

The Hurricane Breeze

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

VOL. 126, NO. 7 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

HURRICANE, WEST VIRGINIA

SINGLE COPY \$1.00

ELECTION WATCH 2026 Primary Races of Local Interest

By Ron Allen

The filing period for candidates to have their names listed on the May Primary ballot closed on January 31st. Voting in the Republican Primary requires participants to be registered Republican. Voter registration deadline is April 21. In addition to voting for placement of a candidate's name on the November ballot and electing a candidate to the Democratic or Republican County Executive Committees, Putnam residents will vote to elect non-partisan candidates to the Board of Education (4-year terms), a Conservation District Supervisor (4-year term), the West Virginia Supreme Court (unexpired terms), and the Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge.

City of Hurricane voters will also have the opportunity to vote upon a continuing 5-year excess levy which is projected to begin on July 1, 2027.

Filing with the Secretary of State in Charleston for House of Delegates and State Senate in districts representing Putnam County were the following:

House of Delegates 19th District — Nolan Rose (D); Kathie Hess Crouse (R)

House of Delegates 20th District — Tonya Patrick Shuler (D); Sarah Drennan (R)

House of Delegates 21st District — Michael G. Mosteller II (D); C. D. Caldwell (R), Michael Kidd (R)

State Senate 4th District — Zachary Abbott (D); Phillip Surface (R), Eric J. Tarr (R), Travis Willard (R)

State Senate 8th District — Kim Hundley (D); T. Kevan Bartlett (R), Steven Carder Eshenaur (R), Lance Wheeler (R)

Non-Partisan Races

Circuit Court Judge District 7 (Unexpired Term) — Mark A. Sorsaia

Filing for office with Putnam County Clerk Brian Wood during the filing period were the following:

Non-Partisan Offices

School Board — Brad Hodges (District 3), Butch Legg (District 1), Tammy Sowards (District 2), Wade Neal (District 2), Karen Dillard (District 2), Connie Breck (District 2), Jake Fertig (District 2), Sarah Brown (District 2)

WEATHER SUMMARY

February 3 - 9

Low High

February 3** 22° 33°

Hurricane 8° 29°

February 4 Hurricane 8° 29°

February 5 Hurricane 16° 25°

February 6** Hurricane 15° 33°

February 7 Hurricane 10° 30°

February 8 Hurricane 3° 28°

February 9 Hurricane 5° 37°

**SNOW

2 inches recorded Feb. 3

4 inches recorded Feb. 6

2). Wade Neal (District 2) withdrew from the race on February 3rd. Candidates who withdraw from having their name on the ballot must do so before February 17th.

Conservation District Supervisor — James Withrow, Christine Welch

Partisan Races

County Commissioner (District 3) — Brian Ellis (R).

County Commission, Unexpired term (District 1) — Doug Pierson (R), Michael Stone (R), Zach Crede (R), David Edwards (D), Wesley Lee Landers (R).

Democratic Executive Committee (District 1 - Female) — Marcia Duran, Sharon Bowles, Rosalee Juba-Plumley

Democratic Executive Committee (District 2 - Female) — Karen Coria

Democratic Executive Committee (District 3 - Female) — No Filers

Democratic Executive Committee (District 1 - Male) — Maxie L. Bailey, Noble Wayne Lanham

Democratic Executive Committee (District 2 - Male) — No Filers

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Polar Plunge Benefits Special Olympics; Ice Removal Required



By the Bobs, the team costume contest winners, demonstrate perfect plunging form. (Photo courtesy of Hope Taylor)

By Ron Allen

The annual 'Polar Plunge' at Hurricane City Park produced an estimated \$14,000 for the support of the Special Olympics program on Saturday, February 7th. John Corbett, Special Olympics WV Head, reported that 61 brave souls put fear aside and jumped into the pool. The numbers are down by a third from the 2025

Plunge at the park.

The pool was filled with water on Friday and froze overnight requiring 1-inch thick ice to be broken up and removed prior to the 5 p.m. jumping time. In the previous nine years of the event at City Park, ice removal has been required only on one occasion. Ice opening and removal is a regular occurrence in West

Virginia Polar Plunges when the event is held at lake sites or other natural settings.

Corbett stated that the event generates revenue needed for Special Olympic athletes to compete in the Winter Games at Canaan Valley State Park which are held in January, in Charleston which are held during June, and in

Cheering Competition in Morgantown at WVU in March.

Corbett reported that Shawn Bayliss repeated as the top fundraiser by soliciting \$4,000 from supporters who enjoy seeing their favorite attorney lose body heat at the annual event. Corbett said that Bayliss has been the top fundraiser in each of the nine Polar Plunges

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Hurricane Crush Run — A Wind Chill and Fresh Snow Challenge



Crush Run Walkers follow runners at the start of this year's challenge. (Photo courtesy of Frank Miller Photography)

By Betsy Allen

It takes courage to run a marathon over snow covered ground in 10° weather, but over 170 brave souls were willing to leave the warmth and comfort of their homes to take to the trails of Meeks Mountain this past Saturday. The Hurricane 10 Miler, 5K Run or Hike, and Kids Run was held on February 7 at Meeks Mountain Trails, located at Hurricane City Park, and took participants on a circuitous course through the snowy woods, hills, and hollows that comprise the extensive trail system.

"The Hurricane Crush Run delivered exactly what winter trail running is all about—challenge,

community, and typical adverse conditions that have become the hallmark of this race," stated Matt Young of the Meeks Mountain Trail Alliance. "Bitter cold, wind chills near zero, fresh snow, and one of the toughest course surfaces we've seen in a long time made this a true test for everyone involved. Thanks to a week of hard work from all our volunteers, the course was race-ready, and the Meeks Mountain community showed up as they always do."

