



Summers County Inspiration Gallery Honored Two Distinguished Natives



Mitch Bowling

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) — The Hinton Area Foundation, in partnership with the Summers County Historical Society and Summers County Schools, invited the community to a special evening celebrating two extraordinary individuals whose lives and achievements have brought lasting pride to Summers County.

The Summers County Inspiration Gallery Induction Ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 28, at Summers County High School, beginning with light refreshments at 4:30 p.m. and the induction ceremony at 5 p.m.

The Inspiration Gallery honors in-



Paul Peck

dividuals who once walked the halls of Summers County schools and went on to make significant contributions at the state, national, or global level. Created to inspire future generations, the gallery serves as a powerful reminder to local students that exceptional accomplishments can begin right here at home.

This year's inductees represent both historic legacy and modern achievement:

Paul Peck, a pioneer of early aviation, was West Virginia's first airplane pilot and one of the earliest aviators in the United States. Raised in Hinton, Peck learned to fly in just seven days at a time when

aviation was still in its infancy. He went on to serve as one of the first flight instructors for the U.S. Army Signal Corps and set multiple aviation records, including endurance and speed milestones. Peck made history as the first pilot to fly over the United States Capitol and was also the first to carry official U.S. air mail. Though his life was tragically cut short at age 22, his fearless innovation and contributions helped shape the future of aviation.

James "Mitch" Bowling, a Hinton High School graduate, has built a distinguished career as a national leader in telecommunications, education, and technology-enabled services. Over nearly two decades at Comcast, Bowling played a key role in the company's growth into the nation's largest residential internet provider and led the rapid expansion of Xfinity Home into the country's fastest-growing home security service. He later served as Chief Operating Officer of Apollo Education Group and CEO of Sears Home Services. Today, he is Chief Executive Officer of EverDriven Technologies, a national leader in student transportation services, supporting vulnerable student populations across

36 states. Bowling's career reflects a commitment to innovation, leadership, and service on a national scale.

"Through the Inspiration Gallery, we celebrate not only the accomplishments of these remarkable individuals, but also the message their stories send to our local students," said Christina Cochran, Executive Director of the Hinton Area Foundation. "Their journeys show that yes — even if you start in a small town like Hinton — you can achieve extraordinary things."

Students, families, and community members were encouraged to attend the free event and join in honoring the legacy of these two outstanding Summers County natives. Refreshments were served, and Mitch Bowling attended the event to accept the award.

Following the ceremony, the Summers County Board of Education held its regular meeting at the same location.

For more information, please follow the event on Facebook or contact Christina Cochran, Executive Director of Hinton Area Foundation, at christina@hintonareafoundation.org or 304-309-5502. Email is preferred.

From the Gridiron to the Gradebook: Deon Butler Shares Journey of Literacy at the Ritz Theatre

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Former Detroit Lions player Deon Butler stood before a crowded Ritz Theatre on Thursday night and admitted something that, for most of his life, was his deepest secret.

"I openly admit I struggle," Butler said.

The former athlete turned author and advocate visited Hinton to share his journey from functional illiteracy to a life of advocacy.

Despite graduating from high school and Central Michigan University, Butler told the audience he navigated his academic and professional football career reading at only a fourth-grade level.

Everything changed at age 27. Spurred by a desire to read to his daughter, Butler committed to the "science of reading," specifically utilizing the Orton-Gillingham method. He described the breakthrough of finally learning to read as "the coolest thing in the world."

Butler's visit, which included giving away NFL gear to local attendees, focused on the human cost of a failing literacy system.

"All the kids that are in prison, and the people that fell through the system—people who are probably dyslexic or not—the science behind reading helps everyone," Butler said.

The impact of his advocacy work has already reached the

highest levels of government. Butler detailed his work with the governor of Michigan to pass a \$150 million dyslexia bill. He told the Hinton audience that seeing children finally realize they aren't "dumb" or "stupid" provides a satisfaction that exceeds his time in professional sports.

"To see the results was way better than the NFL," Butler said. "I mean by that, see how kids felt like they were locked in a box? And now they're able to openly admit that they struggle with reading due to the fact that I struggle."

During the event, Butler emphasized that his own progress was rooted in a desire for self-improvement and mental clarity. He recommended that those struggling with literacy turn to books that offer personal growth.

"With me, I wanted to be able to control my emotions. I wanted to be able to control my feelings. I wanted to learn

how to meditate," he said. "So I read a lot of self-discovery and self-improvement books. That's what I recommend."

Butler also addressed the role of educators, noting that the "science of reading" allows for a shift where 100% of children can become literate, rather than the current 50% average. He praised teachers who are now taking accountability and admitting they were never properly trained to teach reading.

