

# The Hurricane Breeze

SINCE 1900 THE BEST FAMILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL OF PUTNAM COUNTY AND THE WHOLE WORLD

COUNTY COMMISSION NEWS  
**Putnam Municipalities  
 And Non-Profits Seek  
 \$172,000 in Funding**

By Ron Allen

Poca mayor William Jones requested \$16,416 for park improvements. Improvements include an electric utility pole and rubber mulch.

Joe Rumbaugh requested \$8,000 on behalf of the Historic Hoge House Foundation for cemetery headstone restoration, front porch repair, and a Disability Ramp.

Nathan Clendenin of the Putnam County Fair Board submitted a request of \$12,000 to construct three (possibly four) ADA compliant parking places near the ticket booth.

Eleanor mayor Cam Clendenin asked the commission for \$30,000 which would allow the town to make a complete make over at the town park which would include upgrading playground equipment and sidewalk replacement. The funds would also be used to upgrade the North Putnam Little League field adjacent to the pool.

J.P. Owens of the Putnam Area Community Enrichment (PACE) Foundation requested funding for Giant Ear of Corn to be placed at the entrance to Gritt's Farms Corn Maze; an oversized skateboard to be located at the City of Hurricane skate park; and a fiberglass storybook which would serve as a bench at the Putnam County Library.

Chris Moles of Upwardway Ministries requested funds for the Upward Youth Church Camp. The camp would be available to the general public.

Commission president Andy Skidmore stated that the \$100,000 allocated for the grants from the county's Hotel/Motel Tax receipts is much less than the requested grants. Skidmore asked that action on requests be tabled until after the commission has completed its budget

work for the coming fiscal year. The commission will revisit the requests once the budget process is completed.

In other action, the commission appointed Donald Pauley, Jacob Pack, Bryan Hoylman, Dave Hobba, Tim Engel, and Jason Baker to the Putnam County Planning Commission; and Lowell Wilks to the Putnam County Historic Landmarks Board.

The next regular county commission meeting is Tuesday, February 24, at 5:00 p.m.

## January Giants Warm Visitors On A Cold Day at Valley Park



At 50 pounds, Britney the python is a heavy load for her handler.

By Ron Allen

Zoology Zone Science Center at Valley Park was filled with excitement on Saturday, January 31, as the Center held a January Giants Event. The event allowed visitors to learn about the larger reptiles kept at the center. In addition to learning their weights and lengths, they had a chance to touch iguanas and Burmese pythons. Britney, the Burmese python, is 22 feet long, and one very large iguana is 6 feet long.



Guests at the center could pet iguanas under the supervision of their keepers.

### WEATHER SUMMARY

January 27 - February 2	Low	High
January 27		
Hurricane	3°	25°
January 28		
Hurricane	2°	26°
January 29		
Hurricane	-3°	27°
January 30		
Hurricane	0°	22°
January 31		
Hurricane	4°	16°
February 1		
Hurricane	4°	22°
February 2		
Hurricane	-2°	28°

\*RAIN/\*\*SNOW  
None recorded

## Putnam County Commission Approves Rezoning Agreement



By Ron Allen

In August of 2023, Valdeacourt Farms requested that two parcels of land on Hurricane Creek Road at the junction of U.S. 35 be rezoned from Rural Residential to Commercial High Density.

The Putnam County Planning Commission held a hearing and recommended the rezoning as requested by Valdeacourt Farms. M. L. Reed, who resides on Hurricane Creek Road opposite one parcel and adjacent to another, objected. When the Putnam County Commission held a hearing on the matter, it denied the rezoning request. Valdeacourt Farms filed a suit in circuit court

which would require the commission to approve the zoning. The court granted a motion made on behalf of M. L. Reed to be part of the proceedings. After the court heard dispositive motions from Valdeacourt and Reed, the court scheduled the matter for trial, which date was not set. M. L. Reed and Valdeacourt agreed upon a settlement which would reclassify Parcel 50.8 from R-R to C-2, with a 50-foot setback along Hurricane Creek Road. The northerly portion of Parcel 51 would be reclassified from R-R to C-2, with the southerly portion of the parcel remaining R-R. As a result of the agreement, M. L. Reed will withdraw his claim for relief and Valdeacourt will withdraw

his complaint against the commission.

County Attorney Larry Frye, who represented the commission, said that he believed the judge wanted a settlement of agreement rather than a trial. The commission voted to approve the settlement agreement, and future action by the court will determine the outcome of the rezoning request.

### Notice to Subscribers

The Breeze does not issue renewal notices. Annual subscriptions are due on the date listed on the mailing address label.

Payments can be mailed to: Hurricane Breeze, P. O. Box 310, Hurricane, WV 25526.

## Fire Wood Sale Benefits Hurricane's Christmas Blessings Program



The sale of fire wood produced \$1,370 for the Christmas Blessings program. By Ron Allen

Bundles of White Oak, Black Oak, Red Oak and Hickory were sold last week for \$100 each (limit 2 per household). Each bundle was approximately 3/4 pickup truck load. The bundle containers are repurposed carrying

The City of Hurricane Street Department produces firewood from a variety of sources including trees that fall upon city rights of way during storms and from clearing operations on

containers used to ship chemicals to the city's sewer plant.

Pickup was Saturday at 9 am at the bottom of water tank hill (just past Hurricane Middle School).

The Christmas Blessings program served over 500 in need last year.

## Community Calendar

If you want your event listed in the Community Calendar, write to the Hurricane Breeze at PO Box 310, Hurricane, West Virginia 25526, or phone 304-562-9881. If you have email, send it to breezenews@citynet.net and mark your subject line "Community Calendar." There is no charge for posting an event in the calendar.

### SATURDAYS THROUGH MARCH

- There will be a free open gym for 1st - 5th graders every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at Zone Out Sports, Morris Court, Hurricane.

### THURSDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- STEMuary Event: There will be a Bill Nye the Science Guy watch party at 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays in February at the Poca Library.

### FEBRUARY 6 - 9

- Five Below in Liberty Square, Teays Valley, will be celebrating their grand opening. Free drawstring bag while supplies last on Saturday and Sunday.

### FEBRUARY 6

- Coffee With A Twist, 101 Main Street, Nitro, will be hosting a Paint Your Spouse Date Night at 6 p.m. The cost is \$50 per couple. To reserve a spot, call (304) 759-9002.

- There will be a spaghetti lunch fundraiser for Herb Mullins from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Winfield Community Center. The cost is \$10 for a plate.

- Business Before Business will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Putnam County Library in Teays Valley. RSVP by calling 304-757-6510.

- Cozy Soul: Soothing Seasonal Fatigue Yin Meditation Yoga will be held at 6:30 p.m. at River Ridge Church, Saturn Way, Hurricane.

### FEBRUARY 7

- Sugar Shenanigans, 14 Bank Street, Nitro, will be holding their grand reopening from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Poca High School Show Choirs will present MusicFest at the school. Performances begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day. The 2026 competition show, "Gone Coastal," will be presented at 5:30 p.m.

- There will be a tire and electronic collection at 9 a.m. at Paynes Produce in Winfield.

### THE HURRICANE BREEZE

Entered in the Post Office at Hurricane, W.Va., 25526, as Periodical Class Mail Matter, on October 16, 1900.

### PUTNAM COUNTY'S MOST READ NEWSPAPER

Subscription \$22 per year (including tax) in Zip Code 25526 and \$27 for all other Putnam County addresses. West Virginia addresses are \$45 per year. Out of state addresses are \$50 per year.

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Phone (304) 562-9881 email address at hurricanebreeze@citynet.net

- The Meeks Mountain Trails Hurricane Crush Run will start at 9 a.m. at Meeks Mountain Trails, located at the Hurricane City Park.

- The 2026 Hurricane Polar Plunge starts at 5 p.m. at Hurricane City Park. For more information, go to [www.soww.org/polarplunge](http://www.soww.org/polarplunge)

### FEBRUARY 8

- The Putnam County Fair will be hosting Super Bowl Sunday pre-game lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Eleanor Fire Department. Lunch is \$7.

### FEBRUARY 9

- The Town of Eleanor will be hosting a puzzle competition from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$20 for a team of 2-4 people. To register, call 304-586-2319.

### FEBRUARY 10

- There are free line dancing classes every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Brookse's Bar and Grill, 13184 Winfield Road, Winfield.

- The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn will be sponsored by ServPro and will be held at noon at Area 34, 971 WV Route 34, Hurricane.

- The WV Attorney General's Office will be at the Putnam County Main Library at 10:30 a.m. to discuss scams and how to avoid them.

- The Putnam Young Professionals will be hosting Off the Clock Evening Networking from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Fireside Grille in Teays Valley.

### FEBRUARY 11

- STEMuary Event: Use your ingenuity to make a marshmallow igloo that can withstand the winter wind at 3:30 p.m. at the Eleanor Library.

- Destination Metro Valley - a one-day tourism conference - will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Valley Park Conference Center in Hurricane. Tickets for the day are \$50. Register by going to <https://destinationmetro.wv.square.site>

### FEBRUARY 12

- The Bush League Men's Baseball Team will be holding an information social at 7 p.m. at the Eleanor Fire Station. To RSVP, call (681) 424-6060.

- There will be a Valentine's Painting Event from 6 to 8 p.m. at Brookse's Bar and Grill, 13184 Winfield Road, Winfield. Tickets are \$41.93. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brookses-valentines-painting-events-tickets-1980235925961>

- Learn how to grow cut flowers with Lisa at 6:30 p.m. at Area 34, 971 State Route 34, Hurricane. Register by going to <https://www.simpletix.com/e/how-to-grow-cut-flowers-with-lisa-tickets-255185>

- There will be a Galentines Women's Health Event from 10 a.m. to noon at Marshall Health - Teays Valley, 300 Corporate Center Drive, Scott Depot.

- The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Network of Women will be holding a Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. at Area 34, 971 State Route 34, Hurricane.

