



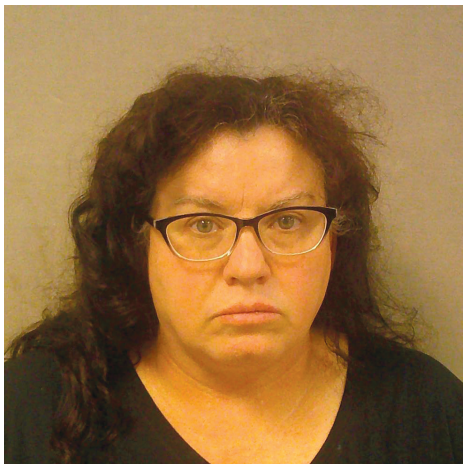
Richwood Mom Arrested, Suspected of Allegedly Murdering Daughter

Richwood, WV —On Monday, May 18, 2026, Staci L Wind, 50, of Richwood, filed a missing person's report to Richwood Police Department, for her daughter Ayla C Wind, 26, of Richwood.

On Friday, May 22, 2026, the West Virginia State Police Richwood Detachment responded to Summit Lake, in Greenbrier County, to investigate a report of found human remains. During the investigation Troopers located a shallow grave containing a deceased human body.

The West Virginia State Police Crime Scene Unit responded to assist with the crime scene.

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, Staci Wind was arrested at a residence on Riverside Drive, in Richwood, for the murder of Ayla Wind. Staci Wind was charged with first Degree Murder and transported to Central



Staci Wind

Regional Jail to await arraignment.

Troopers added that a nearby burn area was also found with "human bones," a cell phone that matched the description of the phone owned by Ayla, charcoal, wooden chips and a manual for a booster car seat.

This investigation is ongoing.

WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital Welcomes Chris Monk as Chief Nursing Officer

PRINCETON, W.Va. — WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital has named Chris Monk, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, as vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer.

Monk brings extensive experience in nursing leadership, clinical operations, workforce development, and quality improvement. Most recently, she served as system senior director of nursing practice at Carilion Clinic, where she helped lead strategic nursing practice initiatives across a multi-hospital system supporting more than 3,500 nurses. In that role, she oversaw professional practice standards, workforce development initiatives, and system-wide efforts focused on quality, patient safety, and operational excellence.



CHIEF NURSING OFFICER » 3

Chris Monk

Justice Family Faces Twin Legal Fronts over Greenbrier Clinic, Resort Control

David Hodge

The Greenbrier Independent

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.V. (VR) - The business empire tied to U.S. Sen. Jim Justice is under mounting pressure on two fronts, with a wave of class action lawsuits targeting the Greenbrier Clinic and a parallel courtroom fight that could determine who ultimately controls the historic Greenbrier resort.

At the Greenbrier Clinic, federal regulators shut down mammography services on Feb. 26, 2026, after determining the facility failed to meet image-quality standards required under the federal Mammography Quality Standards Act. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration found the clinic fell out of compliance with criteria set by its accreditation body, the American College of Radiology.

The enforcement action covers mammograms performed between Oct. 28, 2023, and Feb. 26, 2026. In a March 23, 2026, notification letter to patients, the clinic acknowledged "serious concern" about mammography quality during that period and advised that many scans must be independently reviewed or repeated at other facilities. Staff radiologist Dr. Henry Setliff signed the letters.

Because the Greenbrier markets executive physicals and diagnostic services to high-net-worth guests alongside residents, more than 1,000 patients across the country and abroad may be affected, according to lawsuits filed in federal and state courts.

Recent federal class action com-

plaints including Martin v. The Greenbrier Clinic and a new lawsuit brought by Greenbrier County residents April Wilson and Erin Dotson accuse the clinic of providing "inaccurate, inferior" mammograms that did not comply with required standards.

The suits allege:

- **Unfair and deceptive practices:** Plaintiffs say the clinic violated the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act by advertising advanced 3D mammography as innovative care while operating outside federal compliance.

- **Unjust enrichment:** The clinic is accused of collecting full-fee payments and insurance reimbursements for tests that federal regulators later deemed unreliable, without issuing refunds or covering replacement scans.

- **Breach of contract and misrepresentation:** Lawsuits say patients were given written reports describing results as benign and "highly reliable" even though the underlying images did not meet quality baselines.

- **Emotional distress:** Plaintiffs describe being told they were low risk for breast cancer, only to learn later that their test results "cannot be trusted," leaving them anxious about undetected disease and facing added medical costs.

The proposed classes seek compensatory damages, statutory penalties and disgorgement of profits tied to the disputed mammograms.

In a statement through a public relations representative, Justice family business attorney Steve Ruby said the Greenbrier Clinic "takes patient care and safety extremely serious and strongly disputes any suggestion that patients were intentionally misled or that the clinic failed to act responsi-

bly." He said the clinic has appealed the FDA's determination, calling it erroneous, and argued the agency's conclusions "do not accurately reflect the quality of care provided."

The Department of Health and Human Services, the FDA's parent agency, did not respond to a request for comment cited in the complaints.

At the same time, the Justice family is locked in a separate, high-dollar dispute over control of the Greenbrier resort itself.

The Greenbrier was purchased out of bankruptcy by the Justice interests in 2009, financed largely through loans from Carter Bank & Trust. Over time, that debt rose into the hundreds of millions of dollars, leading to a series of at least fourteen forbearance agreements that kept foreclosure at bay even after defaults had occurred.