The evening concluded with Butler encouraging students to get comfortable in their own skin and their unique learning styles. Once a person asks for help and understands how their brain works, Butler said, life becomes "easier and more natural."

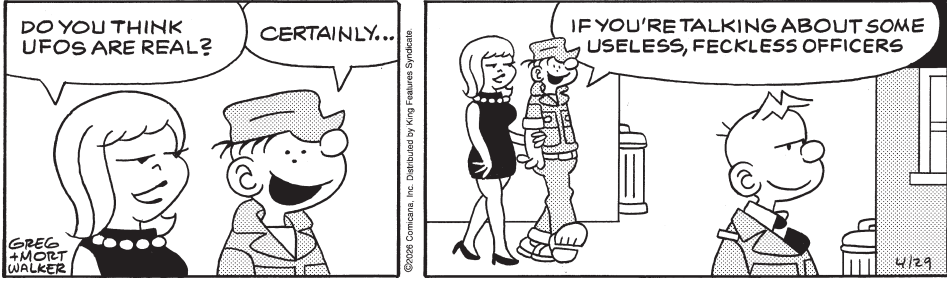
An avid fisherman, Butler mentioned he planned to spend some of his remaining time in West Virginia walking by the water before continuing his national tour.



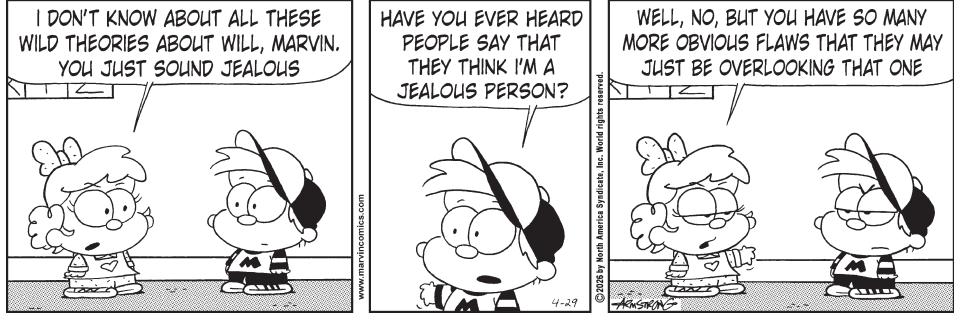
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ENTERTAINMENT & COMICS PAGE