### FEBRUARY 13

- Bancroft Mission, 5936 Charleston Road, Bancroft, will be holding a couples' date night from 7 to 9 p.m. To register, call 304-941-5951 by Feb. 8.

- The Macholah Ballet, 6422 Teays Valley Road, Scott Depot, will be holding a Boot Scootin Date Night line dance class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 per couple. Register here: <https://dancestudio-pro.com/>

## French Creek Freddie Predicts More Winter for West Virginia

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced that French Creek Freddie, the state's official weather-predicting groundhog, predicted six more weeks of winter during the annual Groundhog Day celebration at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center in Upshur County, with Gov. Patrick Morrisey helping lead the ceremony and share Freddie's forecast with the public.

During the annual event, which was attended by 150 visitors from across the state, Gov. Morrisey joined WVDNR officials as Freddie emerged from his burrow and saw his shadow under clear skies, signaling that winter will continue.

"Groundhog Day with French Creek Freddie is one of West Virginia's most beloved traditions and a fun way to bring families and communities together," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. "Even if winter is sticking around, the Wildlife Center remains a great place to visit year-round and learn about West Virginia's wildlife and the conservation efforts that protect our natural resources."

According to folklore, if a groundhog sees its shadow, six more weeks of winter can be expected. However, if a groundhog doesn't see its shadow, spring will come early. Over the past four decades, about 50 percent of Freddie's predictions have come true, making his forecasts a fun tradition for West Virginians. Freddie predicted an early spring in 2025.

During the ceremony, Gov. Morrisey and WVDNR officials also announced that the West Virginia State Wildlife Center's loop trail has been officially designated as a Mountaineer Mile.

The Mountaineer Mile program was launched by Gov. Morrisey in April 2025 at Little Beaver State Park to encourage West Virginians to walk at least

online/themacholahballet

### FEBRUARY 14

- Gritt's Midway Greenhouse presents their 5th Annual Hearts & Houseplants event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They open their foliage greenhouses for ONE Saturday only in the winter months and pack it with houseplants.

- There will be a free Valentine's Day luncheon for seniors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eleanor Town Hall, 401 Roosevelt Blvd., Eleanor.

- The Putnam Farmers Market, 971 WV Route 34, Hurricane, will be holding their Valentine Market from 9 a.m. to noon.

- Galentines & Guillotines - Women Only Open Jiu-Jitsu Mat will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Category Five Jiu-Jitsu, Progress Way, Hurricane.

## Free Ad Space

The Breeze is offering free ads to individuals and organizations. Yard sales, estate sales, home appliances, personal items, etc.

Submissions must be received by noon on Monday for publication on Thursday. With the exception of upcoming yard/estate sale notices, a new submission is required each week.

Space is limited. Submission by email is preferred ([breezenews@citynet.net](mailto:breezenews@citynet.net)).

one mile each day and lead healthier lifestyles while enjoying the state's public lands. Since then, the governor has partnered with West Virginia State Parks, which is part of the WVDNR, to designate official Mountaineer Mile trails at 44 state parks and forests across the state.

"This program has been incredibly successful in getting West Virginians outside, moving more and making healthy lifestyle choices," Gov. Morrisey said. "Designating a Mountaineer Mile at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center is a great way to encourage people to stay active during the winter months while enjoying our state's natural beauty and wildlife."

The designation at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center marks the first time a Mountaineer Mile trail has been established on a WVDNR-operated property outside the state parks system. The accessible loop trail provides visitors with an easy way to stay active while observing native wildlife in a natural setting.

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the end of March, with free admission during this period. Regular hours and admission rates go into effect on April 1. To learn more about the Wildlife Center, visit [WVdnr.gov/west-virginia-wildlife-center](http://WVdnr.gov/west-virginia-wildlife-center)

## PBS KIDS

### Writers Contest

The PBS KIDS Writers Contest at West Virginia Public Broadcasting is an annual competition that encourages West Virginia children in grades K-5 to explore the power of creativity by writing and illustrating their own stories.

Submissions for the 2026 WVPB PBS KIDS Writers Contest are due by March 31, 2026.

Entries may be mailed OR emailed and must be postmarked by March 31.

For contest rules and an entry form, go to <https://wvpublic.org/wvpb-education/pbs-kids-writers-contest/>

## Putnam County Food Pantries And Clothing Banks

for more information.

**Christian Community Cupboard**  
2843 Virginia Avenue  
Hurricane  
(304) 562-9373

Food pantry open from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Fridays

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
3653 Teays Valley Road  
Hurricane  
(304) 757-8829

Call for food pantry hours.

**Light House Baptist Church**  
2440 US Route 60  
Hurricane  
304-562-3900

Food pantry on the second Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. Church also offers free clothing giveaways on a regular basis.

**Teays Valley Baptist Church**  
3926 Teays Valley Road  
Hurricane  
(304) 380-3100

Call for food pantry hours.

**Heartbeat of the Valley**  
28 Mission Way  
Scott Depot  
(681) 235-2097

[heartbeatofthevalley.com](http://heartbeatofthevalley.com)

Organization offers food pantry, community programs, and special events; call or go to webpage

## The Way We Were, The Way We Are

By Brenda Burke

As Valentine's Day approaches, I was asked if I believe that a person has one true love. Of course I do. I believe that there is one person for another... I believe in love forever and ever. That being said... this is not a question with an easy answer.

Circumstances happen... sometimes we lose our true love... life goes on, and we make the best of it. Just because I believe in one true love does not mean I do not believe it is possible to find love again.

Poets and authors write about love more than any other subject. Look at Shakespeare. Even his tragedies have love. His sonnets also... "as long as men can breathe and eyes can see..."

Elizabeth Barret Browning... "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."

There are so many romances written that they have their own genre, Rom coms... happily ever after. Popular books... films... plays... Love certainly does make the world go round.

Couples fall in love...some forever...

some for awhile... some times it works... other times not so much... it is not wrong to expect love to be everlasting. I have discovered that friendships seem to last a long time because there is give and take.

God loves us and watches over us... everlasting love... Agape... the best and first.

We love our children unconditionally. No matter what. A mother's love is forever...it does not stop... it is fulfilling... it is the best...

One true love? Well, we might experience that at one time or another... and if we are blessed, if that love ends, we experience love again. I personally believe that we can love each other... care about each other... and remain close forever... because the way we were is always the way we are.

We love special people in our lives... we stay in touch and show we care... it is never one sided... it is compromise and caring... that is how I answer the question, is there one true love... sure there is... one love at a time...

## State Fair Announces Fourth Annual Art Contest

The State Fair of West Virginia is excited to announce the return of its Annual State Fair Art Contest. The winning entry will be featured as the 2026 State Fair Print of the Year, and will receive a cash prize, as well as a percentage of sales.

"We've been able to feature some amazing local artists over the last few years with the official fair portrait," State Fair CEO Kelly Collins stated. "We are excited to continue to promote our local artists and can't wait to see what folks come up with!"

The official State Fair print should portray a positive image of the State Fair of West Virginia or reflect activities in anticipation or preparation of the annual

event. Guidelines include:

- Image should be 11"x14", or 11"x17" vertical or horizontal will be acceptable.

- Medium may include oil, acrylic, watercolor, or pastels. Must be able to copy for print production purposes.

- Both professional and amateur artists are permitted to enter.

To enter: Please submit a copy and/or picture of your work to Kellyt@statefairwv.com by April 27, 2026.

The 101st Annual State Fair of West Virginia is scheduled for August 13 - 22, 2026.

For more information, please contact the State Fair Office at 304-645-1090, or email [kellyt@statefairwv.com](mailto:kellyt@statefairwv.com)

**Buffalo Baptist Church**  
287 High Street  
<https://www.facebook.com/BufaloBaptistWV>

Food pantry on the third Friday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Five Loaves Three Fishes**

Poca United Methodist Church  
Silver Street  
(304) 755-7341

Food pantry open from 9 a.m. to noon second and fourth Saturday

**Heizer Creek Community Church**

6580 Heizer Creek Road, Poca

Food pantry on the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. - noon.

**Food and More At The Bridge**

The Bridge Church  
279 Dairy Road  
Poca  
(304) 373-6068

Church offers hot meals, food pantry boxes, and a clothing closet from 5 to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month

**Bridge Family Resource Center**

30 Mallory Lane North, St. Albans  
304-727-6991

Resource Day is held on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Clothing, furniture, household, and other items

# WVU 2025 Fall Semester Graduates

The following Putnam County students received degrees from West Virginia University at the 2025 fall graduation ceremonies:

**Hurricane:** Olivia Bird (Integrated Marketing Communications), Lauren Casto (Psychology, Neuroscience), Emily Cecil (Finance), Isabella Hart (Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering), Erin Hefner (Occupational Therapy), Terri Howard (Health Informatics and Information Management), Jay Huff (International Studies, Political Science), Caroline

Jordan (Occupational Therapy), Matthew Kelly (Executive Sport Management), Camryn McKenzie (Human Performance & Health), Michael Mohebbi (Business Administration), Meredith Northup (Design Studies), Nick Reeder (Law), Kristen Shaffer (Forensic Examiner), Ezra St. Clair (General Business), Bradley Sutton (Exercise Physiology), Ada Thompson (Exercise Physiology), Ryland Varney (Criminology).

**Leon:** Dylan Richmond (Biology).

**Red House:** Alyssa Ford (Marketing).

**Scott Depot:** Brock Basham (Environmental, Soil and Water Sciences), Josh Lambert (Biology), Mackenzie Meadows (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Madison Starcher (Marketing), Aaron Verno (Exercise Physiology).

**Winfield:** Michael Englund (Exercise Physiology), Madison Martin (Communication Studies), Hunter Vance (Civil Engineering).

# WVU President's and Dean's List

The following students were named to the President's List at West Virginia University for the 2025 fall semester. Students must have a 4.0 Grade Point Average with a minimum of 12 hours of class.