Earlier this year, White Sulphur Springs Holdings, an affiliate of Omni Hotels and Resorts owned by Texas businessmen Robert and Blake Rowling, bought nearly \$300 million in first-lien Greenbrier debt from Carter Bank. The holding company now controls the debt, but not the hotel itself.

White Sulphur Springs Holdings has asked a federal court for receivership and a temporary injunction that would remove the Justices from operational control, alleging that profits have been diverted while maintenance is deferred, putting the collateral at risk.

The Justice family responded by suing Carter Bank and the Omni affiliated holding company in Greenbrier County Circuit Court, arguing that the bank and the Rowlings used insider information to gain control of the resort's debt and "steal" the hotel. They contend that alleged misconduct in those transactions

undermines the federal foreclosure case, what their filing characterizes as an "original sin" that should cause the later lawsuit to collapse.

Carter Bank is now asking a Greenbrier County judge to dismiss the local case, pointing to venue clauses in nearly two dozen financial agreements. Those contracts, the bank argues, require that "any legal action or proceeding" related to the loans be brought in courts in Martinsville, Va., or the federal court for the Western District of Virginia, or another venue of the bank's choosing.

Bank attorneys say the Justice entities are sophisticated business actors who knowingly agreed to those terms and are now trying to gain leverage by suing at home.

Steve Ruby, representing the Justice family, countered in a statement that the defendants "don't want to face the people of Greenbrier County, whose jobs and livelihoods they're putting at risk." He said the family will "fight any attempt to remove this case from the local community" and will work to protect the resort, its employees and West Virginia from "exploitation by out-of-state companies."

The venue dispute underscores what is at stake for workers and the regional economy: a local jury in a county where the Greenbrier is a major employer, or courts in Virginia more removed from West Virginia politics and job impacts.

Together, the mammography lawsuits and the Greenbrier control fight highlight the deepening legal and financial challenges confronting the Justice family's businesses, from patients questioning the reliability of their cancer screenings to creditors and competitors maneuvering for one of West Virginia's most prominent resorts.



Peek into Summers County's Past: Patricia Mick



Patricia Mick

William Jones

HINTON- "Patricia Lee Mick of Hilldale, WV passed away on Friday, May 15, 2026 following a short illness caused by complications of ALS at the age of 78. I had known Mrs. Mick since I was a small child at Talcott Elementary School And then had her as my 10th grade algebra teacher. My locker was directly across the hall from her classroom. She was always one of the most pleasant souls the entire time I knew her as a teacher and in her retirement.

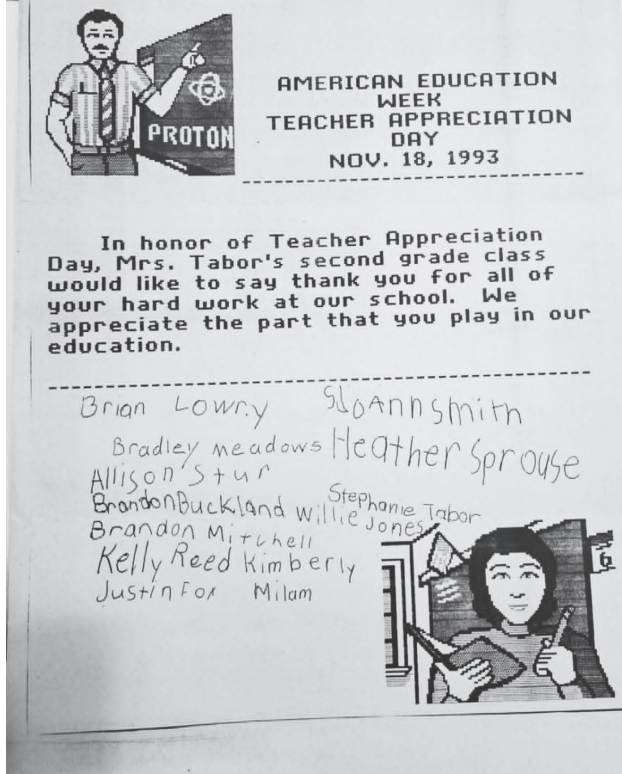
She attained a teaching degree from Concord University in mathematics and French in 1968. She first taught at Princeton Junior High School, then served as a guidance counselor at Greenbrier East High School for one semester before starting her tenure as a Summers County educator at Talcott Junior High School in 1973.

After Summers County

schools were consolidated and Talcott High School closed its doors in 1995, she moved on to Summers County High School. She taught until 2003, having served 34 years as a teacher. A large majority of that time was spent teaching teenagers in Summers County French and math skills. Since her passing, I have read where several former students said she tutored them after school.

A fact many people may not realize about Mrs. Mick is that she served as a certified lay speaker for the Talcott and Hinton Circuit until 2006 and continued as a guest speaker at several churches for years afterward. She was a former member of the WV Global Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

When I wrote the history of Trinity Methodist Church in Talcott, it was due to her involvement with my brother David Lee Jones and his company, JC Construction,



Letter found from Teacher Appreciation Day from 1993.

installing the new roof on the church in 2023. I messaged her back and forth on Facebook on numerous occasions discussing the history for that particular article when I wrote it last year.

As long as her health allowed, she enjoyed traveling, reading, and doing jigsaw puzzles. She faithfully followed her daily TV schedule from morning to night. She treasured her former students and often said with pride, "I taught them." She cherished time with family and friends, and above all, she loved serving the Lord, whether through teaching from the pulpit or serving her community.

I went to her memorial service on May 20, 2026, at Pivont Funeral Home Chapel in Hinton.