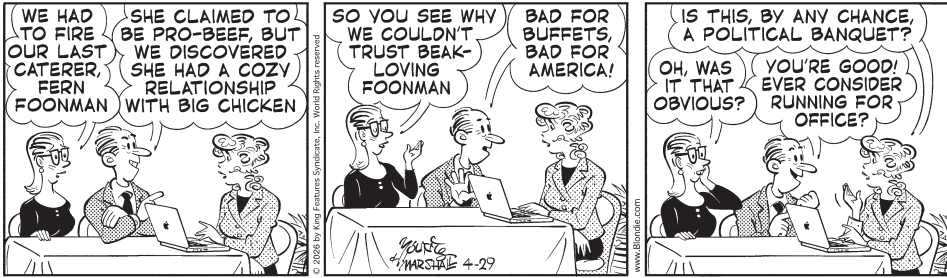
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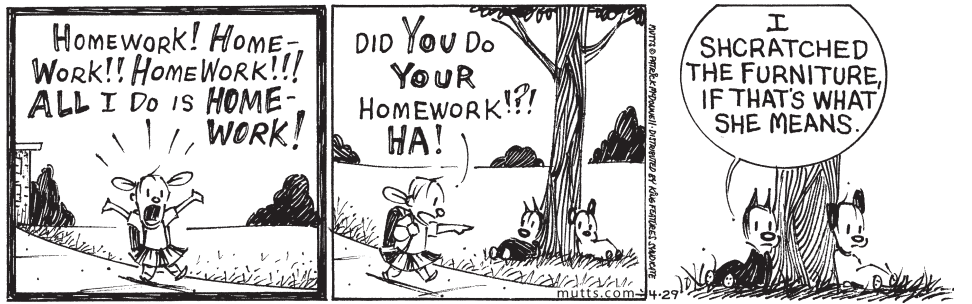
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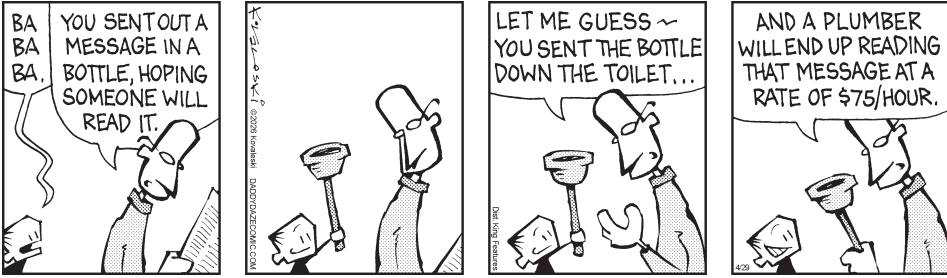
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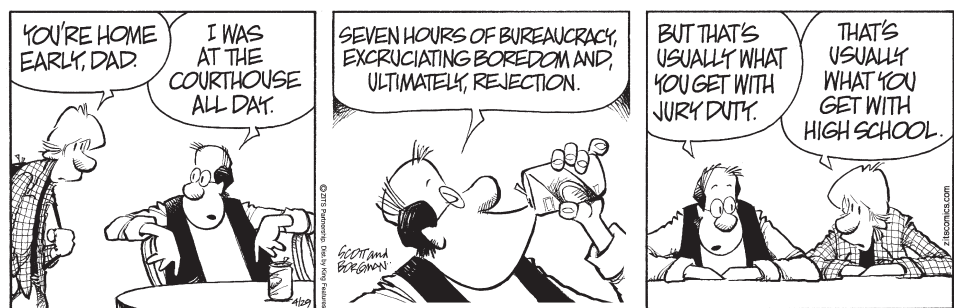
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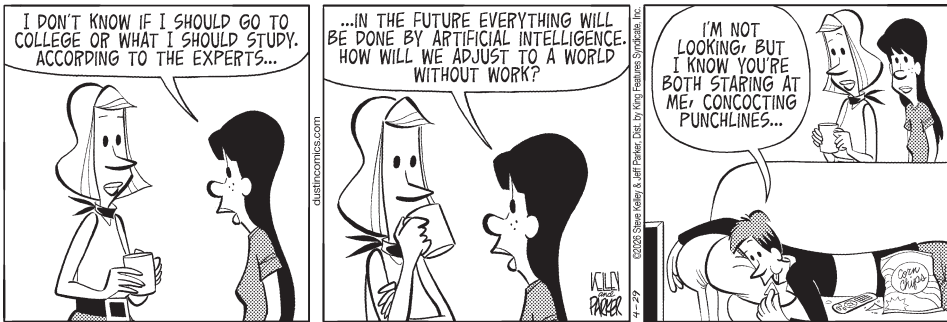
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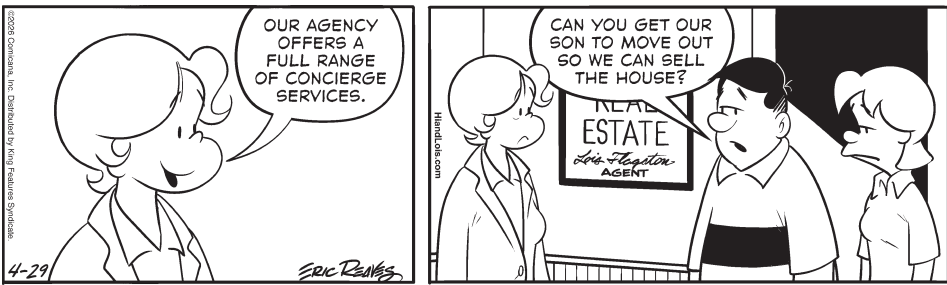
Zits



Dustin



Hi and Lois



SHEFFER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Poetic tributes
- 5 Actress Long
- 8 Taj Mahal city
- 12 Caron title role
- 13 Jump
- 14 Furnace fuel
- 15 Item swung by a duffer
- 17 Circle dance
- 18 Mountain crest
- 19 Stockholm's land
- 21 Eternities
- 24 Computer key
- 25 Nickname for Dallas
- 28 Elevator name
- 30 TV alien
- 33 Duo
- 34 BLT bread
- 35 Luau memento
- 36 Fa follower
- 37 Canal of song

DOWN

- 16 Biz bigwig
- 20 Left on a map
- 22 Queen dowager of Jordan
- 23 Step
- 25 "Dynamite" band
- 26 —
- 27 Amex offering
- 29 "Understood"
- 31 Author Tolstoy
- 32 Little lie (off)
- 34 Ticked (off)
- 38 Water heater
- 40 Valleys
- 42 Lobbying gp.
- 43 Pro-longed sleep
- 44 Apple product
- 45 Enthusiastic
- 47 Sulk
- 48 Nile vipers
- 49 Try out
- 52 Granada gold
- 53 Journalist Koppel

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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33			34					35		
36			37					38		
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43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