For the fall of 2025, students from Putnam County who attained the President's List are:

**Buffalo:** Kaylee Coleman (Music Education).

**Culloden:** Paige Bradley (Nursing), Olivia Haught (Journalism), Weston Smith (Sport Management).

**Eleanor:** Allie Ferrell (Pharmacy)

**Frazier's Bottom:** Gracelyn Fellure (Agricultural and Extension Education), Tanner Figgatt (Engineering).

**Hurricane:** Alexandra Anderson (Exploratory Pathway), Ally Barnett (Exercise Physiology), Alfred Biju (Accounting), Yimin Cai (Aerospace Engineering), Sadie Cain (Criminology/Political Science), Lauren Casto (Psychology, Neuroscience), Abigail Cecil (Finance), Emily Cecil (Finance), Daniel Curtis (Physics, Mathematics), Sarah Daugherty (Nursing), Leila Davis (Criminology), Carly Dingess (Political Science), Emsley Farley (Health and Well-Being), Nick Fleece (Finance), Jacob Ford (Biology), Joshua Ford (Biology Pre-medical), Isabella Fuentes (Finance), Miah Green (Journalism), Emma Gress (Pharmacy), Audrey Hall (Biomedical Engineering), Isabella Hart (Aerospace Engineering), Sawyer Henderson (Engineering), Madeline Linn (Elementary Education), Presley Lucas (Mathematics), Carly Mann (Nursing), Ian Martin (Exercise Physiology), Tracy Martin (Child Development and Family Studies), Kara Meadows (Environmental, Soil and Water Sciences), Colin Montgomery (Integrated Studies), Madeline Moore (Art and Design), Jana Naylor-Aten (Political Science), Isabelle Nelson (Engineering), Scott Nichols (Energy Land Management), Alexander Olivero (Biochemistry), Matthew Olivero (Political Science), Kellen Pauley (Finance), Brynna Price (Pharmacy), Avery Pyle (Nursing), Brady Rigney (Marketing), Emileigh Ruppenthal (Political Science), Erin Signorelli (Elementary Education), Regan Spencer (Pre-Nursing), Reece Sutphin (Marketing), Derek Szul (Engineering), Isabel Torres (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Haley Vedral (Pre-Nursing), Lilliana Vincent (Elementary Education),

Logan Westfall (Computer Science), Caden Williams (General Business).

**Nitro:** Jack Grant (Accounting), Paisley Lamar (Animal & Nutritional Sciences).

**Red House:** Chloe Hale (Economics), Zoey Hoffman (Biology).

**Scott Depot:** Isaac Arthur (Sport Management), Kaitlyn Arthur (Communication sciences and Disorders), Carmen Bartilson (Biomedical Engineering), Peyton Bielinski (Health and Well-Being), Sophie Briscoe (Interior Architecture), Marla Hopkins (Music Education), Brianna Hutchison (Accounting), Tanner Laughery (Biology Pre-medical), Toby Laughery (Biology Pre-medical), Asa Lyvers (Hospitality and Tourism Management), Savannah Maynard (Psychology), Peyton Rader (Engineering), Madison Starcher (Marketing), Kyndall Thomas (Animal & Nutritional Sciences), Nicholas Young (Engineering).

**Winfield:** Sophia Carr (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Ella Cox (Exercise Physiology), Bhavana Dakshinamorthy (Computer Science), Grant Fisher (Chemistry), Dillon Johnson (Music Education), Wyatt Moore (Electrical Engineering), Lakin Patton (Psychology), Tyler Weiford (Sport, Exercise, and Performance Psychology), Nathan Williams (Criminology).

The following students were named to the Dean's List at West Virginia University for the 2025 fall semester. Students must have a grade point average of 3.3 or above with 12 hours of classes to be named to the Dean's List.

For the fall of 2025, students from Putnam County who attained the Dean's List are:

**Buffalo:** Nora Boggess (Advertising & Public Relations), William Hill (Pre-Nursing), Hannah Wilmoth (Chemistry).

**Culloden:** Lilliam Haught (Marketing).

**Eleanor:** Chase Savilla (Hospitality and Tourism Management).

**Frazier's Bottom:** Ava Bentley (Engineering), Trey Smith (Engineering), Jenna Sunyog (Psychology).

**Hurricane:** Savannah Allen (Engineering), Gabriel Araujo Galvao Bueno (Biology Pre-medical), Aleya Assi (Health and Well-being), Landen Bach (Exercise Physiology), Kylie Bailey (Biology Pre-medical), Jayson Barnett (Accounting), Kyle Becker (Cybersecurity), Brett Berner (Sports

and Adventure Media), Taylor Blake (Biology Pre-medical), Cody Burton (Sports and Adventure Media), Allison Carpenter (Nursing), Ethan Chill (Biology Pre-medical), Jackson Clark (Chemistry), Holly Cline (Communication Sciences and Disorders), William Corley (Exercise Physiology), Caroline Damron (Environmental Engineering), Devin Difiore (Engineering), Annaliese Duff (Engineering), Mikaela England (Child Development and Family Studies), Caden Fisher (Exercise Physiology), Shayla Hall (Civil Engineering), Domenick Hoh (Computer Engineering), Cooper Holland (Exercise Physiology), Terri Howard (Health Informatics and Information Management), Jay Huff (International Studies, Political Science), Aiden Jackson (Biology Pre-medical), Elias Kave (General Business), Carter Leadmon (Computer Science), Brody Lester (Cybersecurity), Carleigh Lewis (Biology Pre-medical), Emma Lewis (Marketing), Ilana Meadows (Neurosciences), Alexander Miller (Sport Management), Morgan Miller (Neuroscience), Emma O'Dell (Immunology and Medical Microbiology), Emilee Patterson (Criminology), Garrett Racer (Supply Chain Management), Bryson Rigney (Finance), Mckenzie Robertson (Psychology), Caleb Sack (Mechanical Engineering), Madison Short (Biology Pre-medical), Keileigh Simpson (Dance), Grant Sizemore (Mechanical Engineering), Hannah Spiker (Pre-Nursing), Ezra St. Clair (General Business), Kylee Stewart (Pharmacy), Tanner Sutherland (Elementary Education), Tanner Sutphin (Finance), Wesley Sutton (General Business), Nash Vincent (General Business), Brogan Ward (Immunology and Medical Microbiology), Brayden Whittington (Exercise Physiology), Madeline Willis (Psychology).

**Poca:** Rome Bragg (Social Work), Tatum Bragg (Multidisciplinary Media Studies).

**Red House:** Alyssa Ford (Marketing), Riley Russell (Political Science).

**Scott Depot:** Kyndra Batton (Marketing), Tammy Cote (General Business), Case Hanshaw (Marketing), Xavier Hensley (Exercise Physiology), Mackenzie Meadows (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Quincy Miller (Health and Well-Being), Peyton Misch (Finance), Emma Pendleberry (Human Nutrition and Foods), Kendyl Powell (Engineering), Zetta Ridenhour (Social Sciences Pathway), William Sinclair

# THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

For the week ending Jan. 30, 2026

Several bills passed the full House of Delegates this week by unanimous votes for a total of 24 House bills sent to the West Virginia Senate for its consideration.

House Bill 4028, which would exempt building materials and construction work from state or municipal sales and use tax used for the construction, repair or maintenance of a public school facility, passed the full House unanimously Jan. 28, and has the potential to allow as much as 15% more spending on public education facilities.

School Building Authority Executive Director Andy Neptune addressed the House Finance Committee last week when this bill was in the hearing stage and described it as a win for his agency, for contractors and for counties.

"We believe this is going to increase the purchasing power," he said, noting the 6% sales tax plus 1% in supplies savings would give the SBA "more bang for our buck" and helps counties stretch their bond dollars for projects as well.

"We can redirect the millions we would be saving off of that back to us to be able to go with other projects," Neptune said. "For example, so many times counties will come to us for roofing projects that also involve HVAC projects, and the cost is just too much to be able to help with as much need as we have across the state; this would allow us to be able to look further into those counties and be able to say, 'well, we'll tie together HVAC projects with the roof,' which realistically should be done when you think about this ..."

The Skills to Work Act, House Bill 4005, passed the full House Jan. 27. It would align work requirements to U.S. Labor standards, which expands apprenticeship opportunities for 16- to 18-year-olds, allowing them safe, supervised, hands-on training for an in-demand economic environment.

(Finance), Payton Sowards (Dance), Alexandria Stevens (Nursing), Emma Whittaker (General Business).

**Winfield:** Lola Baber (Nursing), Lauren Cottrell (Political Science), Chloe Dean (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Annabelle Halstead (Wildlife and Fisheries Resources), Laken Hill (Forensic Examiner), Dylan Kuhl (Finance), Ross Musick (Sport Management), Yesinia Silva (Elementary Education), Ashlynn Traylor (Animal & Nutritional Sciences).

"This is about being able to bridge a gap," said Delegate Ryan Browning, R-Wayne, the lead sponsor of the bill. "Too many of our high school seniors graduate and feel like they have to leave the state to find a good job, but this bill establishes a direct connection between education and employment by creating structured, supervised apprenticeship programs that lead directly to job opportunities."

"Students gain hands-on experience while employers continue refilling our local talent pipeline."

House Bill 4002, which would establish the West Virginia Collaboratory, also passed the House Jan. 27. The initiative would facilitate public policy research projects through the state's research institutions of higher learning and distribute the expertise to be utilized by state and local governments in their work.

Two more measures that passed unanimously Jan. 29 were House Bill 4626, which would form a grant program to allow U.S. Food and Drug Administration trials with the controlled substance ibogaine for the treatment

of opioid use disorder, substance use disorder and any other neurological or mental health conditions, and House Bill 4610, which would ensure the state's current law to allow "right-to-try" cutting age medicine for terminally ill patients would extend to patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses as well.