Her daughter Sara Mills told me that she found something while the family was writing her obituary that had my signature on it from 1993. I couldn't believe she had kept this card that my second-grade teacher, Karla Tabor had our class sign for Mrs. Mick for Teacher Appreciation Day after 33 years. It put a smile on my face as I always held Mrs. Mick in the highest regards.

In honor of Mrs. Mick and the fact my fondest memory of her occurred when she spoke to our bible club my senior year in 2004, I will end this story with the same bible verse that her obituary ended with: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13"

Alderson Women's Club Hosts Luncheon for Fifth Graders



2026 graduating fifth grade class from Alderson Elementary.

ALDERSON- The Alderson Women's Club hosted a luncheon for the Fifth Grade Students of Alderson Elementary on Thursday, May 21st at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church.

Students and staff were treated to Subway sandwiches, veggies,

fruit trays, chips, and for dessert, brownies and ice cream.

Each student was given a commemorative 2026 coin in honor of their completion of fifth grade.

The club wishes the students, a bright and happy future.

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THE HINTON NEWS



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was in an abusive relationship for 15 years that affected my children badly. I have had emotional problems since I was a child, which caused me to stay in the relationship long past the point I should have left.

My two daughters left home at 16 and 13 to live with their fathers. Both of their fathers allowed the girls to smoke and consume alcohol and drugs. I was still trying to wrap my head around my abusive relationship, which I stayed in for about eight years on and off after my youngest left. It affected my emotional state, and the abuse worsened.

Both of my daughters quit school and had children young. Their lives and potential were ruined, and they still struggle. They were fragile birds who suffered broken wings as a result of my relationship, and I can't forgive myself.

Although I finally left for good, they still don't let me be their mother in a way I should be. Every day I suffer emotionally because of the state of all our lives, and I'm really hurting inside. I don't think these feelings will ever go away or subside. Please help me. -- **DYING INSIDE IN NEW ENGLAND**

DEAR DYING: Before you can help your daughters, you are going to have to help yourself. A way to begin would be to reach out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org), which offers counseling for abused spouses. It offers local resources in every state.

In order for your daughters to heal themselves, they will first have to admit they, too, need help. While it may be too late for you to "mother" your daughters in the way you would like, there may be help for them if they are willing to admit they need it. The National Domestic Violence Hotline can tell them where to find it when they're ready.

DEAR ABBY: Our niece became acquainted with a man through a website. They have been "dating" for more than four years now. Here is the thing: He refuses to be introduced. With one exception, none of her family or friends has met her boyfriend.

My wife and I have invited them to our home, but they have turned down all offers. He has conveniently been elsewhere at family events, such as her child's wedding, birthday parties and holiday meals. Oddly, she has met his family and keeps up with them on social media.

I have discussed this with others in the family and have been told by some that "it's her life." (No argument there.) I respect their privacy, but if her family has meaning to either of them, shouldn't we meet him? -- **IGNORED UNCLE IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR UNCLE: It does seem odd that with "one exception" no one in the family has met your niece's boyfriend. Because this is so concerning to you, perhaps you should pick up a phone and discuss this with her. Is there something that she is hiding, such as cultural or religious differences? Is there an age disparity? Could the gentleman be incarcerated? There is always a reason. You won't know unless you ask.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Chief Nursing Officer (Continued from Page 1)

Prior to that position, Monk served in leadership roles within Carilion's Cardiovascular Institute, including senior director, where she managed complex clinical operations, supported service line growth, and helped lead major facility and program development initiatives.

For Monk, the appointment represents more than a leadership transition, it is a return to the hospital and community where her healthcare career first began.

Monk started her career at Princeton Community Hospital as a nurse and nurse extern. A Princeton native, she said returning to southern West Virginia is especially meaningful.

"I am honored to serve as Chief Nursing Officer at WVU Medicine's Princeton Community Hospital," Monk said. "Returning to the place that gave me my very first nursing job and to the community where

I began my career is a true full circle moment. This community shaped me as a nurse, and I look forward to supporting the entire care team in advancing WVU Medicine's mission to improve the health of West Virginians and all we serve through excellence in patient care, research, and education."

Karen Bowling, MSN, RN, president and CEO of Princeton Community Hospital, said Monk's experience and connection to the region make her an exceptional fit for the organization.

"Chris brings a tremendous depth of experience in nursing leadership and healthcare operations, but what makes this especially meaningful is that her journey began right here at PCH," Bowling said. "She understands our mission, our culture, and our community. Her leadership will be instrumental as we continue strengthening our

nursing workforce, supporting our care teams, and advancing the quality and safety of care we provide to our patients."

Throughout her career, Monk has demonstrated a strong commitment to nursing excellence, team development, and building systems that allow caregivers to work at the highest level of their profession.

About WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital
WVU Medicine Princeton Community Hospital is leading healthcare in the two Virginias. With 420 physicians and mid-level providers, PCH operates a fully accredited 203-bed acute care medical facility, a 64-bed psychiatric hospital, and an emergency room and outpatient services facility in Bluefield. PCH operates seven primary care clinics, 11 specialty clinics, and three rural imaging clinics offering a wide range of care to a 10-county region.

Jesus, The Way Out Of Religious Confusion

(Part 4)

by Mark A. Copeland

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

Last week we saw how local churches were formed when someone who had obeyed the gospel began teaching others.