"Despite the conditions, turnout was outstanding, especially for the 10 miler, which saw a remarkably strong field," Young continued. "From warming up by the fire with hot coffee and

hot chocolate to charging out onto snow covered trails, runners embraced the challenge and finished

with smiles. Universally, this was agreed to be one of the toughest Crush Runs yet—and not a single

finisher wished they hadn't taken part. That's the magic of showing up for

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And they're off! Children compete in the kids fun run. (Photo courtesy of Frank Miller Photography)

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 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-event-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.simplertix.com/e/how-to-grow-cut-flowers-with-lisa-tickets-255185>

- There will be a Galentine's 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

- WV Health Right's Mobile Medical Clinic will be in the parking lot of the Twin City Bible Church, 100 1st Avenue S, Nitro, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to conduct rapid testing for HIV and Hepatitis C, offer Narcan training, and provide referrals for treatment.

- Sacred Music Services

THE HURRICANE BREEZE

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ESTABLISHED 1900 978 HURRICANE CREEK ROAD BOX 310 HURRICANE, W. VA. 25526

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

Men's Choir will be performing at 7:30 p.m. at Faith Missionary Baptist, 701 Maccorkle Avenue SW, St. Albans.

- 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/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.

- Forged In Faith - Iron Brotherhood Tribe men's group will be meeting at 8 a.m. at The Pulse Church, 5368 State Route 34, Winfield.

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

- The VFW 9097 Canteen, 3836 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane, will be hosting a Valentine's Day Couples Dart Tourney starting at 7 p.m. For more information, call (304) 757-9766.

- 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. No experience necessary.

STARTING FEBRUARY 16

- There will be a 5-week hand quilting class from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays at the Valley Park Conference Center in Hurricane. The cost is \$40 per person; must provide your own supplies. For more information, call (304) 562-0518.

FEBRUARY 17

- STEMuary Event: Who can build the tallest snowman? Come to the Buffalo Library at 3 p.m. to find out.

- There will be an instructional painting class at 6 p.m. at Valley Park Conference Center in Hurricane. Make a 11x14 painting. The cost is \$35. To sign up, go to <https://304tix.com/events/instructional-art-class-1-13-2026>

FEBRUARY 18

- Every other Wednesday is Dungeons & Dragons: Adventurers League at the Board Room, located behind the Hurricane Walmart, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome; free to play.

FEBRUARY 19

- The Hearts & Handmade Market will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Valley Park Conference Center in Hurricane. Seet treat vendors, book vendors, coffee and more.

- The Vandalia Backgammon Club holds weekly backgammon sessions from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays at the Putnam Moose, located in Putnam Village Shopping Center in Teays Valley. Open to the public.

- There will be a spring doormat painting class from 6 to 8 p.m. at Valley Park Conference Center in Hurricane. To purchase tickets, go to <https://304tix.com/events/spring-door-mat>

One in Three West Virginia Seniors Living Alone Has Had No Contact Since January 1st

Chronic loneliness isn't just emotionally painful - research shows it can increase the risk of premature death as much as heavy smoking, making social isolation one of America's most overlooked health threats. And with the U.S. now facing a nationwide loneliness epidemic, winter becomes an especially dangerous season.

To understand just how widespread the problem is, Choice Mutual, a life insurance agency that specializes in final expense insurance, surveyed 3,025 seniors aged 65+ (who live alone) at the end of January and asked a single, simple question:

"Has anyone checked in on you since January 1st?" Staggeringly, 26% said no, meaning more than one in four seniors (who live alone) had gone an entire month without any meaningful interaction.

When compared across the country, the study found that almost 1 in 3 (33%) seniors in West Virginia went a full month

painting-2-19-2026

- There will be a make your own sun catcher workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. at Valley Park in Hurricane. The cost is \$47.64. Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1979911488560>

- Facing Hunger Mobile Food Pantry will be at River Ridge Church, Saturn Way, Hurricane, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 20

- There will be an Energize & Advertise - Marketing 101 Workshop at 8 a.m. at Nitro Energy & Wellness, 420 1st Avenue South, Nitro. Learn how to grow your small business through modern marketing. RSVP by texting 304-444-4104.

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

- There will be a Girls' Night Galentine's Party at 6 p.m. at Compass Aesthetics WV, 3657 Teays Valley Road, Suite 3, Hurricane.

FEBRUARY 21

- Oma Chapel Church, 949 Arbuckle Creek Road, Leon, will be holding their Love Thy Neighbor Dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. Choice of spaghetti, fettuccine, or both.

- Coffee With A Twist, 101 Main Avenue, Nitro, will be hosting a Mom and Me Tea Party Brunch starting at 11 a.m. The cost is \$7.99 per guest. For more information and to reserve a spot, call (304) 759-9002.

- There will be a free beekeeping workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Sattes Community Center, 234 Lee Street, Nitro.

- The Dead Dance Zombie Prom will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight at Lee's Studio of Dance, 8325 Winfield Road, Winfield. The cost is \$30 for single; and \$50 for a couple. To reserve a spot, call 681-203-3683.

- The West Virginia Comics Buy, Sell, and Trade Comic and Toy Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. at Social Event Space, 2833 MainStreet, Hurricane. Free to enter.

- There will be a Daddy Daughter Dance from 6 to 8 p.m. at River Ridge Church, Saturn Way, Hurricane. The cost is \$25. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1979977362591>

without any meaningful interaction, equating to 82,511 of those living alone.

What the Rest of the Survey Reveals

Beyond the headline figure, the survey uncovered a deeper picture of winter isolation - one that doesn't disappear just because someone technically has company at home.

How often do seniors living alone feel lonely during winter?

Every day: 20%
Occasionally: 42%
Several times a week: 8%
Rarely: 18%
Never: 12%

The survey also found that even those living with a partner aren't immune as 65% admit they still sometimes feel alone despite sharing a home.

Winter really is the emotional low point

A striking 74% of seniors living alone say winter is when their loneliness feels at its worst.

A sense of invisibility

For many, loneliness isn't just the absence of company - it's the feeling of fading out of view as 68% say they feel forgotten or invisible during the winter months.

Support networks aren't guaranteed

29% of seniors living alone say they do not have even one person they can confide in during difficult times.

58% worry their loneliness is already harming their health.

Reaching out isn't easy

When isolation hits: 28% say they are very likely to reach out

32% are somewhat likely

22% are unlikely

18% are very unlikely

For some, the silence becomes a cycle that feeds on itself.