House Bill 4437 also passed unanimously Jan. 29, and it would allow Gold Star parents to receive on-vehicle registration free of cost.

"Gold Star parents have lost a son or daughter in service to the nation, serving to protect and defend your freedom and safety at home and abroad," said Delegate Charles Sheedy, R-Marshall. "The ability to display a Gold Star license plate on their vehicle denotes them having lost a son or daughter and should call up our respect to recognize their sacrifice. To receive a free plate shows that the people of West Virginia are grateful for their sacrifice."

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 1,012 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

## In Loving Memory of Thomas Ray "Tom" Parsons

February 9, 1949 - April 24, 2012



If tears could make a staircase and heartache make a lane

We would walk the path to heaven and bring you home again

We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain

To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again

Our family chain is broken now and nothing seems the same

But as God calls us one by one the chain will link again

Tom loved you then, now and forever

Miss you always

— Linda (wife), Sandi and family (daughter) and John and family (son)

## Military Veterans

"You pay nothing for your Concealed Carry Permit"

Please show proof of your honorable military service to the teller upon completing the application. We accept the following:

- DD214
- VA Medical Card
- Honorable Discharge Document
- Military ID

Thank you for your service, Bobby Eggleton Sheriff, Putnam County



# ConvenientCare

Quality, convenient care when you need it quickly

Walk-Ins Welcome. No Appointment Necessary

From colds to sprains, sports physicals to the flu, we're here to meet the urgent care needs of every member of the family



ConvenientCareWV.org



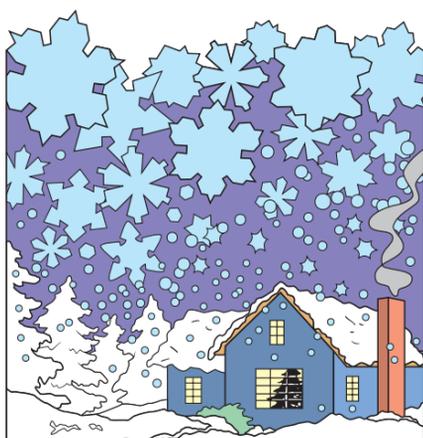
304-562-2011



3109 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane Located inside Fruth Pharmacy

# Fillers Page

Edited by Betsy Allen



## Seeking From Jeff Burkhardt's "Rhyme and Reason" Submitted by Myra Simmons

Search for love and search for money  
Search for peace of mind  
Look behind the nooks and crannies  
See what you can find

You can't call a number  
If you haven't got a phone  
Every person is seeking something  
When they're all alone

Do you need it? Do you want it?  
Can you do without?  
Are you absolutely sure?  
How shadowed is your doubt?

Search for this and search for that  
Take care to not be wrong  
You might find what you need most  
Was right there all along

## Fillers Contributors Wanted

The Hurricane Breeze always needs Fillers Page contributors. We would like to print your recipes, inspirational sayings, poems, clean jokes, fun facts, and other submissions.

Please send contributions to The Hurricane Breeze Fillers Page, PO Box 310, Hurricane, WV 25526.

You can also email submissions to [breezenews@citynet.net](mailto:breezenews@citynet.net)

## Mix A Little Luck Into Your Big Game Menu

(Family Features) Picture this: Your team is down three points, but the taste of victory is just one field goal away. Sometimes, all you need is a little luck and a whole lot of guac.

After all, an estimated 250 million pounds of avocados are consumed during the Big Game each year, according to Hass Avocado Board Volume Data. That's enough to fill 30 million football helmets with guac – but filling your belly instead is a win-win for good luck and great flavor.

Dip into good fortune this football season with help from Avocado From Mexico's Guac Guru, Rob Riggie, whose visionary Good Luck Guac recipe is ready to share just in time for the Big Game.

Whether you're in it for the football, the commercials or the snacks, this recipe can score major points with your entire crew.

Crafted for fans of every team, this bold, golden twist on a favorite football snack is infused with ingredients associated with good luck – edible gold flakes and pomegranate seeds – to get you through the most nail-biting moments of the game. The star ingredient is fresh, high-quality Avocados From Mexico that offer good taste, good nutrition, and good times.

Beyond delicious dips, chips and lots of fun, hosting a watch party can also be a lot of work. Make sure your hosting duties don't create interference or put you on the sidelines with these tips:

Get a jumpstart on party prep. The day before the game, tidy up your space and prepare as much of the food as you can. For dishes best served fresh – like guac – take care of the ingredient prep, like chopping veggies.

Create comfortable seating and viewing areas. For a watch party, you'll want plenty of room for guests to sit comfortably where they can see the screen and have easy access to the guac. If there's not enough space in the living room to fit everyone, consider bringing a TV to the kitchen so people can snack and watch at the same time.

Know your guests. From non-alcoholic beverage options to additional entertainment like board games and kid-friendly activities, become a next-level party host by providing a setup tailored to your guests' needs. One thing almost everyone can agree on: Guac made with Avocados From Mexico can be the star of nearly any party's snacking lineup.

Make it your team's lucky day with more game day recipes at [AvocadosFromMexico.com/recipe](http://AvocadosFromMexico.com/recipe).

### Good Luck Guac

Recipe courtesy of Rob Riggie on behalf of Avocados From Mexico

- 4 Avocados From Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon onion, minced
- 3 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 pinch edible gold leaf flakes

In large bowl, mash avocados until chunky-smooth.

Fold in lime juice, onion, pomegranate seeds and salt until well combined.

Garnish with edible gold leaf flakes.



## Fillers from Linda

Submitted by Linda~Lavender Armstead  
Washington Hill Road, Hurricane



Never trust a person who speaks well of everybody.

Hummingbirds remember every single feeder they visit.

The beginning is the most important part of work.

Discipline will take you places motivation never can.

People who throw kisses are hopelessly lazy. - Bob Hope

Confidence is loud. It's quiet people who know their worth.

Youth comes but once in a lifetime. - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Christ understands loneliness; He's been through it.

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

Gratitude can rewire your brain for happiness.

Character is what you are in the dark.

Laughter boosts your immune system.

Knowledge keeps everything fresh

Never let the things you want make you forget the things you have.

Wouldn't you like to see Black Friday sales on houses this year?

Instead of looking at what's depressing, look at what's a blessing.

Never take your parents for granted because life without them is very painful.

CEO of local mirror company passed away. Please take a moment to reflect.

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. - Maya Angelou

Practicing contentment is a radical act in a consumption-driven society.

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. - Winston Churchill

If you grew up with a rotary phone, you learned patience the hard way.

Worldlings make gold their god; saints make God their gold.

Be a person who addresses the bad, but sees and celebrates the good.

Water is heavier than butane because butane is a lighter fluid.

I'm getting stronger with age! I can now lift \$100 worth of groceries with 1 hand.

When a woman is talking to you, listen to what she says with her eyes. - Victor Hugo

Off the top of my head, I can't think of anything worse than being scalped.

Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep

If a doggy chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?

Kindness is a gift that we can all afford.

Save money even when you don't need to - opportunities only come to those prepared.

Spend time with family now - regrets hurt more than any sacrifice you make today.

People don't change with time; they reveal themselves. Time only removes the mask.

Protect your reputation like your life. Once it's damaged, even truth can't fix it.

Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful.

Advice is like snow - the softer it falls, the longer it dwells up on, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

Somewhere in the middle of our happy moments, we sigh, in the memory of someone we miss.

Retirement age should be 50. People deserve time to live, not just work until they're too tired to enjoy it.

You're never too old to change paths, you're just too smart to keep walking the wrong one.

Dreams are illustrations from the book your soul is writing about you.

If practice makes perfect and perfect needs practice, I'm perfectly practiced and practically perfect.

Remove your presence from any place you don't feel loved, appreciated or respected.

I paid my rent so don't ask me to come out. I'm at home getting my money's worth.

Sometimes, life bites you in the butt. Thankfully, I have enough padding to take the hit.

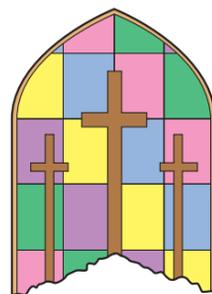
Getting older is wild, a wrong pillow angle and you're applying for disability.

A doggy will stand between you and danger without a second thought. The least you can do is never abandon them.

God's presence never diminishes. Our awareness of His presence may falter, but the reality of His presence never changes.

You know you're getting old when you look at the clock to see if it's late enough to go to bed.

## Bible Verse



A ship in port is safe, and that's not what ships are built for.

The 70's were great: great cars, cheap gas and great music.

You cannot fly like an eagle with the wings of a wren.

May your day start gently and grow warmer with each moment.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.  
— James 4:10

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE**

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated January 27, 2023, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Putnam County, West Virginia, in Book No. 1339, at Page 560, and modified by Corrective Affidavit recorded in Book 93, at Page 870, Joshua M Pauley did convey unto Pill & Pill, PLLC, Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Putnam County Courthouse in Winfield, West Virginia, on

March 9, 2026 at 12:30 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 04 - Curry District, Putnam County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: :

All that certain real estate situate in Curry District, Putnam County, West Virginia, and described as follows:

Lots Nos. 9, 10, 11 of Sunset Heights Subdivision as the same are laid out and shown on the map thereof of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Putnam County, West Virginia, each of said lots fronting 65 feet on Southwest Street and running back between parallel lines a distance of 244 feet. This conveyance is made subject to the following covenants and restrictions:

1. Said property shall be used for residence purposes only and not more than one residence shall be constructed on each lot, no portion of the foundation of which nor automobile garage shall be closer than thirty-five (35) feet to Southwest Street. Said residence including garage (attached or detached) to cost not less than \$ 7,500.00 and is not to be occupied until the entire exterior thereof has been completed. Neither trailers, temporary structures, nor other "Makeshift" facilities shall be occupied as a residence, and no so-called "Jenny Lind" structures shall be erected or maintained on the premises. The exterior of any cinder block structure shall not be considered fully complete until it is either painted or stuccoed, and the exterior of any frame building will not be considered fully complete until it has received at least two coats of paint. No outbuildings or accessory buildings shall be constructed on said premises closer to Southwest Street than the foundation line of the dwelling and any outhouses or accessory building constructed on the premises shall not be used until completed and shall be neat and of good workmanlike appearance.