Sometimes, this teaching by the apostles was done directly, or by appointed emissaries: **For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:17)**

Just as often, the teaching was done through the epistles or letters written by the apostles:

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 14:37)

These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 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 3:14-15)

To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15)

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (2 Thessalonians 3:14)

When we see what the Bible tells us about the Lord's church, we learn that by responding to the gospel and then paying close heed to the "apostles' doctrine" (cf. **Acts 2:42**), people in the first century were able to be Christians only, without all the confusion prevalent today.

But is it possible for us to do this today? **Yes!**

AVOIDING DIVISION BY FOLLOWING JESUS

First of all, we can begin by obeying the same instructions that Peter gave on the Day of Pentecost:

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

By repenting of our sins, and being baptized for the remission of our sins, we would then receive the same blessings as did the 3000 on that day: **Salvation!** By being saved in this manner, we **know** that the Lord truly adds us to HIS church just as He added them: **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)**

What then? Since the early Christians (who continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - **Acts 2:42**) joined no other religious organization, **neither should we!** By being in Christ, we are automatically united with all others who are in Him!

But as members of the Lord's church, we should study carefully the New Testament description of that church. This description is found in the Book of Acts and in the Epistles which follow it. It is here that we will find instruction from the Lord's apostles on **how**:

- To worship the Lord acceptably
- To be scripturally organized as local congregations
- To live and work together as Christians, spreading the gospel of Christ through word and example

We will conclude this lesson next week with questions for thought.

Paid for by Shockley Hill church of Christ.

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

Weekly +

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Your energy is infectious this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to launch a passion project. Expect a surprise compliment from someone you admire.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, treat yourself to a little luxury. You have earned a slow morning of coffee and a crossword puzzle. A cozy discovery brings you a smile.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Your social calendar is buzzing with exciting new connections. Use your natural wit to spur the conversation and you'll be the star of every chat you have with others.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Creative inspiration hits you mid-week, Cancer. Be sure to keep a notebook handy. Your intuition is very sharp right now, leading you to a special breakthrough.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Whether you are looking for it or not, the spotlight is finding you, Leo. Shine bright and share your ideas. The world is ready to applaud your vision.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Organization will be your superpower this week, Virgo. Everything finally clicks into place. Examine the small details around you. You will find peace in them and productivity.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, balance will come easily as you blend work and recreation in perfect ways. An invitation to a local event adds some sparkle to your weekend.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Your magnetism is at an all-time high, Scorpio. Exciting opportunities are being drawn toward you, so you will need to trust your gut on a new venture.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Adventure is calling your name this week, Sagittarius. An optimistic outlook can turn a minor detour into a grand adventure. Get ready for some exciting days ahead.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Take a moment to celebrate your wins with a favorite treat or a good book, Capricorn. You have been hitting your stride and smashing goals with impressive ease.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Your big ideas are drawing some attention, Aquarius. Many people are ready to help you build on them. Stay curious and open to a clever suggestion from a friend.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Your imagination is taking the driver's seat this week, Pisces. A heartwarming moment with a loved one reminds you how much others care.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

<p>MAY 31 Brooke Shields, Actress/Model (61)</p>	<p>JUNE 2 Dana Carvey, Comic (71)</p>	<p>JUNE 5 Mark Wahlberg, Actor (55)</p>
<p>JUNE 1 Tom Holland, Actor (30)</p>	<p>JUNE 3 Rafael Nadal, Athlete (40)</p>	<p>JUNE 6 Drew McIntyre, Wrestler (41)</p>
	<p>JUNE 4 Noah Wyle, Actor (55)</p>	



Math Blocks

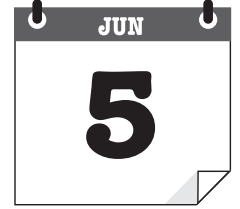
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	6	5	31
2			22
5		10	26
27	25	27	

10	11	5
12	8	2
5	6	20

Solution

DAY IN HISTORY



1837: Houston is incorporated by the Republic of Texas.

1851: Harriet Beecher Stowe's serial, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," starts a 10-month run in an abolitionist newspaper.

2002: The space shuttle Endeavour launches, carrying the Expedition 5 crew to the International Space Station.

Animal FACT:

This animal sleeps through roughly 70 percent of its life.

Answer: Cat

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

YM INNE VLSIE

Answer: My nine lives

NEW WORD

MEOW

the crying sound of a cat

How they say that in...

English: Fur
Spanish: Pelo
Italian: Pelliccia
French: Pelage
German: Fell

Did You Know?

Most cats are lactose intolerant and should not be given milk to drink. This goes against images that often show cats drinking milk.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: A sleeping cat

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176 Medical Center Drive,
Rainelle, WV 25962
• (304) 438-6188

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

Lewisburg Pediatrics And Family Health Center
2140 North Jefferson St., Suite
200, Lewisburg, WV 24901
• (304) 660-1155

Maxwelton Health Center & Pharmacy
390 Industrial Park Road,
Maxwelton, WV 24957
• (681) 318-3610

& Maxwelton Dental Center
(681) 318-3611

Midland Trail Health Center
26709 Midland Trail, Hico, WV
25854 • (304) 969-8080

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

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

White Sulphur Springs Health Center
128 Community Lane,
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24996
• (304) 956-2577

Eastern Greenbrier Health Center
595 Spartan Lane, Lewisburg, WV
24901 • (304) 645-1052