62% admitted that loneliness affected their physical or mental health this winter.

Finally, the survey revealed that 64% say their well-being would improve if someone reached out more often.

"Loneliness is often dismissed as a soft issue, but the numbers show it's anything but", says

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

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

February 14... Valentine's Day.

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate: Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer's lease hath all too short a date; Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines, And often is his gold complexion dimmd, And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance or nature's changing course untrimmd, But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st; Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st: So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

— W I L L I A M SHAKESPEARE

No doubt my readers

know I love Shakespeare.

This is my favorite sonnet

and has been since I was

a teen. I have taught this

one so many times. It

represents Valentine's

Day. It represents love.

My students scoffed,

sometimes, when we

started the sonnets, but

eventually wrote their

own... oh I miss teaching

in the classroom... I

retired in my sixties; I

subbed until after I turned

70; I homeschooled and

taught online until I

turned 77; I still work with

grands... and others...

Anthony Martin, founder

of Choice Mutual. "When

a quarter of seniors go a

full month without a

check-in, that's not just

a social concern - it's a

public-health warning

light. These are people

who aren't asking for

grand gestures; in many

cases, a simple phone

call or knock on the door

would make a meaningful

difference. Winter

magnifies everything,

including isolation, and

this data reminds us how

powerful small acts of

connection can be."

I digress... but I equate

love with teaching my

students also...

To me, the day is

also about family and

friendship, not just

romantic love. I love my

family and my friends. I

love this day. Yes, I send

valentines to my friends

and to my sweet grands.

The kids look forward

to them. I love receiving

valentines... they are

darling.

In this sonnet, the

speaker is making sure his

love knows how he feels,

and even though, she will

age, their love will not. As

long as life exists, he will

love her. Often we find

one true love, and nothing

shakes that. It lasts until

death do us part. I love

this idea.

During my life, all 78

plus years, I have loved and

been loved... I have been

blessed... I am blessed...

as the day approaches, I

know I will receive cards,

and one friend sends me

socks sometimes. Love

those... and even Teays

Valley biscuit gravy... fun

fun.. I send tea bags... of

course. I send money to

the grands... so here we

go to the time of life and

love and thanks to The

Bard ((Shakespeare) we

have these iconic words

of love... also we love

our friends and family to

pieces lol... because the

way we were is the way

we are always... loving...

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

Hurricane Crush Run — A Challenge

Continued from Page 1

something hard.”
 The winners of the Crush Run included:
10 Miler – Men
 1st – David Smith
 2nd – Kwasi Gambrah
 3rd – Jack Pennington
10 Miler – Women
 1st – Leslie Starnes
 2nd – Morgan Chandler
 3rd – Emma Pendergrass
5K – Men
 1st – Jude Stevens
 2nd – Asher Stevens
 3rd – Joel Wilt
5K – Women
 1st – Evelyn Stevens
 2nd – Breanna Fisher
 3rd – Ava Wilt



Crush Run participants set off from the starting point. (Photo courtesy of Frank Miller Photography)

Team Awards
10 Miler Team
Champions: Team Stanky Possum – Peter and Leslie Starnes
5K Team Champions:

Team Tore En Fuego – Ava Wilt and Jude Stevens
 The Crush Run is sponsored by the City of Hurricane and the Dumont Tri-County YMCA, as well

as other businesses and organizations throughout the community. Meeks Mountain Trails features 34+ miles of trails which are maintained by a team

of over 600 volunteers. The trail system is used by both hikers and bikers, and creates opportunities for the community to engage in fitness and enjoy nature.



The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.
 Feb. 12, 1867: Barboursville was incorporated by an act of the state legislature. Originally the county seat of Cabell County, it lost that honor after the C&O Railway was completed to Huntington.
 Feb. 13, 1800: Gen. John Jay Jackson Sr. was born near Parkersburg. He served in the Seminole Wars as a member of Gen.

Andrew Jackson's staff. As a delegate to the statehood conventions, he at times supported but ultimately opposed the founding of West Virginia.
 Feb. 13, 1913. Labor leader Mother Jones was arrested in Charleston after supporting union miners on Paint Creek and Cabin Creek.
 Feb. 13, 1923: Chuck Yeager was born at Myra, about seven miles from Hamlin. In 1947, in a Bell X-1 rocket airplane dropped from a B-29 bomber, Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier by flying

700 miles per hour.
 Feb. 13, 1977: Football wide receiver Randy Moss was born in Rand, Kanawha County. After two All-American seasons at Marshall University, he went on to a hall of fame career in the National Football League.
 Feb. 14, 1968: Former Governor W. W. "Wally" Barron (1961-65) and several close associates were indicted for public corruption. Barron was acquitted, but all of his co-defendants were convicted. Barron later served prison time for jury tampering in the initial trial.
 Feb. 15, 1930: Sara Jane Moore was born in Charleston. On Sept. 22, 1975, Moore attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford in San Francisco.
 Feb. 15, 1975: Elizabeth Kee, the state's first female member of Congress, died in Bluefield. Kee was elected to Congress in 1951 after the death of her

husband, John. She retired in 1965 and was succeeded by her son, James.
 Feb. 15, 2011: The Lady Bobcats of Summers County High School won their 89th consecutive game, setting a state basketball record for girls or boys. They went on to win 105 straight.
 Feb. 16, 1821: Morris Harvey was born near Prosperity in Raleigh County. Harvey's gifts to the Barboursville Seminary led to its name being changed to Morris Harvey College in 1901. The institution is now known as the University of Charleston.
 Feb. 16, 1951: Second Lieutenant Darwin Keith Kyle of Boone County died during an intense exchange against Chinese forces in Korea. He was awarded the Medal of Honor.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER KENNETH RANDOLPH



06/07/1944 – 02/04/2021

Today, on this 5th anniversary of your passing, we remember and honor you. Each passing year, we must come to reconcile with the empty parts of our lives you so perfectly fit. We remember you for the incredible person you were and the beautiful life you lived. Your family, friends, and community, which you were an enormous part of, all cherish their memories with you. We miss your smile, your love, your laughter, and your larger-than-life personality that touched the lives of so many. Each of us loves and misses you so dearly. Thank you for all the memories you made with us. Our lives will never be the same without your presence. May you rest in Gods eternal peace and love.
 Forever in Our Hearts
 The Family and Friends of Roger K. Randolph