2. Neither swine, cows nor goats shall be maintained on the premises or any part thereof. Chickens may be maintained on the premises provided they are kept to the rear of the residence and kept in a sanitary manner.

3. Residences shall be connected to a sanitary sewer system or a sanitary septic tank which is built and maintained in compliance with the West Virginia sanitation laws and regulations, and no outdoor toilets shall be permitted in any event.

4. A water drain line at least eight (8) inches in diameter shall be installed by the grantees in the drainage ditch of the abutting street at the intersection thereof with each driveway leading to the premises. Said drain shall extend for a sufficient length beyond the width of any driveway to prevent clogging and shall be not less than twenty feet long in any event. It shall be the duty of the owner of said premises to keep said drain line under said driveway free and open to repair and replace same when necessary. Said drain shall be installed prior to the entry on the premises of bulldozers, trucks, heavy equipment and other vehicles for construction purposes.

5. No sign or other advertising media shall be displayed on the premises and grantor or any owner in said subdivision may remove same in person or by agent without process of law.

This conveyance is further made subject to a present lease on said property for oil and gas between the parties of the first and Webster Myers, which oil and gas leases is dated August 14, 1951, and of record in said Clerk's office in Lease Book 45, page 201.

Saving and excepting the outconveyance of 0.4643 acres, more or less, of record in Deed Book 334, Page 662.

This conveyance is made subject to any and all covenants, restrictions, easements and reservations which may be a matter of record in the Clerk's office aforesaid and running with the land.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: 111 Southwest St, Hurricane, WV 25526.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: \$9000.00 in cash and/ or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC.  
5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
(304) 413-0044  
(304) 292-2918  
Toll free: (888) 534-3132  
Reference File No. 89954

2-5-21

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**IN THE FAMILY COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

To: Magistrate Court Case  
Nathan No.: 25-M40D-00303  
Alexander Sigman  
Respondent's Name  
3162 Big Otter Hgwy Family  
Iydale WV 25113 Court  
Respondent's Address Civil Action  
12-19-85 No.: 25-DV-242  
Date of Birth

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION (PROTECTIVE ORDER / HEARING DATE)**

1. The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.  
2. The object of this publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order and Petition from the Circuit Clerk of the county listed above.

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:**

It appearing by evidence duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of the Petition and Order may be obtained at the Putnam County Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until 2-17-2026.

The Respondent may appeal this Protective Order pursuant to W. Va. Code § 48-27-510, within 10 days of the date of the order was entered.

Issued this 27th day of January, 2026.

STEPHANIE SMITH/jo  
Circuit Clerk

2-5-11w

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**IN THE FAMILY COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

To: Magistrate Court Case  
Jason Grant No.: 25-M40D-00282  
Winter  
Respondent's Name  
811 Willow Lane Family  
Pt. Pleasant WV 25550 Court  
Respondent's Address Civil Action  
10-20-1975 No.: 25-DV-223  
Date of Birth

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION (PROTECTIVE ORDER / HEARING DATE)**

1. The object of this suit is to obtain protection from the Respondent.  
2. The object of this publication by Class I legal advertisement is to notify Respondent of the PROTECTIVE ORDER prohibiting the above-named Respondent from having contact with certain individuals. This order may affect property and other rights of the Respondent. Violating this Order may subject the Respondent to criminal sanctions. The Respondent is strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of this Protective Order and Petition from the Circuit Clerk of the county listed above.

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:**

It appearing by evidence duly taken in this action that you could not be found in or that you have left the State of West Virginia, you are hereby notified of the ORDER referenced above, a copy of the Petition and Order may be obtained at the Putnam County Circuit Clerk's office. This PROTECTIVE ORDER will remain in effect until 7-27-2026.

The Respondent may appeal this Protective Order pursuant to W. Va. Code § 48-27-510, within 10 days of the date of the order was entered.

Issued this 28th day of January, 2026.

STEPHANIE SMITH/jo  
Circuit Clerk

2-5-11w

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

In Re: Change of Name from Lindsey Nichole Ellis to Lindsey Nichole Watkins

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDING**

Civil Action No. 26-P-14  
Circuit Court of Putnam County, West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of March, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. on said day, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, before the Honorable Judge Phillip Stowers, Lindsey Nichole Ellis will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Putnam County, West Virginia for the entry of an order by said Court, changing her name from Lindsey Nichole Ellis to Lindsey Nichole Watkins, at which time and place any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

You are hereby notified that this matter may be rescheduled without further notice or publication.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office at 12093 Winfield Road, Ste. 12, Winfield, WV 25213.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court this 27th day of January, 2026.  
Stephanie M. Smith  
Putnam County Circuit Clerk

2-5-21

**Red Cross: 20K Donations Uncollected Due To Winter Storms, Give Blood Now**

*Severe blood shortage intensifies as snow, ice and extreme temperatures*

The American Red Cross urges people to take action now to help offset the severe impact of recent winter storms on efforts to rebuild the blood supply during an ongoing blood shortage. Donors of all blood types are asked to make a blood donation appointment as soon as possible.

Over 500 blood drives

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

Under authority of that certain Deed of Trust dated May 2, 2008, from Billy Ray Kersey and Kathy Lynn Kersey to Casie McGee, Trustee, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Putnam County, West Virginia in Trust Deed Book No. 869, at page 266, securing a promissory note in the principal amount of \$71,233.80, payable to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., and default having been made under the promissory note secured by the aforesaid Deed of Trust and sale requested by Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the front door of the Putnam County Courthouse in Winfield, West Virginia on February 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m., subject to all reservations, exceptions, easements and other matters which appear of record, and subject to all unpaid taxes, if any, all that certain tract or parcel of land, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in Union District, Putnam County, West Virginia, as the same is described upon the hereto attached and annexed plat or map entitled "Plat of Survey Showing Re-Survey of Tract for Marvin Cochran Located Along McLane Turnpike Now WVA Sec. Rt. #34 Being Tract Conveyed To B.M. Bailey By Vaughn Fisher Mar. 27, 1947 Recorded in DB 90 Pg. 18 Union District Putnam Co. WVA", dated the 13th day of June, 1974, Scale: 1" = 100' and being prepared by Jarrel A. Clendenin, L.L.S., License #259, and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a 3/4" iron pipe near the top of a ridge being in the corner of the lands now or formerly owned by Beechie Bailey and the lands now or formerly owned by J. H. Unrue; and thence leaving said beginning point and with the line of Unrue S. 52° 00' E., 125 ft., to a concrete monument; thence continuing with said Unrue line N. 75° 00' E., 243.0 ft., to an iron pipe; thence leaving said Unrue line S. 20° 00' W., 400 feet to a point in West Virginia State Route No. 34; thence S. 2° 00' W., and crossing the right of way line of West Virginia State Route No. 34, 100 ft., to a nail driven in the pavement near the easterly right of way line of said West Virginia State Route No. 34; thence S. 25° 00' W., crossing West Virginia State Rute No. 34, 100 ft., to a iron pipe set in the westerly right of way line of the said West Virginia State Route No. 34; thence leaving said right of way line S. 82° 00' W., 100 ft., to an iron pipe; thence S. 60° 00' W., 100 ft. to an iron pipe set in the easterly right of way line of West Virginia State Route No. 34; thence continuing with the easterly right of way line of West Virginia State Route No. 34, N. 9° 00' W., to an iron pipe set by a maple, said iron pipe also being in a corner of the lands now or formerly owned by Beechie Bailey; thence with the Bailey line N. 68° 00' E., 122.5 ft., to an iron pipe; thence continuing with a line of Beechie Bailey, N. 6° 00' W., 176.0 ft. to the place of beginning and containing 3.57 acres, more or less.

Together with a certain Manufactured Home, Serial No. VAF1719AB63372.

Being the same property conveyed from Shelby Bailey and Blanche B. Bailey, his wife, to Billy Ray Kersey and Kathy Lynn Kersey, his wife, by Deed dated June 20, 1974, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book No. 205, at page 89.

Terms of the sale: Cash or certified funds due on date of sale.

Given under my hand this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Marc B. Lazenby  
Substitute Trustee

2-5-21

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**PUTNAM COUNTY DILAPIDATED & ABANDONED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, a subsidiary of PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSION**  
Plaintiff,

v. Civil Action No.:  
**CC-40-2024-C-85**

**JACOB GILLISPIE,**  
Defendants.

Pending before this Court, in the above-styled action is a Motion to Enforce Judgment Lien filed by Plaintiff. The purpose of said Motion is to enforce a judgment lien by obtaining an order to sell real property owned by Defendant. A hearing on this Motion to Enforce Judgment Lien is to be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Putnam County Judicial Building, 12093 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV 25213. It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Plaintiff is without knowledge as to the existence or whereabouts of the Defendant, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Defendant serve upon Eric S. Embree, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 3564 Teay Valley Road, Hurricane, West Virginia 25526, a response to said Motion prior to the hearing date of March 18, 2026. Failure to respond or appear at the hearing may result in the Court granting the relief requested without further notice. A copy of said Motion may be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office at the Putnam County courthouse.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on this 15th day of January, 2026.

STEPHANIE SMITH/sg  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY

1-29-21

have been canceled since the beginning of the year, causing more than 20,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. In the Central Appalachia Region, 30 blood drives have been affected, with nearly 850 blood product donations going uncollected. In addition to the disruption of blood drives, dangerous weather conditions have also made it tougher to transport vital blood products, which could potentially affect deliveries to hospitals in some locations.