SUDOKU PUZZLE

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 4/29

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)

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

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →



JUMBLE

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

NRKIB
UORTG
PROECP
HINLEA

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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: BLEND GUARD CAMPUS PUDDLE
Answer: When he dozed off in math class, the teacher said — UP AND “ADD ‘EM”

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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A Legacy in the Floorboards: The Storied Past of Kittle's Hardware



Manager Bobby Pitzer. Photo by Rebecca Stalnaker

Lisa Abshire
Hinton News

UNION, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Scrub as they might, the owners of Kittle's Hardware can't quite wash away the grease stains on the shop floor—and they wouldn't want to. Those marks are remnants of a time when Model T cars and tractors were assembled in the very same building that now serves as the heart of downtown Union.

"You can still see the grease," says current owner Chris Wszolek. "We've cleaned and cleaned, but it's still there."

That stubborn grease is just one layer of a century-old story. Around 1920, Arthur Boone and his brother purchased the lot on Main Street to expand their Ford business. They built a massive structure around an existing wooden house, eventually demolishing the home to create the cavernous showroom and service floor that still stands today.

The building's life as a hardware staple began in 1955, born from a simple commission. Russell Kittle, a local farmer, was given the opportunity to sell Purina pet food. He started small, renting a building on Pump Street, but within two years, his success allowed him to purchase the former Ford building.

In 1957, the car elevators and ramps gave way to sturdy wooden shelving built to hold 100-pound bags of feed. For decades, the Kittle family fueled the farms of Monroe County. Wszolek himself remembers visiting as a 12-year-old boy, helping

The store's future became uncertain after the Kittle family's son passed away, and his children chose not to take over the business. In 2019, Chris Wszolek and his wife stepped in—not just to buy a business, but to save a landmark.

"We bought the store because we didn't want the town to die; we want it to thrive," Wszolek explained. "When a town has a hardware store, it's thriving. So many towns in West Virginia are not alive anymore because there are no businesses. We thought it was important."

Since the purchase, the Wszoleks have made extensive repairs and joined the Ace Hardware network as an independent dealer, ensuring that Union residents have access to modern inventory without losing the old-fashioned atmosphere.

Today, manager Bobby Pitzer ensures the store maintains its rep-

utation for "making it happen" for the community. Whether a customer needs a specific saw blade, a unique antique, or a specialized wood sealer, the staff prides itself on a hands-on approach.

"We're always saying, 'show me your sizes and measurements, and we'll help you build it right here on the floor,'" Pitzer said.

For Pitzer and the Wszoleks, the nuts and bolts are secondary to the relationships built

across the counter. While the store boasts an impressive inventory of glues, sealers, and antiques, Pitzer insists the secret to their suc-

cess isn't on the shelves. "Union is the greatest place there is," Pitzer said. "It's not us—it's the people."

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Jesus, The Way To God
(Part 4)
by Mark A. Copeland
https://executableoutlines.com/topical_series/jesus-the-way-guide/jtw_01.html

Last week when we finished the study, we were preparing to look at some terms used to describe those who are in Jesus. We will pick up right there.

TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ARE IN JESUS

First, there are terms which proclaim a special relationship with our Heavenly Father. For example, we are called the "children" of God:
For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

Also, we are called the "house" (family) of God:
But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)

There are also terms which proclaim a special relationship with a Holy, Supreme Being. One describes us as a special dwelling place of God, i.e., the "temple" of God:
And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." (2 Corinthians 6:16)

Another descriptive term speaks of our role in service to God, that we are a "royal priesthood."
You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9)

Conclusion

Other terms might be considered, but these suffice to show that it is possible for those who were once lost in sin to enjoy a new, personal, intimate, and fulfilling relationship with the Majestic God in heaven!

And what a wonderful relationship it is! One that offers promises that overwhelm you; for example, this one where God promises:
"I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

But let us be clear in our understanding...Jesus is the "The Way," the only way to God:
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.

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Worship 11:15
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30
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A Peek into Summers County's past: A Special Photo



William Jones
Hinton New

SUMMERS COUNTY, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Over the years, I have met several distant cousins from all sides of my family on Facebook. Mainly because we share a mutual love for family history and old family photos. Some time ago,

Carol Faddis-Jacobs and I crossed paths. We are cousins on the Thomas side of my very large family. Carol's mother, Joann, was one of my Great Great Grandfather Fred Owen Thomas's sisters. She lives in Florida. A few years ago, she came to West Virginia, and we met at the Big Wheel in Alderson after chatting online

for years prior. We are always sharing family stories and photos from that side of the family. Last month, she messaged me and said she was mailing me some

photos that had been her mother's.

