually growing in enrollment. We are also achieving our goals of reducing chronic absenteeism, decreasing behavior problems, and

increasing our academic proficiency in all subjects!

Go JBE TIGERS!

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One Bedroom, Section 8 Apts. Elderly 62+ Handicapped or Disabled. All Utilities Included. On site laundry facilities.

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