Patient care is at risk — donors in unaffected areas are asked to book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those in areas facing extreme winter weather are asked to give when it's safe to do so. All who come to give Jan. 26-Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

*Hospital impact*

Shortfalls in blood and platelet donations caused

by recent winter storms are putting further strain on the national blood supply, forcing some hospitals to cancel elective procedures due to blood product shortages. When supplies are critically low, trauma surgeons and other doctors face the real possibility that blood could run out when it's needed most. Now is the time to give blood before doctors have to face difficult decisions about which patients can safely move forward with treatment, and who will need to wait.

*About the American Red Cross:*

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or follow the Red Cross on social media.

**Three Most Avoided Winter Roads in W. Va.**

When winter weather hits, many drivers quietly change their routes. To explore how winter affects everyday driving behavior, RVWindshieldReplacement.com, a national network of RV auto glass experts, surveyed 3,004 drivers to identify the major roads Americans are most likely to avoid during winter weather.

The 3 most avoided roads in West Virginia are:

#1. I-64 (West Virginia Turnpike)

This stretch climbs quickly into higher elevations, where winter conditions can linger. Snow, ice, and frequent fog make I-64 feel demanding during cold snaps, and locals often delay trips rather than risk slick mountain stretches.

#2. I-79 (Morgantown — Charleston)

Running through hilly terrain, I-79 can catch drivers out in winter. Icy bridges, sharp curves, and limited visibility make it a route many West Virginians approach cautiously - especially overnight or early in the morning.

#3. U.S. Route 33 (Eastern West Virginia)

Away from the interstates, winter driving becomes more exposed. Steep grades, winding roads, and fewer alternate routes make US-33 a road locals tend to avoid once snow or ice settles in.

**Obituaries**

**IRA LEE BELCHER**

Ira Lee Belcher 92, of Hurricane, passed away January 28, 2026 at CAMC Teays Valley Hospital.

He was born on July 16, 1933 to the late Ira Wilbur and Frances Elizabeth Belcher. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Donna Ruth Belcher; and brothers: Omar and David Belcher.

Ira was a Civil Engineer in the US Army Corp of Engineers, a member of St. John United Methodist Church in Scott Depot, WV and proudly served his country in the US Navy. He is survived by his daughters: Kendra (Donald) Burch of Waldorf, MD and Trina (Clyde) Stover of Canal Winchester, OH; and granddaughter: Kaylin Stover.

Funeral service for Ira was Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane, with Rev. Teresa Markins officiating. Burial was in Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Dunbar.

**BEVERLY HELEN BRIGHT**

Beverly Helen Sandt Bright, 83, of Winfield, went home to be with the Lord on January 24, 2026 after an extended illness at CAMC Memorial Division with her loving family by her side.

She was born on January 8, 1943 to the late Herman Howard and Mary

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

In Re: Change of Name from Chase Logan Venes to Chase Logan Smith

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDING**

Civil Action No. 26-P-12  
Circuit Court of Putnam County, West Virginia

Notice is hereby given that on the 27th day of February, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. on said day, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, before the Honorable Judge Phillip Stowers, Chase Logan Venes will apply by Petition to the Circuit Court of Putnam County, West Virginia for the entry of an order by said Court, changing his name from Chase Logan Venes to Chase Logan Smith, at which time and place any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

You are hereby notified that this matter may be rescheduled without further notice or publication.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office at 12093 Winfield Road, Ste. 12, Winfield, WV 25213.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court this 23rd day of January, 2026.  
Stephanie M. Smith  
Putnam County Circuit Clerk

1-29-21

Charlotte Speck Sandt in Charleston. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her sister, Charlotte Ann Comer; brother, Kenny Sandt; and nephew, Tim Comer.

Beverly was a proud graduate of Winfield High School class of 1960, where she remained close to her beloved classmates and until recently assisted with coordinating class reunions and monthly luncheons. She worked at the Scott Depot Dairy Queen while her husband was actively serving our country during the Vietnam War. In the late 70s, she took a position as a pre-school teacher at Teays Valley Child Development Center. Beverly was a fervent prayer warrior and an active participant in the group known as "Betty's Prayer Girls." She was a loyal member of Teays Valley Church of God as well as the prayer group there. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend to many who stayed true to their friendship checking on her during her illness.

Beverly is survived by her loving and caring husband of 64 years, Kenneth M. Bright; children: Kelli Harrah (Douglas) of Scott Depot, WV and Randy Bright (Cindy) of Winfield, WV; grandchildren: Gabrielle Harrah, Braeden Hammer, Jamae Heidelberger (Travis), and Sierra DeHaven (Jason); 3 great-grandsons: Gavin, Justin and Devin; brother, Terry Sandt of Winfield, WV; niece: Daphene Knox (Murry) and nephews: Frank Comer (Sherry), Joshua Sandt and Jason Sandt. Beverly also leaves

behind several cousins who were more like sisters and brothers, along with great-nieces and great-nephews, friends and other family members who will all miss her and cherish her memory.

After her chronic illness began in 2022, the family was blessed with an additional four years with her. Funeral Service for Beverly was Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane, with Pastor Kim Miller and Pastor David Bowen officiating. Burial was in Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery Dunbar.

**JOSEPH ELSWICK**

Joseph Ryan Elswick, 41, born March 4, 1984, passed away January 25, 2026. It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved son, brother and dad. He is predeceased by his grandmother, Patsy Ammoscato, who adored him! Joey is survived by his parents, John and Donna Elswick, his son's Joseph Ryan Elswick Jr. and Johnathan Chayse Elswick, daughters Elara Marie and Maylyn Jolie, brothers Johnny and Dustin Elswick and sister Brandy Felcan.

He was truly a special person with a good heart. His life was full of struggles, but the light of goodness in him will remain in the hearts of those who loved him. There is nothing he wouldn't have done for the ones he loved. You will never be forgotten Joey.

A Memorial Gathering will be from 6 til 8 on Friday, February 6, 2026 at Allen Funeral Home.

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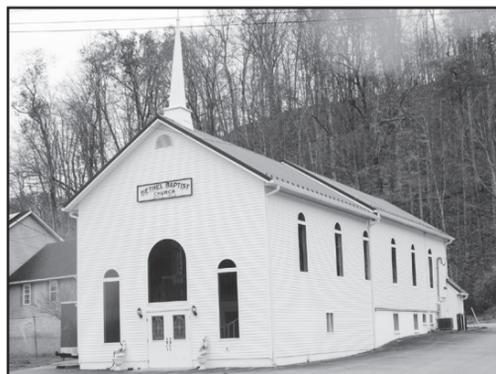
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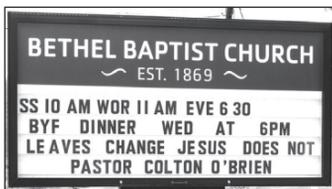


"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised..."

— I Chronicles 16:25

## Daily Bible Readings

Psalm	John	Exodus	Matthew	Exodus	Isaiah	Revelation
96	15	25	28	33	43	19



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# BASIC BIBLE

By Ron Allen  
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## Holy as I am Holy

Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18

The words before us were spoken by God to Moses during the interim between the setting up of the tabernacle (Ex. 40:17) and the departure of the children of Israel from Sinai (Num. 10:11). In the fifty days between the completion of the tabernacle and the departure of Israel from Sinai, God issued instruction to Moses more than forty times. God's instruction in Leviticus 19 deals with the manner in which His people were to conduct themselves once they took possession of the promised land.

"Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy" (v. 2). New Testament believers are instructed to be holy in all manner of conversation because God is holy (see I Pet. 1:15-16). In the text before us, God links His holiness to the manner in which His people are to conduct themselves in everyday affairs. The manner of conversation is the manner in which a man expresses himself in everyday dealings with others.

The Lord makes it known that His people are to honor one's mother and father; and to honor the "Lord your God" by keeping His sabbaths (v. 3). In verse 4, the Lord forbids His people from giving homage to idols (false gods) or from making molten gods (images to be worshipped). Being holy as God is holy requires one to do as God commands. It is God's command that His people honor the Lord God alone.

Verse 9 deals with gathering the harvest. The manner in which harvests were gathered three thousand-plus years ago was much different from modern day methods, but God's instruction to ancient Israel has application in the affairs of men today. When the fields were harvested and the grapes of the vineyard were gathered, not all grain and not all grapes were to be collected. A portion was to be left in the field and in the vineyard for the poor and for the stranger. The purpose of leaving the grain unreaped and the grapes unpicked was to provide for individuals who lacked resources to satisfy their needs. God did not instruct the owners of the fields and vineyards to give of the produce that their workers had gathered. God instructed the owners to make it possible for the poor and the stranger to help themselves. The poor and the stranger were not given a handout; they were given a means by which they could help themselves. The holy God who said: "Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy" requires His people to make a provision for the needy such that they can help themselves. That instruction was given to Israel, but God's standard of holiness remains unchanged. Provision for the poor of today has fallen upon the government of men. If governments were to follow God's instruction to Israel, aid to the poor would focus upon helping the poor help themselves.

God requires New Testament believers to love one another as He loves us (Jn. 15:12). The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob instructs us to make it possible for those, who have not, to partake in that which He has given to us. His love is to be shared with all who will receive it.

In verse 10, the Lord states why Israel is (and New Testament believers are) to do as He has commanded: "I am the Lord your God." God's people are to exhibit the love, care, and mercy of God.

In verses 11 and 12, God specifies the manner in which His people are to be known. His people are to be known by their honesty and by the manner in which they uphold His name. Their conduct, in dealing with their equals, was to be such that an observer outside the camp of Israel would look upon their honest dealings and attribute them to the God which they served. It is God's intent that the world should know Him through His people.

In verses 13 and 14, God's instruction turns to the conduct of individuals who enjoy a position which would enable them to victimize others. Neighbors, hirelings and the handicapped, are specifically listed. God forbids His people from engaging in any practice which defrauds, inconveniences or puts others in harm's way. God says: "... fear thy God: I am Lord." All who would victimize others will find that they must face God's judgment. In some instances it is possible to unintentionally place a stumbling block before the blind or to accidentally trade something of low value for that which is of great worth with no intent to defraud. Such happenings do not reflect the holiness of God. Thoughtfulness and diligence are part of the holiness of God.