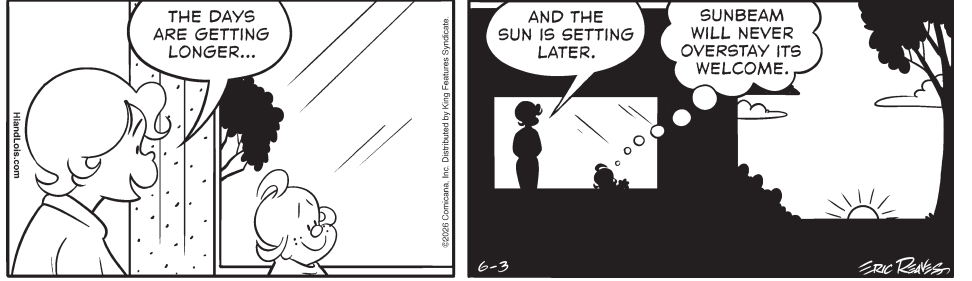
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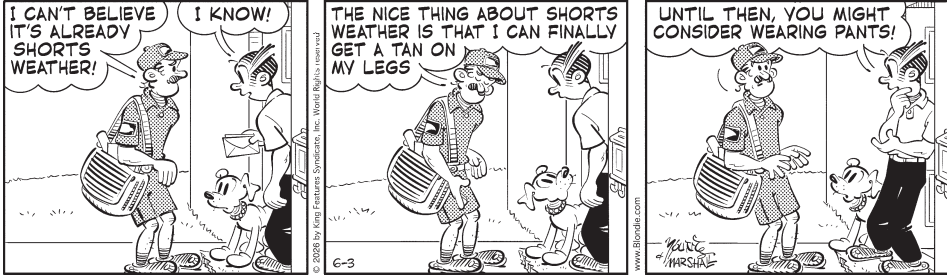
Beetle Bailey



Hi and Lois



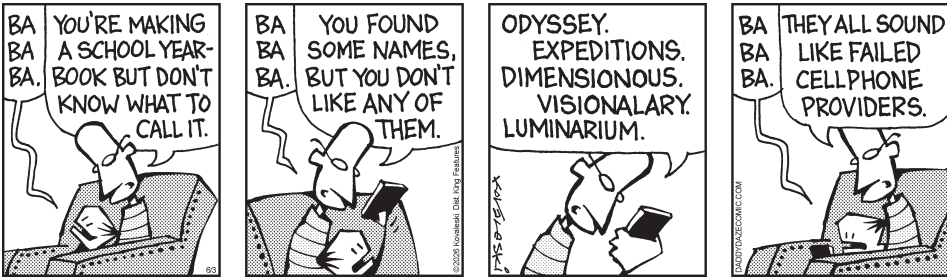
Blondie



Mutts



Daddy Daze



Zits



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- A young canine
- Cologne
- Fictional British P.I.
- Midway between northeast and east
- A place to shop
- Minneapolis suburb
- Single lens reflex
- NY Mets great Tommie
- Informal loan clubs
- Habitual twitching
- Holm oak
- Willing to consent or submit
- In an early way
- Made possible
- Language in Ghana
- Relating to one's birth
- Deep-bodied

CLUES DOWN

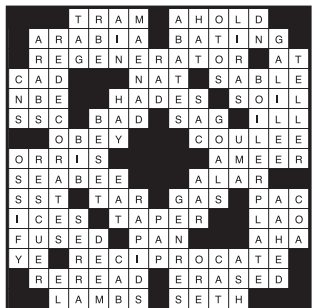
- fishes
- Defunct European currency
- Small American songbird
- One from L.A.
- After tenth
- Hillside
- Red deer
- Partner to "oohed"
- Indian musical pattern
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Golden peas plant
- Breezed through
- Midway between east and southeast
- Frameworks
- Danish krone
- Fall back
- Influential Korean leader

CLUES ACROSS

- row or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Turkish leader title
- Nag
- Blank
- Closely woven cotton fabric
- A nice shot in golf
- Away from wind
- Evergreen shrub genus
- Large African antelope
- Something you receive
- Satisfy
- Wet dirt
- No longer here
- Writing utensil
- Ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Alternative forms of a gene
- Buddy
- We all do it
- Chicken
- No seats avail-

CLUES DOWN

- able
- Yearned to possess
- Ineffectual
- Explosive
- Turkish title
- Worn near the foot
- Impatient
- Set an example for others
- Actor Pitt
- Instrument of torture
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to print
- Storied college hoops program
- Midway between south and southeast



Last Wednesday's Answer (Answers Next Wednesday)

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

Level: Intermediate

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)

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

Answer To Last Wednesday's Puzzle →

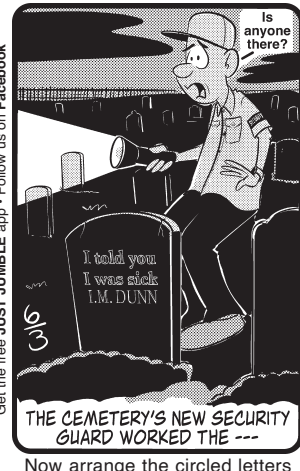
JUMBLE

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

EDYNR
 HRWFA
 EVSINT
 RTGAET

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THE CEMETERY'S NEW SECURITY GUARD WORKED THE ---



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: GAVEL, SPICY, SHRIMP, BEETLE
 Answer: They were able to find enough leftovers in the refrigerator to put lunch together — **PIECEMEAL**

LEGAL NOTICE

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, June 11, 2026 at 6:30 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 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
(27my3jn)

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, June 11, 2026 at 6:30 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 PRO-

GRAM; 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 en-

act the Ordinance upon final reading.