ELECTION WATCH 2026

Continued from Page 1

Democratic Executive Committee (District 3 - Male) — No Filers	Republican Executive Committee (District 1 - Male) — Mark Higginbotham,	3 - Female) — Jessica Hodge, Ilse Long, Becky Richmond
Republican Executive Committee (District 1 - Female) — Kris Raynes, Kenessa Thompson	Republican Executive Committee (District 2 - Male) — Ron Stone, Vasilios "Billy" Manuel, Kyle Long	Republican Executive Committee (District 2 - Male) — Ron Stone, Vasilios "Billy" Manuel, Kyle Long
Republican Executive Committee (District 2 - Female) — Sabrina Manuel	Republican Executive Committee (District 3 - Male) — Tony Hodge, Caleb A. Turner	Republican Executive Committee (District 3 - Male) — Tony Hodge, Caleb A. Turner

We're turning over a new leaf.

Notice anything different about us lately? We've got a new look and new language, all in an effort to better serve our customers and our community. You deserve our very best, and when we look our best, we do our best work. Don't worry – you'll still bank at your same branches with the same friendly faces you know and love. Think of this like a fresh coat of paint, done the right way. We're excited to turn over a new leaf and get back to what we do best: helping people grow.

Visit fbsc.com/new for more info.

Farmers Bank™

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A Message from UNION OIL & GAS and TEAVEE OIL & GAS

Do You Know How To Recognize A Gas Leak?

USE YOUR SENSES!

- ✓ **LOOK FOR:** Dirt being blown into the air, Water bubbling at a pond or creek, Fire coming from the ground, Dead or discolored vegetation
- ✓ **LISTEN FOR:** A roaring, blowing or hissing sound
- ✓ **SMELL:** A gas or petroleum odor, Notice any unusual odor

Walk away from the area and call 911, or 304-586-2151

UNION OIL & GAS and TEAVEE OIL & GAS
304-586-2151

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

Leon United Memorial Church

With God, All Things Are Possible . . .

53 Aylor Street,
Leon, WV 25123

Service Times:

Sunday Mornings:
10am Sunday School &
11am Worship

3rd Sunday Evening
@ 6pm

Pastor: Bill Greene



“Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.”

- John 14:12

Daily Bible Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalms 113:1-9	Leviticus 19:1-18	John 2:13-17	1 Kings 8:22-32	Exodus 33:12-23	Exodus 40:1-38
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BASIC BIBLE

By Ron Allen
304-562-9881

Holy Conduct

I Peter 1:14-17

The text before us is a portion of Peter's instruction to the believers who were scattered throughout the area which is now the present day nation of Turkey (see v. 1). The date of writing is thought to be between A.D. 60 and 62. The apostle calls upon his audience to prepare for a mental warfare which will require them to protect "the loins of your mind." In the first verse of the chapter, Peter addressed these same believers as strangers because all believers are temporary residents in a hostile world — a world that does not know the God who would have all men come to repentance and dwell with Him for all eternity.

The apostle now addresses these believers as obedient children (v. 14). Obedient children of the King are obedient to the commands of the King. The manner of conduct of obedient children is far different from the manner of disobedient children. Fear of punishment is cause for wayward children to change their ways. Knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior is cause to for believers to change from past ways because we are to love one another as He loves us. Before our physical vessels became home to the Holy Spirit, we were ignorant and driven by selfish desires. We did not know God's love. Believers are no longer ignorant. We know the truth and the truth has made us free. Very few, however, have put aside all former ignorance. Evidence of that failure is seen in a testimony driven by former lusts. We are the home of the Holy Spirit but fail to hear the Comforter because of lingering lusts. We lust and fail to be Spirit-directed.

There is no reason to remain ignorant (unlearned). God's word is before us and states that we must deny the flesh and feel the Spirit. When we feed the Spirit, we hear the Comforter speak. Our ignorance dissipates and we become truly obedient children — children who conduct themselves as "he which hath called you" (v. 15). All are called by the Spirit to be witnesses of Christ.

Peter was personally called by the Lord who said "Follow and I will make you fishers of men." The Lord who called Peter is holy. In the holiness of the Son, we look upon the Holiness of the Father. Jesus Christ was without sin but being holy is more than being without sin. The holiness of God cannot be captured with achievement. The holiness of God radiates outward.

Obedient children are to radiate God's holiness. We cannot be sinless. Believers fail each and every day. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and the truth is not in us." (I Jn. 1:10). The only means by which we, obedient children, can be holy is to radiate the holiness which has been given to us. Again, we are to love one another as He loves us. We are to be holy because God is holy. We are to radiate holiness as He radiates holiness.

Physical radiation is not seen; it is felt. The holiness which we are to radiate is, likewise, not seen. Its warmth is to be experienced by all, including those who do not know its real source (we radiate that which we have received from the holy God who "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"). The source of the warmth which others sense emanating from us is of God and it is made visible by the manner of our conversation (v. 15). Our love is His love. Our conversations (words and actions) with the world and with each other are to be as those of Him who came, not to condemn, but to save (Jn. 3:17). Our conversation is to reflect that which we have received. Believers are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). We are to let our light shine. We are to be obedient children.

In verse 17, Peter exhorts believers to reverence the Father with godly fear. We are made adopted sons through faith, believing on the name of Jesus (Rom. 10:13). We have been given power to become sons of God (Jn. 1:12). He is our Father and we are His children.

A son is a reflection of his father. The light that we have been given is the only light that the ignorant may see during our stay on Planet Earth. We are sojourners. We shall see our Redeemer, face to face, and shall dwell with Him forever. Before that time, however, we shall be judged. The Judge is blind to our sins because He has covered them with His blood. The Judge is not blind to our works. We have been assigned to shine His light. Our works shall be judged. We have cause for fear on payday because our works shall be tried by fire. They shall be consumed and only those which are of Christ Jesus shall remain.