One is to judge his neighbor in righteousness (v. 15). One is to judge as God judges. God is neither a respecter of the poor or an honorer of the rich.

God's standard for regarding one's neighbor is spelled out in verses 16-18 and closes with the phrase: "I am the Lord." God holds His people to a standard uncommon to the world because He is God. He is holy and His people must be holy as He is holy. His holiness extends beyond refraining from harmful acts. His holiness requires His people to reach out and to love their neighbor as thyself.

This instruction was given for the future time in which Israel should possess the land. For New Testament believers the future is now. Let us love one another and deliver the gospel message to all people.

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## KIDS TALK ABOUT GOD

BY CAREY KINSOLVING AND FRIENDS

### Why Do Some People Hate Jesus and Christians?

"People hate Jesus because they want to be their own god," says Jaiden, 8.

The idea of needing a savior goes against everything in us that wants control. Yet, it should be obvious we're not in control. The daily barrage of bad news from the media verifies this.

Statistics show that one of the most dangerous things we do every day is to get into a car. My stepdad died in a head-on collision. In another auto accident, my sister suffered permanent brain-stem damage that left her totally helpless for more than 35 years. The illusion of control quickly passes when death or injury unexpectedly intrude.

"People hate Jesus and Christians because they're on the dark side of the world," says Artemio, 9.

Many people associate darkness with human trafficking, drug addiction, murder and other heinous sins. But there's another side of darkness that doesn't get much attention.

During Jesus' ministry, he reserved his harshest language for religious leaders of his day. He called them "whitewashed tombs," beautiful on the outside, but full of hypocrisy on the inside (Matthew 23:27-28). They had a veneer of righteousness, but their hearts were empty. They lacked the righteousness that only God can give to those who trust Jesus as their savior.

"The reason why people hate me and Jesus is because I don't belong to this world," says Sara, 7. "I belong to God. God protects me from death."

When Jesus warned his disciples about the world, he didn't speak of the soil, trees and sky. Jesus warned his disciples and us about a system of thinking that is independent from God or even openly hostile against him.

Sara has adopted Jesus' view of her as not

belonging to this world. With the assurance of eternal life with God in heaven, Christians should view themselves as sojourners through this world with heaven as their true home. They have dual citizenship in that they're citizens of their country while at the same time citizens of heaven.

The Bible says Christians are ambassadors for Christ. Why? Because believers don't belong to this world. Christ's ambassadors carry the good news that Jesus paid the price by his death on the cross to purchase everyone's passage to heaven.

Immediately after the Apostle Paul wrote that Christians are ambassadors for Jesus, he wrote this famous salvation passage: "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

In other words, Jesus took everyone's sins on himself when he died on the cross. For all who place their faith in him as their savior, he credits his righteousness to them. In contrast to the religious leaders of Jesus' day, righteousness is a gift to be received from God, not a reward to be earned.

If you want to make people mad, give them a list of religious rules. If you want to make them fighting mad or even hateful, tell them there's nothing they can do to earn salvation. The righteousness needed to reside in heaven is a gift to be received by faith alone in Christ alone.

Think about this: Religious people who try to earn favor with God by keeping rules will always hate those who say that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Christ apart from any good works or rule keeping.

Memorize this truth: II Corinthians 5:21 previously quoted.

Ask this question: Is this world your home, or are you passing through to your heavenly residence?

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**Obituaries**

Continued from Page 5

**DENVER LEE GRADY**

Denver Lee Grady, 76, of Leon, passed away Monday, January 26, 2026 at his home. He was a United States Army Veteran, having served in the 4th Infantry Division. A member of Teamsters Local # 175, he was a truck driver for many years, working for several different companies. At the end of his career, he retired from the West Virginia Department of Highways. He enjoyed farming, and restoring old cars and tractors. Denver was a Christian, and loved to sing Gospel music. He was a former member of the gospel group "The Peaceful Echoes". He loved his wife and family dearly, especially his grandkids, and will be sadly missed by all.

Born December 21, 1949, he was the son of the late Wilbert and Nola V. "Jigs" Grady. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Lou Barr.

Survivors include his loving wife of 54 years, Vivian R. Grady; his children, Denver Dale (Melissa) Grady of Buffalo, Amanda Rose (Steven) Simonson of Leon, and Laura Lea (Jonathan) Murriner of Leon; grandchildren, Nicholas (Amanda) Simonson of West Union, Ohio, Nathaniel (Tasha) Simonson of West Union, Ohio, Sandra Rose (Lee) Slate of Liberty, Emily Grady of Buffalo, Sierra Murriner of Leon, and Samantha Murriner of Leon; great-grandchildren, Lannie Simonson, Jayden Simonson, and Alexander Simonson; a sister, Wanda Harmon of Buffalo; a brother, Dencil (Judith) Grady of Leon; as well as nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In accordance with his wishes, his body was cremated. There are no services for the public scheduled at this time.

**BRUCE ALLEN PRIESTLEY**

Bruce Allen Priestley, 61, of Hurricane, went Home to be with the Lord on January 27, 2026, after an extended illness at St. Mary's Hospital with his loving wife, Virginia by his side.

Though his days on Earth were fewer than

hoped, his faith was steadfast and his love eternal. Now healed and whole, he rests in God's presence, where there is no pain, only peace.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rudy Priestley; and nephew, Cody Priestley.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Virginia Priestley; mother, Judy Priestley; children: Jeremy, Jamison, and Jessica; brothers: David and Brent Priestley; sister: Tammy Priestley Jordan; grandchildren: Kamdyn, Isaiah, Jaliyah, Jaevion, Keaton, and Aubrey; and a host of nieces and nephews, as well as other family members.

Funeral service for Bruce was Monday, February 2, 2026, at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane, with Pastor Mayford Witt officiating. Burial was in Valley View Memorial Park, Hurricane.

**JACK RICHARDS**

Jack Davidson Richards, 85, of St Albans, was born on January 13, 1941, and passed away on February 1, 2026, at United Hospital Center in Bridgeport.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Hattie Richards, sisters, Irene Chase, Tressie McCallister and Velma Richards, brothers Paul, Clyde and Robert Richards.

Jack is survived by his wife Vicki, stepdaughter, Misty Kelley, stepson Buck Saul (Beth), Grandchildren, Luke Saul (Maddie), Gracen Kelley and Brycen Kelley. Beloved niece, Brenda Hopkins (Mike), and nephew Jeff Hayes (Robin) and brother, Harold Richards

Jack retired from AT&T in 1999, following retirement he worked part time for Sleepy Hollow Golf Club and was a faithful member of the WV Golf Association.

Memorial service will be held at 3:00 on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Allen Funeral Home and visitation will be held from 1 til 3 prior to the service.

**OLAN A. TOPPINGS**

With deep love and gratitude, we remember Olan A. Toppings, age 86, of Hurricane, who peacefully went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at

Hubbard Hospice House after an extended illness. Born in Harts Creek, West Virginia, to the late Walter and Alberta Toppings, Olan built a life defined by dedication, kindness, and a passion for the outdoors.

Throughout his career at UMWA Cypress A-max, Olan served as the lead loader operator, earning the respect of colleagues until his retirement. His interests extended far beyond work—he was a proud member of the West Virginia Trappers Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Upper Kanawha Valley CB Club, and the NRA. Olan was an avid outdoorsman who found great joy in hunting, gardening, trapping, beekeeping, coon hunting, and countless other hobbies that brought him close to nature.

Family was at the heart of Olan's life. He was preceded in death by twelve brothers—Walter Jr., Osen, Fredrick, James, Merrel, Nolan, Daniel, Roger, Walton, Samuel, Marvin, and Joseph Toppings—as well as his sister Evelyn Adams and son-in-law Thomas Cole.

He is survived by his loving wife, Carol Jean Toppings; daughters Marsha Cole of Sanford, NC, and Donna Francisco (Mark) of Scott Depot, WV; grandchildren Justin Dunlap and Kristin Cole, both of Pittsburgh, PA; and sisters Clara Ferguson (Kenneth), Juanita Brewster (Dean), and Ruth Slusher (Mel). and several nieces, nephews and close family and friends.

Funeral service to celebrate Olan's life was held Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Allen Funeral Home with Jody Sowards officiating. Burial was in Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

**JOHN JAY WALKER**

John J. Walker, 64, of Hurricane, passed away on January 28, 2026.

He was born to the late Major Morgan Walker and Elizabeth Jean Walker Ellis on August 15, 1961 in South Charleston. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Deborah Marie Turner Walker; paternal grandparents: Fred and Helen Walker; maternal grandparents: Hobart D. Lacy Sr. and Opal Louise Childers Lacy; and great-grandparents: Jasper and Carrie Harris.

John was a graduate of Hurricane High School, attended WV State College and was a member of Forest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church. His military career started in the 130th Tactical Air National Guard, later he proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, having served in Desert Storm.

He is survived by his sister, Susan Duryea of Hurricane; uncle, Dan (Jackie) Walker; aunt, Ellen Walker; and numerous cousins and friends.

Funeral service for John was Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane. Burial with Military Honors was in Cunningham Memorial Park.

**JOHN WALTER WETHERHOLT**

John Walter Wetherholt, 69, of Eleanor, formerly of Charleston, passed away peacefully at his home on January 29, 2026.

Jon retired in 2016 after many years as a long-haul truck driver, a career that reflected his strong work ethic and love of the open road. Outside of work, he enjoyed the things that brought him peace and

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joy—deer hunting, trout fishing, collecting guns and knives, and cheering on the WV Mountaineers. Above all else, Jon loved his family deeply. He was a devoted father to his sons and a proud grandfather who cherished every moment spent with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara Ann Wetherholt, and his sister, Susan Rayhill.