One of which was this photo of my cousin Lota Skaggs. Lota and I are third cousins, but over the years, she became like a grandmother to me. Lota, Mom, and I were always "running the roads" when I was growing up. Ha. The photo is of Lota and her three children: John Skaggs, Tommy Skaggs, and Tammy Mounts.

The photo was taken at

her grandparents', John Harrison Harrah and Allie Falls Harrah's home place on Kenneys Knob in Summers County. The view in this photo is simply spectacular! The farm was on the Snake Run side of Kenneys Knob, looking towards the Grassy Meadows area. This would have been taken around 1968 or so, based on the kids' ages.

On a side note, Lota can remember after 58 years since this picture was tak-

en that she purchased the blouse she was wearing in this photo at Alderson Store in Alderson. She bought it while working at Farmers Home Administrators, FHA in Lewisburg, WV. While I was growing up, Lota's Aunt Neva Harrah, the last of her father's people, lived on the farm and would have a cookout every year. Mom and I always intended to go, but never made it. After seeing this photo, I really regret it now.

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Mother's Day

2026 Gift Guide

Happy Mother's Day from Hinton News

Hinton News Staff

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Residents across the New River Gorge are preparing to honor matriarchs this Sunday as the community celebrates Mother's Day.

From the historic streets of downtown Hinton to the quiet reaches of Summers County, local families are expected to fill area restaurants and parks to recognize the women who shape the region's character. Local

shops reported a surge in activity this week.

Public spaces, including the Hinton Railroad Museum and nearby Bluestone State Park, are excellent options for families gathering for annual adventures.

The staff at the Hinton News wishes all mothers, grandmothers, and maternal figures in our community a peaceful and happy Mother's Day.

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Greenbrier Valley-Alderson Quilt Guild Celebrates 34th Anniversary



Picture of quilt for class. Displayed by Sheila Maxey, Teacher.

LEWISBURG, W.Va. (Hinton News) - The 34th Anniversary of the Greenbrier Valley-Alderson Quilt Guild was celebrated Monday, April 20, at the Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg,

with a potluck luncheon and meeting. Anita Hill, Don Hill, and Mary Godby, three founding Guild members, were in attendance for a total of 29 participants. President Sharon Vance and members discussed topics that included baby quilts for local shelters and family centers, upcoming Quilts of Valor presentations, a review of the recent March quilt show at the Visitors Center, preparations for professional quilt documentation, and a May quilting class. The next quilt show is planned for November 2026. New members are welcome and may contact GValdersonquiltguild@gmail.com for upcoming meeting/class dates and times.

WorkForce West Virginia announces May 6 Virtual Job Fair

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - WorkForce West Virginia today announced the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, May 6, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

"We invite you to unlock your potential at WorkForce West Virginia's Statewide Virtual Job Fairs," said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. "Employers and job seekers are encouraged to seize this opportunity to connect and grow together. Since these Statewide Virtual Job Fairs began three years ago, the Virtual Job Fair has had 37,128 registered job seekers, 5,193 registered employers and 17,999 available job openings.

In April 2026, the Virtual Job Fair had 1,080 registered job seekers, 102 registered employers, and 824 available job openings."

Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Register as a job seeker for the May 6 Statewide Virtual Job Fair.

When attending the event, job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free background. The Virtual Statewide Job Fair portal features a Job Seeker Training video, a list of participating em-

ployers and channels for attendees to register and log in.

After registering for the first time, new employers will create a "Virtual Booth" to connect with job seekers. After completion, this booth will be avail-

able during subsequent job fairs. Register as an employer for the May 6 event.

For more information about WorkForce West Virginia and the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs, visit workforcewv.org or contact jobfair@wv.gov.

Spring Clean Your Bookshelves

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Every Saturday in May, the Friends of the Library will be hosting a "mini" book sale at the library. They will be accepting donations of gently used books through the end of April.

Then, in May, pick out some new titles for \$1. Each Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visit the library and discover a new world to explore. Each Saturday will be a different set of genres.

May 2 - History, War, Remember - no moldy oldies. Clean off your shelves and help out the library.

May 16 - Religion, Relationships, and Self-Help

May 23 - All Things Fiction. (Mysteries, Sci-Fi, Romance, and Westerns)

May 30 - A little of this, a little of that. Come Explore.

Children's books available every Saturday. Stock up for summer.

Hinton's Hometown Christmas Spring Flea Market

HINTON W.Va. (Hinton News) - Hinton's Hometown Christmas committee invites you to attend its 4th Annual Spring Flea Market at the Historic Freight Depot, 509 Commercial Street, Hinton, on

May 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Over 40 vendors will be located inside and outside the Freight Depot. Flea Market vendors will have everything from antiques, home decorations, crafts, wood-

working, Rada cutlery, and more. Food vendors include Lollipop Cool Treats, the Tea Shack, and Chewning's Rollin BBQ & More, LLC.