Let us ever seek to remain on task, letting His light shine.

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KIDS TALK ABOUT GOD

BY CAREY KINSOLVING AND FRIENDS

How Does the Holy Spirit Show People They Need Christ?

"The Holy Spirit is here to help us believe when Christ is with his father," says Hannah, 11.

When Jesus told his disciples he was going away, I wish we could have seen their faces. Rather than Jesus being physically present with them, he sent the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Jesus presented his departure and the Holy Spirit's advent as advantageous for his disciples.

I suppose this was like taking off the training wheels when learning how to ride a bike. For three years, Jesus had taught them about his Father and the ways of his kingdom. Jesus even told them he was going to die in Jerusalem and rise again to ascend to his Father, but they couldn't imagine it at the time.

Jesus' disciples were too busy jockeying for position in his kingdom. They couldn't imagine Jesus being crucified as a common criminal. This didn't line up with their Messianic expectations.

Regarding the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "And when he has come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in me," (John 16:8-9).

The Holy Spirit is the world's greatest evangelist. Consider the experience of Francesca, 11: "I was so scared having to watch my dad be so close to death. That was when the Holy Spirit moved me to accept Christ into my heart. After that, I had faith that God would help my dad get better, and he did."

Our conscience speaks to us about individual sins. The Holy Spirit convicts or convinces us of our need to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior. People imagine they are destined to hell because of their personal sins. However, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict all people "of sin, because they do not believe in me."

Jesus said, "He who believes in him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God," (John 3:18). The only issue that determines one's eternal destiny is belief in Jesus Christ or unbelief in him.

Jesus purchased everyone's ticket to heaven, but we must receive that ticket by believing in him alone for our salvation. The Holy Spirit wants every person to believe in Christ.

"If we are made aware of the Holy Spirit's conviction, we are made aware of God's perfect love for us," says Kaina, 11.

We live in a world of conditional love where our performance determines whether love is given or withheld. God's perfect love doesn't depend on our performance. God pursues us even when we sin. We can't comprehend a love that persists even when we resist. This is where the Holy Spirit's job comes into play.

Despite our desire to earn God's approval through our own efforts, the Holy Spirit convinces us that God's love doesn't depend on our worthiness. God pursues everyone, but especially those who realize they need God's grace.

Think about this: When religious leaders criticized Jesus for eating with sinners, Jesus said he didn't come to save the righteous, but to save sinners (Luke 5:32). The righteous of whom Jesus spoke were religious leaders who didn't see their need for a savior. They trusted in their religious rules and traditions.

Memorize this truth: John 16:8-9 previously quoted.

Ask this question: Have you heard the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit telling you that you need forgiveness and a righteousness that is not your own?

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT		LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT	
Tariff Form No. 8 (RULE 23)			
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE			
NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.			
The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company's Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:			
	(\$)	INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$	9.63	% 10.57
Commercial	\$	14.23	% 4.09
Large Commercial	\$	1,058.29	% 1.31
Industrial	\$	378.26	% 1.69
Resale	\$	125.36	% 1.31
Other	\$	-	%
This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.			
Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.			
The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)			
Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the <u>Rules of Practice and Procedure</u> , 150 C.S.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.			
A complete copy of the Company's tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:			
501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304			
A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.			
2-12-2t			

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated July 3, 2024, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Putnam County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 1368, at Page 597, Michael W. Davis and Kelly Davis did convey unto Robert H. Skeen, Jr., Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party 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 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM

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

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of real estate, situate, lying and being in Union District, Putnam County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a corner in the middle of the McLean Turnpike where the military line crosses said turnpike; thence with said turnpike and three lines of Lot No. 2, N. 61-1/4 W. 16 poles; N. 15 E. 11 poles and N. 69-1/2 E. 46 poles to a corner at the forks of the road near Sam Giles; thence with Giles line and along a road toward Buffalo Branch, N. 26-1/4 E. 16 poles; N. 3-1/2 W. 9 poles 10 links; N. 66-3/4 W. 26 poles; N. 41 W. 26 poles, N. 15-1/4 E. 9 poles; N. 28-1/2 W. 14 poles to a stone at the top of the hill and near a large white oak on the southwest side of the road; thence leaving the road, S. 89-1/2 W. 98 poles to a stone pile on a branch; thence down the branch S. 16 W. 29 poles 5 links to a beech on the north side of the branch; thence S. 63-1/2 W. 39 poles, 10 links to a large beech on the north side of the branch near a spring; thence N. 85-1/2 W. 19 poles 15 links to a corner by a sugar tree on the south side of the branch line in line of Courtney's; thence S. 18-1/2 W. 19 poles 21 links to a stone pile, corner to Courtney's land and the military line and with the military line S. 71-1/2 E. 172 poles to the place of beginning, containing 95-1/8 acres, more or less.

There is EXCEPTED and RESERVED from the herein described real estate the following lots, tracts or parcel of real estate which have been conveyed by Homer Criner and Lesta E. Criner, his wife, to wit:

- 5/16 acre, more or less, conveyed to J.G. Tolley and Ella Tolley, his wife, by deed dated March 20, 1963, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Putnam County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 147 at Page 400.
- 36 acres, more or less, conveyed unto Carl E. Pitchford and Deanna Faye Pitchford, his wife, by deed dated June 25, 1965, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book 157 at Page 113.
- A parcel (no acreage set out) conveyed unto D. Shane Covert and Linda M. Covert, his wife, by deed dated May 6, 1971, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book 185 at Page 365, a plat of said parcel being attached thereto.
- 1.64 acres, more or less, conveyed unto Norman C. Arthur and Audrey V. Arthur, his wife, by deed dated December 20, 1973, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book 202 at Page 32.
- 20 acres, more or less, conveyed unto Michael S. Criner and Diana R. Criner, his wife, by deed dated June 6, 1979, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 244 at Page 397.
- 1.8 acre, more or less, conveyed unto Roy E. Summers and Lou Ann Summers, his wife, by deed dated September 14, 1981, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book 259 at Page 497.
- 1.7 acres, more or less, conveyed unto Roy E. Summers and Lou Ann Summers, his wife, by deed dated September 11, 1989, of record in the aforesaid Clerk's office in Deed Book 320 at Page 748.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 863 McLane Pike, Red House, WV 25168.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Michael W. Davis and Kelly Davis, by Deed dated July 3, 2024, from Michael Stewart Criner and Diana R. Criner, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Putnam County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 628 at Page 959.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid 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: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

Richard A. Pill, Member
P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404
Phone (304) 263-4971,
Fax (304) 267-5840,
e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

For the week ending February 6, 2026

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates continue to move bills through the legislative process as the 60-day regular session nears its halfway point. A total of 42 House bills had passed the full House as of Feb. 6, and they now are with the West Virginia Senate for deliberation.