/s/ Betty Thomas
Recorder
(27my3jn)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY

(Mt. Zion UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Notice is hereby given that Board of Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will, on or after June 3, 2026 QUITCLAIM, GRANT and CONVEY to **Steve R. Pack**, all of their right, title and interest in and to the following described lot or parcel of land, lying in Greenbrier District, Summers County, West Virginia, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

PARCEL ONE

BEGINNING at a stone originally corner of Church lot S. 9 W. 242 feet to a stone, S. 78 E. 250 feet to a post corner of fence N. 27 E. 174 feet to center of road, N. 62 W. 275 feet with road to the place of the **BEGINNING**, containing one and one-fourth acre, more or less, and it is meant by this conveyance to increase the size of the said original church lot to the outer dimensions given above. Said lot is located on Zion Mountain in Greenbrier District, Summers County, West Virginia.

And being the same property conveyed from Mrs. Sarah E. Foster and E. H. Foster, her husband to Trustees of the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, by Deed dated February 12, 1938 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Summers County, West Virginia in Deed Book 68, at page 361, reference to which is hereby made.

PARCEL TWO

A STRIP OF LAND 10 feet wide, more or less, on the east, south and west sides of the Mt. Zion Church Cemetery as enclosed by a new fence erected during 1984.

And being the same property conveyed to the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Zion Church by Deed dated December 18, 1984 and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 150, at Page 199, reference to which is hereby made.

Said Mt. Zion United Methodist Church was

closed effective November 21, 2024 by resolution of a majority of the District Superintendents of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Dated May 11, 2026.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By:
Robert N. File, Attorney
130 Main Street
Beckley, West Virginia
(304) 253-3358
(27my3jn)

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Weekly Recipes

Spice Up Dinnertime With A Cajun Classic

Experimenting in the kitchen is one of the joys of cooking. Trying new recipes or even going off-script and tinkering with an existing recipe based on your own hunch can open eyes and treat taste buds to new flavor profiles.

Home cooks who want to expand their culinary repertoires with some particularly notable flavor can look to Cajun food and its distinct dishes to accomplish that goal. If that sounds like an exciting night in the kitchen, try this recipe for "Jambalaya With Sausage and Shrimp" from Lines+Angles.

Jambalaya With Sausage and Shrimp
Makes 4 Servings

- Ingredients**
- 1 - tablespoon vegetable oil
 - 8 - ounces chorizo or andouille sausage, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
 - 1 - lb. large raw shell-on shrimp
 - 1 - onion, peeled and finely chopped
 - 1 - rib of celery, rinsed, trimmed and finely chopped
 - 1 - small red bell pepper, rinsed; trimmed, seeded, and diced
 - 1 - small green bell pepper, rinsed, trimmed, seeded, and diced
 - 4 - cloves of garlic, peeled and minced
 - 1 1/2 - cups long grain white rice, rinsed
 - 2 - tablespoons tomato paste
 - 1 - teaspoon salt
 - 1 - teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, minced
 - 14 - ounces canned diced tomatoes, drained, juice reserved
 - 4 - cups clam juice
 - 1 - bay leaf
 - Fresh parsley, rinsed and chopped (for garnish)

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Adjust oven rack to middle position.
2. In a deep cast iron skillet or Dutch oven, set over medium-high heat, heat oil until shimmering, but not smoking. Add sausage and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, or until browned. Remove sausage from pan using a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Add shrimp to the pan and cook until the shells are browned on both sides, about 1 minute per side. Transfer shrimp to a large bowl and refrigerate.
3. Add onion, celery, peppers, and garlic to the pan. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables have softened, about 7 to 10 minutes. Add rice, tomato paste, salt, and thyme; cook until rice is completely coated with oil, about 2 minutes.
4. Stir in the tomatoes, 1/4 cup reserved tomato juice, clam juice, bay leaf, and sausage. Place a piece of aluminum foil directly on rice. Bring to a boil, cover pan, transfer to oven and bake for about 18 to 20 minutes, or until the rice is almost tender and most of the liquid is absorbed.
5. Meanwhile, remove the shrimp from the refrigerator; peel and clean, discarding the shells. Remove pan from oven, uncover and remove aluminum foil. Gently stir in the peeled shrimp. Lay the foil back down over the surface of the rice and cover with lid, return to oven, and cook until the rice is tender, all the liquid is absorbed and the shrimp is cooked through, about 5 minutes.
6. Remove pan from oven, uncover, remove foil and bay leaf. Sprinkle with chopped parsley. Divide between bowls. Serve.



LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Summers Fiduciary Supervisor's Office at 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 100, Hinton, WV 25951-0097. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file notice of an objection with the County Commission within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any claims against an estate must be filed within 60 days of the first publication of this Notice in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 and 44-3.

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

Publication Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Claim Deadline: Sunday, August 2, 2026

Estate: Regina Joy McAlpine
Affiant: David McAlpine

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 27th, 2026.
Donald R. Basham Jr.
Fiduciary Supervisor of Summers County (3jn)

Notice To Creditors, Distributees, and Legatees Proposed / Short Form Settlements

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

I have before me the Final settlements and Proposals for the estates of the following deceased persons, which shall be presented to the County Commission of Summers County, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Hinton, West Virginia on the 10th day of June, 2026, at or near 10:00 a.m. These proposed settlements and short form settlements have been presented to me by the fiduciary of such estates which settlements I have approved as indicated below:

Estate: Donnia I. Yancey
Fiduciary: Janet Yancey
Estate: Maud Rose Crews
Fiduciary: Homer W. Crews

Estate: Johnny Lagrant Starling (Proposed Settlement)

Fiduciary: Chad Starling
Estate: Larry Wayne Ward
Fiduciary: Timothy W. Ward

Estate: Ricky Lee Wiley (Proposed Settlement)
Fiduciary: Theresa Wiley

Estate: Anne M. Brown (Proposed Settlement)

Fiduciary: Lawrence J. Ickes

Estate: Norman H. Cole Jr.
Fiduciary: Norman H. Cole III

Estate: Kimberly Ann Johnson

Fiduciary: Ronald Johnson

Estate: Terry Lynn Newton
Fiduciary: Drew A. Newton

Estate: Nettie Lee Gunter
Fiduciary: Linda Gaile Wiker

Estate: Frank Jones Jr.
Fiduciary: Carolyn C. Jones

Estate: Ronald Harold Bock Sr.