Admission is free, so bring the family and enjoy.

Great Words Performance

HINTON, W.Va. (Hinton News) - Join the Three Rivers Youth Theater program on April 30 at 6 p.m. at the Summers County Comprehensive High School Auditorium. The young actors

will be sharing their interpretations of classic poetry and speeches, including Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, and, of course, the one and only Shakespeare. It's a fun hour, and admission

is free. Come support the young actors with your applause. The next session of Three Rivers Youth Theater will begin in September, and they are welcoming new actors to join them.

NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR SCHOOL BOARD EXCESS LEVY ISSUE
TO BE HELD ON MAY 12, 2026

TO THE VOTERS OF SUMMERS COUNTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That at a duly held meeting, The Board of Education of the County of Summers adopted and entered of record the following Excess Levy Order:

ORDER

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMERS DIRECTING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 12, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS OF THE SUMMERS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT A PROPOSITION FOR AN ADDITIONAL SCHOOL LEVY FOR GENERAL EXPENSES OF OPERATING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SUMMERS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.

After full consideration thereof, The Board of Education of the County of Summers (the "Board") being of the opinion that the maximum levies for current expenses authorized by Article 8, Chapter 11, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, will not provide sufficient funds for the payment of the general current expenses of schools in Summers County, including expenditures for the purposes hereinafter stated, during the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029 and has ascertained that the approximate average amounts hereinafter shown in excess of the amounts raised by regular levies will be needed by the Board during each of said four (4) fiscal years, and that the question of increase of such levies ("Excess Levy") should be submitted to the voters of Summers County at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026, in accordance with applicable law, it is hereby **ORDERED** and **DECLARED** that:

1. The purpose 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 as set forth herein, are as follows:

PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE
a. To provide supplemental funds for the hiring of teachers and school level service personnel for student support and academic services.	\$422,235
b. To provide funds for curricular and extracurricular trip support.	\$75,000
c. To provide funds for playground renovations at Hinton Area Elementary School and Talcott Elementary School.	\$165,000
d. To provide funds for a safe schools entrance at Jumping Branch Elementary School.	\$75,000
e. To provide funds for a School Resource Officer at Summers County Comprehensive High School.	\$65,000
f. To provide funds for facilities improvements, additions, equipment and/or renovations at various Summers County Schools and/or the Transportation Garage.	\$133,000
g. To provide funds for a service vehicle for use by the school district's Transportation Department.	\$20,000
h. To provide funds for security window treatments and related improvements at various Summers County Schools as an additional safety measure.	\$10,000
i. To provide funds for exterior lighting and related improvements at Summers County Comprehensive High School.	\$25,000

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.

2. 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. The actual amounts budgeted, as well as the amounts spent, for each purpose and in aggregate, likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next depending on the realized tax collections and the needs of the Summers County School District, as determined by the Board with respect to each fiscal year. 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.

3. 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 in addition to the funds obtained from this Excess Levy.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The separate and aggregate assessed valuation of each class of taxable property within Summers County, West Virginia for the assessment year ending June 30, 2026, is as follows:

Class I Property	\$0
Class II Property	\$340,864,656
Class III Property	\$295,292,662
Class IV Property	\$72,340,449
TOTAL	\$708,497,767

8. That the proposed additional rate of levy, in cents per \$100 of assessed value on each class of property, for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029 is as follows:

Class I Property	4.84 cents
Class II Property	9.68 cents
Class III Property	19.36 cents
Class IV Property	19.36 cents

9. That the proposed years to which the additional levies shall apply are the fiscal years beginning **July 1, 2026; July 1, 2027; July 1, 2028; and July 1, 2029.**

10. That the question of such additional levies shall be submitted to a vote at the primary election to be held in Summers County, West Virginia on the 12th day of May, 2026.

11. That notice calling such election shall be given by the publication of this Order for said election as a Class II-O legal advertisement, for two successive weeks, in The Hinton News, a newspaper of general circulation in the Summers County School District, as qualified by the West Virginia Secretary of State, in accordance with the West Virginia Code. All the provisions of the laws concerning elections shall apply as far as they are applicable.

12. The official ballot to be used in the election herein provided shall be in form as follows:

[See Form of Ballot on the following pages.]