Among them is House Bill 4004, which passed the House Feb. 4 by a vote of 86-7. It would create the Recharge West Virginia Program to support companies in the state that give their employees an expansion in skills along with at least a 25% boost in pay.

Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison, presented the bill and answered questions about it before the vote. He told his fellow Delegates it was important to ask questions and be deliberative when casting votes about how to invest the state's tax dollars.

"I can't think of a better place to invest than the state's people ... and building a stronger economy for our state," Riley said. "It creates a smart incentive for companies to grow here and hire here — West Virginians.

"It creates real opportunities for West Virginians to earn industry-recognized credentials and move into higher-paying jobs; it's what we always talk about. Let's raise people up — help them up. It closes the skills gap. It keeps talent in West Virginia, which is our biggest export right now, and it prioritizes regions with economic

distress — those southern coalfields who said we need something. This is something."

Delegate Kayla Young, D-Kanawha, who voted for the bill after asking several questions, said she thought it was "a great idea."

"I think anything we can do to help with upskilling our employees is fantastic," Young said just ahead of the vote. "I really think this is going to help with manufacturing."

House Bill 4456 unanimously passed the House Feb. 4. It would allow law enforcement agencies in West Virginia to enter into written agreements with law enforcement agencies in border states to better help with investigations.

The measure, sponsored by Delegate Scot Heckert, R-Wood, passed unanimously Feb. 4. It came about after the sheriffs in Wood and Pleasants counties met with their counterparts in the Buckeye State and discussed ways to better aid and cooperate with one another.

"Especially with the nature of our state and so many borders we share, I thought this would be a simple but important way to better help our law enforcement officers easily cut through red tape and get to the jobs they're trained to do," Heckert said.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 1,316 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Public Service Commission Chairman Lane's Column

Trains are beautiful, but tracks must be respected

Here are words you would rarely put together: railroad safety and the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

Yet, when it comes to keeping rails safe and clear in the Mountain State, those duties fall to our Commission.

And the center of that work is Operation Lifesaver.

For more than three decades, the PSC has been a partner of Operation Lifesaver, a national nonprofit focused on rail safety education.

Together with us, they raise safety awareness and strive to reduce accidents at rail crossings.

That dedication starts at the top. The head of our railroad division was named chairman of the state program's board of directors last year. John Perry is an excellent choice in that role and has served for 31 years as our coordinator.

John and his team of nine in our railroad section hosted more than 25 outreach events in partnership with Operation Lifesaver in 2025. Each event engages the public about the dangers that come from ignoring rail safety.

Railroad crossing safety is particularly important in a rural state, where roads and rails often intersect in sparsely populated areas.

The Federal Railroad Administration says crossing collisions and pedestrian trespassing on tracks account for more than 95 percent of all railroad fatalities.

Many people forget that railroad tracks are private property, or assume an unused track is no longer active. But assumptions have tragic consequences.

Whether walking, riding ATVs, or taking photos near tracks, these activities are illegal and pose many dangers. Treat railroad tracks like a busy highway, not a place to linger, walk your dog, or take a shortcut.

A moment's curiosity is never worth a lifetime of consequences. That's the heart of the Operation Lifesaver message: See Tracked? Think Train.

So next time you're at the State Fair, your local train show, or even aboard the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, don't be surprised if you meet someone from the PSC's Railroad Safety team. They're part of your community, and they're passionate about what they do.

Wherever they are, they're working with Operation Lifesaver to keep you and your loved ones safe.

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NOTICE TO REDEEM			
2023-C-000352 - Putnam County To: DEBRAH ANDERSON, OCCUPANT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.			
DISTRICT SCOTT MAP 223G PARCEL 0176 0000 0000			
You will take notice that CATO ENERGY LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2023-C-000352 , located in SCOTT District, LOT 122 (.122 AC) SEC 5 MARINA PARK, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ANDERSON DEBRAH E, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of PUTNAM County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 18, 2024. CATO ENERGY LLC, requests that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2026 will be as follows:			
Estate No.:	6360	Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 18596.	\$155.71
Estate Of:	Arnold G Bailey	Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number \$0.00	
Administratrix:	Suzette Jane Maurer 7525 Winfield Rd Winfield, WV 25213	Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest for tax year 2023-118695.	\$79.21
Estate No.:	6291	Additional taxes with interest. \$0.00	
Estate Of:	Harry Milton Blackford	Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$119.38
Executrix:	Jan A Bailey 119 Matthew Ave Poca, WV 25159	Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$639.07
Estate No.:	6377	Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$280.21
Estate Of:	Samuel Carl Pierson, Jr.	Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$1,273.58
Administratrix:	Erin Beth Pierson 2622 Virginia Ave Hurricane, Wv 25526	You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.	
Estate No.:	6310	<i>If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.</i>	
Estate Of:	Virginia Arlene Salyards	Given under my hand February 2, 2026	
Executrix:	Rosemarie A Lipford 1476 Dunlap Road Buffalo, WV 25033	<i>Christal G. Perry</i> Christal G. Perry Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of PUTNAM County, State of West Virginia	
Estate No.:	6364	Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 1, Room W-114, Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.	
Estate Of:	Jimmy L Scott	Questions please call 1-888-509-6568	
Administratrix:	Cynthia Wandling 152 Steve Circle Hurricane, WV 25526		
All persons having claims against the estate(s) of any of the above-named deceased persons whether due or not, are notified to exhibit their claims with vouchers thereof, legally verified, to the fiduciary of such deceased person as shown above within 60 days of February 12, 2026, or, if not, to exhibit the same at the office of the undersigned Fiduciary Supervisor at the address shown below by said date; otherwise any or all such claims may by law be excluded from all benefits of said estate(s). No claims against the estate shall be accepted by the fiduciary supervisor after said date. All beneficiaries of said estate(s) may appear either before the above-named fiduciary by the date first shown above, or thereafter before the undersigned fiduciary supervisor by the date last shown above to examine said claims and otherwise protect their respective interests.			
All persons seeking to impeach or establish a will must file a complaint pursuant to W. Va. Code. Any person objecting to the representative's qualifications, venue or jurisdiction must file a complaint within 60 days of February 12, 2026.			
Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 6th day of February 2026 Putnam County Commission 12093 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV 25213			
		2-12-2t	