Fiduciary: Betty C. Bock
Estate: Norma Kay Lawhorn

Fiduciary: Jennifer Lawhorn

Estate: Lillie E. Thompson
Fiduciary: John R. Hedrick

Estate: Mary Ann McManaway

Fiduciary: Scott L. McManaway

Estate: Nettie Carol Kelley
Fiduciary: Diana Sue Wheeler & Drema C. Wilfong

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

Given under my hand this the 27th day of May, 2026.
Donnie Basham
Fiduciary Supervisor (3jn)

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following estates have been opened for probate in the Summers Fiduciary Supervisor's Office at 120 Ballengee Street, Suite 100, Hinton, WV 25951-0097. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code § 41-5-11 - 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Summers County Fiduciary Supervisor's office within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code § 44-2 or 44-3A.

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

commissioner.

First Publication Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Claim Deadline: Sunday, August 2, 2026

ESTATE OF: CHARLES ROLEY BEMO

EXECUTOR: VEDA RUTH BEMO

ESTATE OF: EASTER VIRGINIA KIDD

EXECUTRIX: DONNA BOWYER

ESTATE OF: WILLIAM LEE SMITH

ADMINISTRATRIX CTA: CATHERINE ELIZABETH ALLEN

ESTATE OF: JEFFERY LEE STEWART

EXECUTRIX: SHIRLEY LEE STEWART

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 27, 2026.
Donald R. Basham Jr.

Fiduciary Supervisor of Summers County (3,10jn)

In the Circuit Court of Summers County, West Virginia 5/1/2026

Case No. CC-45-2026-JA-10

IN THE INTEREST OF: SUTTON WILSON WARD

Adult Respondent(s): **CARRIE WARD**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The purpose of this action is to determine guardianship of Sutton Wilson Ward (DOB: 05/01/2026). Petitioner, the West Virginia Department of Human Services, is seeking continued legal and physical custody of said child, and/or Termination of Parental Rights.

It appearing that the whereabouts of any known or unknown father, or of any named or unnamed father, or of anyone claiming paternity of infant child, is presently unknown at this time, it is ORDERED that any known or unknown father, or any named or unnamed father, or anyone claiming paternity of infant child, appear in the Office of the Honorable Amy L. Mann, Judge of the Circuit Court of Summers County, West Virginia, for a Preliminary Hearing on June 15, 2026, at 11:45 a.m., of that day and object, or make other defense, to the Petition, otherwise guardianship of the child may be granted to the West Virginia Department of Human Services, and the parental rights of the father may be terminated.

Further, it is hereby ORDERED that any known or unknown father, or any named or unnamed father, or anyone claiming paternity of Sutton Wilson Ward (DOB: 05/01/2026), be advised of his right to have counsel at every stage of these proceedings and that counsel will be appointed if they cannot pay for the services of counsel and that such proceedings may result in the severance of parental rights and the transfer of custody of said child unto the Petitioner.

/s/ Amy L. Mann
Circuit Court Judge
30th Judicial Circuit
(3,10jn)

Although it can be a Pest, Red-Tailed Hawk an Important Part of WV

Brandon Baker

The Greenbrier Independent

The red-tailed hawk is one of the most common and recognizable birds of prey found in West Virginia.

Known for its broad wings, sharp eyesight, and rusty-red tail feathers, the red-tailed hawk can often be seen flying high above fields, forests, and highways across the Mountain State. These hawks usually measure between 18 and 26 inches long with wingspans reaching over four feet. Interestingly, their loud, raspy scream is frequently used in movies and television to represent the call of an eagle. Red-tailed hawks build large nests in tall trees or on cliffs and primarily feed on small mammals such as mice, rats, rabbits, and squirrels.

Red-tailed hawks play an important role in nature because they help control rodent populations. Farmers

and landowners often benefit from hawks because they reduce the number of mice and other pests that can damage crops, feed supplies, and property. By keeping the ecosystem balanced, these birds serve as natural pest control and help maintain healthy wildlife populations. Hawks are protected under federal law through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal to harm or capture them without special permits.

Although red-tailed hawks mostly hunt small wild animals, they can occasionally target young chickens, ducks, or other small farm animals if food is scarce or livestock is left exposed. My wife has had several of her backyard chickens taken by hawks, and according to the next-door neighbor, hawks sit perched in his tree a lot.

Farmers can help protect chickens by keeping them inside covered pens or

coops, especially during daylight hours when hawks are most active. Installing overhead netting, wire fencing, or covered runs can prevent hawks from swooping down into chicken areas. Providing shelters such as bushes, small roofs, or hiding spaces also gives chickens a place to escape if a hawk appears nearby.