FORM OF BALLOT

OFFICIAL 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:

PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE
a. To provide supplemental funds for the hiring of teachers and school level service personnel for student support and academic services.	\$422,235
b. To provide funds for curricular and extracurricular trip support.	\$75,000
c. To provide funds for playground renovations at Hinton Area Elementary School and Talcott Elementary School.	\$165,000
d. To provide funds for a safe schools entrance at Jumping Branch Elementary School.	\$75,000
e. To provide funds for a School Resource Officer at Summers County Comprehensive High School.	\$65,000
f. To provide funds for facilities improvements, additions, equipment and/or renovations at various Summers County Schools and/or the Transportation Garage.	\$133,000
g. To provide funds for a service vehicle for use by the school district's Transportation Department.	\$20,000
h. To provide funds for security window treatments and related improvements at various Summers County Schools as an additional safety measure.	\$10,000
i. To provide funds for exterior lighting and related improvements at Summers County Comprehensive High School.	\$25,000

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 in addition to the funds obtained from this Excess Levy.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TOWN OF ALDERSON FUNDING ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be held on the following entitled Ordinance at a regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Alderson (the "Town") to be held on Thursday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 311 Monroe Street, Alderson, West Virginia, and at such hearing any person interested may appear before the Town and present protests, and all protests and suggestions shall be heard by the Town and it shall then take such actions as it shall deem proper in the premises upon an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC WATERWORKS FACILITIES OF THE TOWN OF ALDERSON, AND THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THROUGH THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE CITY OF FUNDING ASSISTANCE, SERIES 2026 B IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 THROUGH THE WEST VIRGINIA DWTRF PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH FUNDING; APPROVING, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE FUNDING ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT RELATING TO SUCH FUNDING ASSISTANCE, SERIES 2026 B.

The above quoted title

of the Ordinance describes generally the contents thereof and the purposes of the Funding Assistance, Series 2026 B (the "Funding Assistance") contemplated thereby. The Town contemplates the issuance of the Funding Assistance described in the Ordinance. The proceeds of the Funding Assistance will be used to (i) pay a portion of the costs of certain improvements and extensions to the existing waterworks facilities of the Town; and (ii) pay certain costs of issuance of the Funding Assistance and related costs. The Funding Assistance is provided through a principal forgiveness loan. No taxes may at any time be levied by the Town for the payment of the Funding Assistance.

The above-entitled Ordinance was adopted by the Council of the Town of Alderson on second reading on April 21, 2026. A certified copy of the above entitled Ordinance is on file with the Town for review by interested parties during regular office hours.

Following the public hearing, the Town intends to enact the Ordinance upon final reading.

/s/ Betty Thomas Recorder (29ap6my)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TOWN OF ALDERSON BOND ORDINANCE

A public hearing will be held on the following entitled Ordinance at a regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Alderson (the "Town") to be held on Thursday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 311 Monroe Street, Alderson, West Virginia, and at such hearing any person interested may appear before the Town and present protests, and all protests and sugges-

tions shall be heard by the Town and it shall then take such actions as it shall deem proper in the premises upon an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN EXTENSIONS, ADDITIONS, BETTERMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE TOWN OF ALDERSON AND THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY THE TOWN OF ALDERSON OF NOT MORE THAN \$6,000,000 IN ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2026 A (WEST VIRGINIA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND); PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF AND SECURITY FOR THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; APPROVING, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING A LOAN AGREEMENT RELATING TO SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF SUCH BONDS AND ADOPTING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO.

The above quoted title of the Ordinance describes generally the contents thereof and the purposes of the Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 A (the "Bonds") contemplated thereby. The Town contemplates the issuance of the Bonds described in the Ordinance. The proceeds of the Bonds will be used (i) to pay a portion of the costs of acquisition and construction of certain extensions, additions, betterments and improvements

to the existing public waterworks system of the Town; and (ii) to pay certain costs of issuance of the Bonds and related costs. No taxes may at any time be levied for the payment of the Bonds or the interest thereon.

The above-entitled Ordinance was adopted by the Council of the Town of Alderson on second reading on April 21, 2026. A certified copy of the above entitled Ordinance is on file with the Town for review by interested parties during regular office hours.

Following the public hearing, the Town intends to enact the Ordinance upon final reading.

/s/ Betty Thomas Recorder (29ap6my)

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 celena.h.cooper@wv.gov.

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

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: German Short Hair Pointer puppies \$400 each Call Jackie Smith 540-691-6458

Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady, Can inkjet printer cartridges be recycled? Printer

Dear Printer, Yes, they can be recycled at the Recycling Center. Take them to the aluminum door at the Recycling Center and put them in the yellow box on the porch or press the large button on the left-hand side of the door, and someone will come assist you. Have you tried refilling them? They can be refilled only two or three times, but there are savings if you do so. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.wikihow.com/Re-fill-an-Inkjet-Printer-Cartridge>. Staples, Office Depot and OfficeMax all have cartridge recycling programs. Cartridges can also be mailed back to HP and they offer free shipping labels, envelopes or boxes for the return of nearly all Original HP cartridges and Samsung toner cartridges. Go to <https://www.hp.com/us-en/hp-information/recycling/ink-toner.html> for further information.