Together with a certain Manufactured Home, Serial No. VAFL719AB63372.

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

2-5-2t

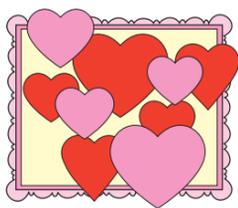
Subscribe to the Breeze for One Year in Putnam County for \$27.00

2-12-3t

2-12-3t

Fillers Page

Edited by Betsy Allen



There's No Lying In A Dog

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

A dog's completely honest
What you see is what you get
They revel in transparency
Much more than other pets

They live their lives to please you
And they love you absolutely
They wag their tails to greet you
And then squirm around quite cutely

You can teach a dog to sit
Shake hands and other tricks
To please you they will run and fetch
And then return thrown sticks

They sniff to see who's been around
And tinkle calling cards
Protecting you and all your stuff
They're always standing guard

Recipes

Submitted by Connie Reddington of Eleanor

Citrus Cabbage Slaw

5 cups shredded cabbage
1 can (11 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained
1 cup cauliflowerets
1 can (8 ounces) unsweetened pineapple chunks, drained
1/2 cup chopped green pepper
2/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 tablespoon water
2 teaspoons finely chopped onion
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
1/2 teaspoon celery seed

In a large bowl, toss cabbage, oranges, cauliflower, pineapple and green pepper. In another bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Stir into cabbage mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Toss just before serving serve with a slotted spoon. Yield: 8 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: One serving (1/2 cup) equals 195 calories, 9 g fat (1 g saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 314 mg sodium, 28 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 2 g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 1 vegetable, 1 fruit, 1 fat, 1/2 starch.

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

Start Your Day Strong with this Strawberry Oatmeal Smoothie

(Family Features) Making a delicious oatmeal smoothie has never been easier. Just six ingredients and a blender is all you need to make the perfect fruit-smoothie at home. Deliciously sweet and creamy this strawberry oatmeal smoothie makes for a healthy and filling breakfast or snack.

Strawberry Oatmeal Smoothie



- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1 banana
- 14 frozen strawberries
- 1 cup soy milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Use blender to grind up oats. Add soy milk, strawberries, banana, vanilla extract and sugar then blend until smooth. Pour and serve.



Fillers from Linda

Submitted by Linda~Lavender Armstead
Washington Hill Road, Hurricane

Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own.

At the end of the day, I am at peace, because my intentions are good, and my heart is pure.

You are my today, George Armstead, and all of my tomorrows.

Guard your heart, and keep it pure, and all things, choose joy.

The most beautiful way to start the day is with a grateful heart and a positive attitude.

No beauty shines brighter than that of a good heart.

A pure heart is the vessel that contains a soul's true beauty.

Sensitive souls breathe through their hearts; they don't know any other way.

Love is not what you say. Love is what you do.

When God is at the center of your relationship, peace replaces confusion, and love replaces fear.

You're the salt to my pepper, George Armstead.

Gratitude is a celebration of love.

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind. - William Shakespeare

Everything in the entire universe is always about love. And when it isn't about love, it's about the absence of love.

Don't forget the flowers for Valentine's Day. It's not like it's going to cost you an arm and an egg.

Because of a great love, one is courageous.

A love that can last forever takes but a second to come about.

Love is that phenomenon of total letting go.

Happy Valentine's Day to my son, Bradley Armstead.

Love is shown in your deeds, not in your words.

Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold.

Let your mind be challenged, your spirit be free, and your heart be full of love.

Love is when the other person's happiness is more important than your own.

Love life and its intricate twists and turns. There are treasures to be found in the journey.

Since love grows within you, so beauty grows, for love is the beauty of the soul.

Any time that is spent on love is not wasted.

It takes a strong heart to love, but it takes a stronger heart to continue to love after it's been hurt.

Believe in your dreams and follow your heart.



Love doesn't need to be perfect, it just needs to be true.

Happy Valentine's Day to my grandchildren, Kelci and Braeden.

The love of God shines through His son.

Patience serves as a foundation for unconditional love.

Divine love is revealed in moments of peace and makes us bold.

Love is not just something you say; it's something you do.

Love is the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired. - Robert Frost

If you want to be loved, be lovable.

Abiding in the self you become the valentine for the whole world. Spirit is the valentine of matter and matter is the valentine of the spirit.

Love can transform the most commonplace into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace. - Helen Steiner Rice

Love the heart that hurts you, but never hurt the heart that loves you.

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. - Mother Teresa

The way is not in the sky. The way is in the heart.

Love is a butterfly, which when pursued is just beyond your grasp, but if you will sit down quietly it may alight upon you. - Nathaniel Hawthorne

You come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by seeing an imperfect person perfectly.

We can do no great things - only small things with great love. - Mother Teresa

You are loved by the same hands that shaped the stars. That love never lets go.

Patience serves as a foundation for unconditional love.

We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.

Happy Valentine's Day to Ron and Betsy and the Hurricane Breeze Fillers Fans!

Love is never lost. If not reciprocated, it will flow back, and soften and purify the heart.

When love speaks, the voice of all the gods make heaven drowsy with the harmony. - William Shakespeare

Love is not finding someone you can live with; it's finding someone you can't live without.