Another way to discourage red-tailed hawks from hanging around farms is to remove easy hunting opportunities. Cleaning up spilled feed can reduce rodents, which in turn makes the area less attractive to hawks. Some farmers also use reflective tape, scare devices, guard animals, or motion-activated sprinklers to frighten hawks away. While these birds can sometimes create challenges for poultry owners, they remain an important part of West Virginia's wildlife and contribute greatly to the natural balance of the environment.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 26-0508-E-42T
MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges

NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND PROPOSED CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

Notice is hereby given that Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company, public utilities, have filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, tariffs containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 558,000 customers in northern, central, eastern and northwestern portions of West Virginia in all or portions of the following counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood.

If approved by the Public Service Commission, the proposed increased rates and charges will occur in two steps, with the first step effective August 1, 2026, and the second step effective June 1, 2027. The first step will produce an approximate \$37.9 million increase in revenues, or approximately 2.1%. The second step will produce an approximate \$37.6 million increase in revenues, which is an incremental increase of approximately 2.1% over the first step. The aggregate of both increases is \$75.6 million, or 4.25% as compared with present rates.

The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers are proposed to be changed as follows:

Average Customer Class	First Step Increase		Second Step Increase	
	Effective August 1, 2026		Effective June 1, 2027	
Residential	\$4.12	3.0%	\$4.11	2.9%
Commercial	\$6.88	1.7%	\$6.74	1.6%
Industrial	\$2,545.25	1.3%	\$2,508.64	1.3%
Street Lighting	\$9.60	2.0%	\$9.41	1.9%

There are no resale customers of Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be rescheduled or cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to protest or comment should file a written comment prior to July 9, 2026. Anyone desiring to file protest or comments or participate on the record in public comment proceedings may do so without formally intervening. Protests and comments may be filed online through the Public Service Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit Comment" link or may be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

Anyone desiring to formally intervene must file for leave to intervene on or before June 26, 2026, and comply with the Public Service Commission's rules on intervention. Petitions to intervene must include a statement of the petitioner's unique interest in the outcome of the proceeding and reason for the intervention. Formal intervention is necessary for party status and to allow participation in the evidentiary hearings. Failure to formally and timely intervene will restrict rights to participate as a party. All petitions to intervene may be mailed or hand delivered to The Executive Secretary, at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the tariff filing, as well as a representative to provide information about the filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Company offices at 5001 NASA Blvd., Fairmont, WV 26554. A copy of this tariff filing is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission.

Monongahela Power Company and
The Potomac Edison Company

Sweet Dog Abby Looking for Forever Home



Abby (Photo: Summers Co. Humane Society)

At just 1½ years old and 50 pounds of pure sweetness, Abby is the total package — beauty, brains, and a heart of gold.

This gorgeous girl is the perfect medium-sized bestie for all your favorite things; couch cuddles, neighborhood walks, road trips, and lazy Sunday naps

Abby's Highlights:

- Dog-friendly (as long as her doggy friends are kind to her!)

- Great with cats

- Good with kids and sweet, gentle, and absolutely beautiful

- Loyal and loving once she knows you're "her people"

Abby can be a little shy

around some men at first, but with patience, kindness, and a few meetups, she blossoms beautifully. She has already

warmed up to several male volunteers and shown just how loving and devoted she can be.

This sweet girl forms deep bonds with her family and loves hard. Because of that, Abby would do best in a calmer home without lots of strangers coming and going. Once she feels safe, you'll have a loyal shadow and best friend for life.

Abby isn't looking for a perfect home — just a loving one where she can feel safe, cherished, and adored forever.

Seth Burke: Greenbrier County's Homing Pigeons with a Purpose

Susan Smith-Linton

The Greenbrier Independent

QUINWOOD- Seth Burke, a Greenbrier County native, is a husband and father of three who also runs an insurance agency. His interest in homing pigeons began in childhood, sparked by his uncle who kept pigeons.

Burke views the release of a dove at a cemetery as a profoundly peaceful and meaningful tribute for families during times of loss, and this belief anchors his work.

Burke launched his pigeon-focused business in 2000, paused it in 2014, and rekindled the venture in recent years. He is currently working toward full operation, with selective releases available now and the goal of being fully open by July.

In the interim, birds fly around Burke's home area for several weeks to build confidence, gradually moving farther away as training progresses. GPS bands are used to monitor each bird's distance and performance, ensuring accountability for every release.

A recent milestone occurred in Charleston, where a memorial release covered 55 air miles and the birds returned in about 1 hour and 28 minutes, travel-

ing at roughly 40 mph with occasional bursts. Burke notes that his birds can exceed 50 mph at times, depending on conditions.

The core mission is simple: provide a meaningful, respectful service to families during funerals and memorials by combining a time-honored tradition with modern care and reliability. Burke has flown his birds at thousands of funerals over the years, always aiming to deliver a tranquil, memorable moment for grieving loved ones.

I can attest Burke's pigeons were released at my mother's funeral bringing us a comforting moment at the close of her service.

Looking ahead, Burke expresses gratitude for the support of Greenbrier County and the surrounding communities. He envisions expanding from selective releases toward a fully open operation in the near future, extending this unique tribute to more families while maintaining high standards of care and reliability.

To reach White Flight Lofts call 304-667-4336.



A pigeon perched outdoors.

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DEEP BLUE SEA WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| ABYSS | CORAL | LAGOON | SEAFLOOR |
| ANEMONE | CURRENT | MARINE | SHARK |
| ARCHIPELAGO | DOLPHIN | OCEANIC | SHORELINE |
| BENTHIC | ESTUARY | PELAGIC | TIDE |
| COASTLINE | HYDROTHERMAL | PLANKTON | TSUNAMI |
| | KELP | REEF | WHALE |
| | | SALINITY | |