Jon is survived by his two sons, Joshua (Sophia) Wetherholt and Steven (Rachael) Wetherholt; and his four beloved grandchildren, Addilyn, Bradley, Wyatt, and Amelia, who were the light of his life.

A celebration of Jon's life will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at First Baptist Church of South Charleston, with Pastor Jody Pistore officiating. The family will

receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

**BRUCE EDWARD WILKES**

Bruce E. Wilkes, 88, of Red House passed away Monday, February 2, 2026. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force, having served in Japan and the Philippines. He worked for many years at Dow Chemical. Bruce loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Born July 7, 1937 in Syracuse, New York, he was the son of the late Doc and Dottie Wilkes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Wilkes; and one brother.

In accordance with his wishes, his body was cremated. There are no services planned for the public at this time.



DR. WILLIAM DAN HILL Springdale Estates Hurricane 73rd Birthday February 6	New London Commons Hurricane 20th Birthday February 8
KEVIN RAY ERWIN 5530 Hurricane Creek Road Hurricane 45th Birthday February 6	KYLEE ANNETTE HODGES New London Commons Hurricane 20th Birthday February 8
COREY WILKES Ohio 53rd Birthday February 6	KATIE HOOSER Huntington 73rd Birthday February 8
MASON FAULKNER 1074 Sugar Camp Road Winfield 23rd Birthday February 6	SUSAN GETER 803 Washington Hill Road Hurricane 57th Birthday February 8
CHRISTY FRAZIER Frazier's Bottom 45th Birthday February 6	KARI NEVILLE 1115 Stewart Addition Rear Milton Birthday February 8
LEVI WISEMAN Ona 24th Birthday February 6	JESSICA CLARK Black Betsy Bottom Road Poca 43rd Birthday February 8
CINDY CALL 874 Cow Creek Road Hurricane 75th Birthday February 6	ROSIE SUMNER JOHNSON 79 Shortleaf Lane Hurricane 75th Birthday February 8
SUE GILLISPIE CHAPMAN 300 Seville Court Hurricane 76th Birthday February 7	RUTH ANNE TINSLEY SOVINE Hurricane 81st Birthday February 8
WILLIAM ALLEN 106 Orchard Road Barboursville 42nd Birthday February 7	OAKLYNN NOEL GOTHARD Chesapeake, Ohio 3rd Birthday February 8
RONDA AKERS 100 Hickory Heights Scott Depot 60th Birthday February 7	JOHNNY CRIST #40 Quail Run Road Henderson, Nevada 69th Birthday February 9
JOEY HINKLE Bartow Drive Huntington Birthday February 7	SUSAN NANETTE ELLIS 131 Renford Star Route Charleston 68th Birthday February 9
AVA EILEEN-GRACE HEDRICK 6994 Hurricane Creek Road Winfield 20th Birthday February 7	EMMA ROBINSON 5 & 20 Road Frazier's Bottom 22nd Birthday February 9
LINDA ADKINS 3401 Hughes Street Cannonsburg, Kentucky Birthday February 7	JONAE JOHNSON #28 Meadow Wood Estates Scott Depot 30th Birthday February 10
JENNIFER ABNEY Charleston Birthday February 7	LISA FISHER Barboursville 60th Birthday February 10
CALEB RYAN HODGES	DONALD SHAMBLIN Poca

85th Birthday February 10

SHARL HINKLE  
390 Evans Creek Road Frazier's Bottom  
78th Birthday February 10

KELSI CALL  
980 Old Kanawha Trail Culloden  
Birthday February 10

KERMIT BEAVER  
1147 Coleman Creek Road Frazier's Bottom  
84th Birthday February 10

JACOB FINNEY  
Liberty  
30th Birthday February 10

KATELIN LEEANN CYFERS  
Huntington  
18th Birthday February 11

JIM JEFFERSON  
P.O. Box 688 West Hamlin  
79th Birthday February 11

CHRIS PAULEY  
Asheboro, North Carolina  
40th Birthday February 11

GRANT WIGGINS  
Route 1, Box 179 Liberty  
32nd Birthday February 11

DEBBIE WELCH  
#5 Washington Hill Road Hurricane  
69th Birthday February 11

DARRELL JOHNSON  
313 High School Avenue Hurricane  
80th Birthday February 11

MARY ELLEN BALL  
P.O. Box 32 Milton  
Birthday February 11

KAREN SUE BOWEN  
Hurricane  
73rd Birthday February 11

GREG BOSTIC  
Salt Rock  
Birthday February 11

BARRY ROBERTS  
100 Windy Ridge Road LaValette  
Birthday February 11

ABBY BLACK COYNER EVANS  
P.O. Box 763 Hedrick Road Scott Depot  
65th Birthday February 11

SCOTT ASHLEY  
Nitro  
Birthday February 11

IMOGENE LEADMAN  
Hurricane Creek Road Hurricane  
92nd Birthday February 11

SANDY BIRD HANDLEY  
2217 Cleveland Road Culloden  
78th Birthday February 12

PAUL DIXON II  
Tennessee  
58th Birthday February 12

DARRIN CARRICO  
South Point, Ohio  
60th Birthday February 12

LUKE HUTCHINSON  
100 Windy Ridge Road Huntington  
31st Birthday February 12

MARLA SUE RACER  
1030 W Mud River Road Milton  
75th Birthday February 12

CAROLYN WOMACK PORTER  
Hurricane  
59th Birthday February 12

JAMIE BOSTIC  
104 Hope Lane Milton  
Birthday February 12

CARA DIALS  
Proctorville, Ohio  
Birthday February 12

GINA GABBARD BAKER  
Trenton, Ohio  
Birthday February 12

## Valentine's Day Luncheon for Seniors

The Town of Eleanor warmly invites seniors from the town and surrounding communities to enjoy a FREE Valentine's Day Luncheon in the Homestead Room at Eleanor Town Hall.

The luncheon will be held on February 14 from 11 am to 1 pm.

What's on the menu: A complimentary soup lunch with snacks and refreshments

This event is also a wonderful community service opportunity for local youth who need volunteer hours—or for anyone who simply wants to give back and spend time with our senior community. All are welcome!

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9:30 am to assist with setup, help serve food during the luncheon, and stay afterward to help with cleanup.

Let's come together to share a meal, celebrate Valentine's Day, and show our seniors how much they are appreciated!

## Make Your Very Own Sun Catcher

Get ready to add some color to your day at Valley Park! On Thursday, February 19, there will be a super fun, hands-on event from 6 to 8 p.m. where you can make your very own sun catcher. Perfect for all ages, this is your chance to create something beautiful that catches the sunshine just right. Come hang out, get creative, and take home a cool keepsake. There are six designs to choose from!

The cost is \$47.64; register by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1979911488560>

## Happy Anniversary

Bud and Barbara Caldwell Sovine of 2115 Crooked Creek Road in Scott Depot will celebrate their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary on February 7.

Mike and Patty Escue of 1596 Washington Hill Road in Hurricane will celebrate their forty-fifth wedding anniversary on February 7.

Carl and DeAnna Morrison Johnson of Hurricane will celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary on February 7.

Chris and Julie Reeves Davis of Russell, Kentucky, will celebrate their fourteenth wedding anniversary on February 9.

Dan and Faith Hayma of Syracuse, Ohio, will celebrate their fifty-third wedding anniversary on February 10.

Randy and Lee Ann Black of Milton will celebrate their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary on February 10.

Dustin and Melody Dillion-Dalton of 55 Jones Cove in Hurricane will celebrate their fifteenth wedding anniversary on February 11.

Dan and Marilyn Carter McKinney of 172 Deby Road in Hurricane will celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary on February 11.

COURTNEY TUSHING  
Cow Creek Road Hurricane  
50th Birthday February 12

## February Events at the Library

By the Putnam County Library

February might be the shortest month but as Love Your Library Month, there's lots to love! Story Times resume on February 9, and STEMuary continues. Plus, a trip into nature at the end of the month to see bald eagles? What a lovely lineup!

**Story Time**  
These grey days are going to be a lot easier to handle when Story Time comes out of hibernation with opportunities to \*chill\* four days a week! All ages are invited to read and learn following this schedule beginning February 9:

Mondays: Main Library at 10:00 am

Tuesdays: Eleanor and Poca Branch Libraries at 10:00 am

Wednesdays: Main Library at 10:00 am

Thursdays: Buffalo and Hurricane Branch Libraries at 10:00 am, and Main Library at 6:00 pm.

It's going to be \*snow\* wonderful to see you!

### Reading Scavenger Hunt

Are you ready to re-energize your reading goals this year? The 2026 Reading Scavenger Hunt offers ten prompts for you to find while you're choosing what to read this year. Check off all the boxes to earn your pin! Some of the prompts include Published In 2026, Has An Animal In The Title, and American History.

It seems like every day, we're confronted with new scams attempting to steal our money and personal information. Whether through AI, social media, or old fashioned phone calls, you don't have to

## Friends of Buffalo WV Meeting

The Friends of Buffalo WV History will meet on February 15, beginning at 3 pm, at the Buffalo United Methodist Church. The church is located at 27 High Street in the Buffalo Historic Square. The meeting is open to anyone interested in Buffalo History. All welcome.

## Available Pets at the Putnam County Animal Shelter

These is one of the many pets up for adoption at the Putnam County Animal Shelter. By the time that this issue of the Hurricane Breeze is published, this animal may have already been adopted and found a forever home. However, there are many pets at the shelter that still need homes. For more information, call the Putnam County Animal Shelter at 304-586-0249, or visit [animalshelter.putnamcountywv.gov](http://animalshelter.putnamcountywv.gov)



Harry (PCWV-A-1154) is a male mixed breed dog who is estimated to be around four years old.



Mr. Claus (PCWV-A-25986) is a male mixed breed dog who is estimated to be around four years old.



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