Dear Recycle Lady, Are there any size restrictions on items to be recycled? Too Large or Too Small

Dear Too Large or Too Small,

Great question. Large items are generally not a problem, but there are definitely size restrictions on small items. As a general rule, don't recycle anything smaller than a credit card. Smaller items, such as bottle caps and coffee pods are so small that they can jam the recycling equipment. Bottles or cans smaller than 3 inches high are not recyclable for the same reason. Before items are shipped out of the Recycling Center, they go down a conveyor belt and into a machine where they are compacted into a tight bale. It is during this process that small items fall out on the floor or fall into parts of the machinery that bring it to a halt. The time-consuming search is then on to determine the

Recycle Lady » #8

(Continued From Previous Page)

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.

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 9.68 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.

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS:

Those favoring the additional levies, mark in the square "FOR THE LEVIES"; and those against such additional levies, mark in square "AGAINST THE LEVIES".

- FOR THE LEVIES
AGAINST THE LEVIES

END OF FORM OF BALLOT

13. The Board will not issue bonds, as provided in West Virginia Code §11-8-16, in connection with the approval of the proposed additional levies.

14. The Secretary of the Board with the assistance of the Clerk of the County Commission of the County of Summers, which said Clerk is hereby designated and appointed as an agent of this Board for this election, are hereby authorized and directed to procure and furnish to the election commissioners at each voting precinct, insofar as practicable, the ballots, poll books, tally sheets and other things necessary for conducting the election, as provided by Section 11, Article 1, Chapter 13 of the Code, and perform all duties imposed by law upon clerks of the County Commission in relation to elections, and assist the County Commission, sitting as the board of canvassers, with canvassing the results of the election in accordance with Section 13, Article 1, Chapter 13 of the Code. The commissioners and clerks appointed and certified for the purpose of the election shall be the same commissioners and clerks designated, appointed and certified by the County Commission.

15. Absentee ballots shall be applied for, obtained from and returned to the Clerk of the County Commission of the County of Summers, and said Clerk is hereby appointed the agent for the Board to perform all duties relating to absentee ballots in elections.

16. The registration of voters and the use of the registration booths shall be governed by the permanent registration law of the State of West Virginia and the Board hereby adopts the registration list of Summers County as the official registration list of the school district for this election.

Adopted and entered on this 23rd day of February 2026.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMERS

Gregory R. Angel President

ATTEST:

Sinda D. Knott Secretary and Superintendent

Recycle Lady... Continued from Page 7

cause or to find the small item that has created a big problem. Small pieces of paper are also a problem as they fall on the floor during processing and must be picked up later – also time consuming. Small cardboard boxes should be placed inside a larger box to prevent these problems.

Dear Recycle Lady, Are the boxes that contain frozen meals, frozen pizzas, and frozen vegetables recyclable, even if they are slick to the touch? Thank you. Trying to do better

Dear Trying to do better,

Most boxes that contain frozen food can be recycled and made into new paper products, such as paper towels and tissues. As with all recyclables, be sure they are clean, dry,

and that they are made of single-material packaging. Whether they are slick or not, these boxes are recycled with cardboard. Some frozen food boxes have plastic windows but that does not prevent them from being recycled and it does not need to be removed. However, there are two types of frozen food boxes

es that are not recyclable. 1) Those with a waxy coating: Run your fingernail down the surface of the box and there will be wax under the fingernail, and 2) Those that have a thin layer of plastic. These boxes are not recyclable as they will not break apart during the recycling process.

Kudos and many thanks to all re-

cyclers who have put their old toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and floss containers in the bin at the Recycle Center. Before putting the toothpaste tubes in the bin cut off the bottom and remove as much toothpaste as possible. Last week we mailed three 20 lb. boxes of these oral prod-

ucts to TerraCycle using postage-free labels paid for by the sponsor, Colgate Oral Care. If you are new to recycling oral products, look for the aluminum can bin and place your oral items in the tube on the left-hand side of this bin. Colgate recycles all oral products, regardless of brand.

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.

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COMMISSIONER

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THANK YOU
Janet Whitten
for your years of service.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Janet for her many years of dedication and service to our customers and Hinton community. Her hard work and care have made a meaningful difference.

As she prepares for retirement, we wish her happiness and fulfillment in this next chapter.
Her last day will be May 1st.

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