Love will find a way. Indifference will find an excuse.

I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love. - Mother Teresa

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.

We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.

Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness.

One drop of God's love will have an immeasurable ripple effect in the world around you. Be that drop.

Just think about the way Jesus honors you - and smile. I do. Because I know, I don't deserve a love like that. None of us do!

Happy Valentine's Day! Live in peace, be in love, feel blessed.

It is not being in love that makes me happy, but it is being in love with you that makes me happy, George!

Always remember to be happy because you never know who's falling in love with your smile.

May you follow your dreams and always believe in yourself. Keep your eyes on the stars and hope in your heart.

Relationships are like peeing your pants. Everyone can see it, and only you can feel the warmth from it.

Love is like Wi-Fi, sometimes strong, sometimes weak, but you still can't live without it.

Love is the seventh sense that destroys all the six senses and makes the person non-sense.

Older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stay in there, wondering what they came for. It's not a memory problem. It is nature's way of making older people do exercise.

Life really comes down to three things: the people you love are well, you tried your best, and you appreciate everything you have.

Love is beautiful because it is controlled by the heart. But friendship is very beautiful because it is a feeling that takes care of another heart.

Bible Verse



Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

— Acts 2:33

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Obituaries

JOSHUA ARMSTRONG Club. Joshua Lee Armstrong, age 36, of Hurricane, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 6, 2026, after a long illness. Born on June 29, 1989, in Morgantown, to Mary and Tim Merritt, Joshua was recently engaged to Haylei Jordan. He found joy in fishing, hunting, spending time with his family and dogs, and working as a groundskeeper at Sleepy Hollow.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Patricia Lee Hollandsworth Burgroff; sons: Robert P. (Melissa) Burgroff of Winfield, and Richard N. Burgroff of Winfield; sisters: Karen Norman and Dixie (Scott) Mitchell; brother, Steve (Linda) Burgroff; 4 grandchildren.

A service will be scheduled at a later date.

Joshua will be reunited with his beloved puppy Lille; his grandmother Bess, grandfather Victor, and grandparents Roger, and Charolette, and uncle Ron.

SHARON CLEVELAND Sharon Ann Cleveland, 73, of Culloden, was born on May 8, 1952, and passed away February 5th, 2026, at her residence.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rupert and Faye Kelly, brother Roger Lee Kelly Sr. and son Matthew Cleveland.

Sharon is survived by her husband Donald and daughter Michelle Brinkerhoff and grandsons Corey and Allison Brinkerhoff and Jacob and wife Rachel Brinkerhoff and two great grandsons Carter and Wesley, daughter Margaret Cleveland and granddaughters Lauren Machado and Elizabeth Jackson and grandson Kristopher Machado, son Mark Cleveland and wife Lisa and grandsons Jesse and wife Aisha Trammell, and Christopher and wife Danielle Trammell and Jackson Cleveland and grand daughters Hannah Cleveland and Lila Cleveland, son Mike Cleveland; Matthew's children, granddaughters Allison and husband Ryan Johnson and great grandson Nolan Glen and Shannon Cleveland and grandson Tyson Cleveland, twin-sister Karen Lemon and daughter Kara and husband Gavin Shreves and sons Kaleb and wife Hailey and Christian Shreves.

Sharon retired from Rite Aide Warehouse in Poca in 2012 after 28 years. She loved the Lord and her family.

She loved to visit with people, never meet a stranger and made a new friend everywhere she went. Over the last several years Parkinson's disease took away many of the things that she loved but still she remained kind, positive, forgiving, helpful and good.

Memorial service was held at Allen Funeral

Home on Tuesday, February 10th.

SYLVIA LYNN GALLEHER

Sylvia Lynn Buchanan Galleher, 80, of Hurricane, and formerly of Clinton, OH, passed away on January 30, 2026 at home.

She was born to the late George Garrett and Ruth Beatrice McGowen Buchanan in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sylvia was a member of Gateway Christian Church, although previously a 60 year member of Lakeview Christian Church, where she spent about 50 years in the choir. In addition to her time in the choir, she also spent time singing solos and in music groups. She loved to spend time outdoors, especially in her flower beds, often found with her husband enriching the beautiful flowers.

Sylvia is survived by her loving husband of over 61 years, Danny R. Galleher; daughters: Lynn Tompkin (Mark) of Hurricane, Sue Emch (Ben) of Bowmansville, PA and Wendy Barnett of Fairlawn, OH; grandchildren: Cory (Chelsea), Shell, Evan (Tiana), Lilly, Alysia (Kaz) and Brooke; great granddaughter, Kaylee, and another great grandchild on the way; and her brother, Ray Buchanan (Cindy) of Green, OH; as well as many other dear family members and friends.

Family is comforted by having been witness of her strong faith in her savior Jesus Christ, and therefore knowing "to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8.

DELLA 'JILL' LITTON

Della "Jill" Litton, 66, of Scott Depot, left us on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Hubbard Hospice House of Charleston. She was a faithful servant who has no doubt entered into the presence of the Lord.

Jill was born April 24, 1959 in Charleston, WV, a daughter of the late Charles

and Lorraine Roberts. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Drema (James) Lineger.

On August 22, 1987, she married Mike Litton, she is also survived by two sons: Michael James and Matthew (Katie) Litton of Huntington; two grandchildren: Brooklyn Litton and Liliana (Gracie) Litton of Scott Depot; four sisters: Debra (Emory) Underwood of TN, Angela Pritt of Charleston, Greta (Rick) Pauly of South Charleston, and Missy Roberts of Dunbar; one brother: Charles (Saritsia) Roberts of Poca; two sister-in laws: Brenda (Steve) Lilly of Fraziers Bottom, and Dale Litton of Cross Lanes; two brother-in laws: Randy (Kim) Litton of Nitro, and Clarence (Tammy) Litton of Townsend, GA; 64 nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Jill was a true Earth Angel, so compassionate, loving, caring, sweet, and giving. She was loved by all who knew her. She loved gardening, canning, and sewing, which she was exquisite at. Her love for plants and flowers led to her employment at Shanklin's Greenhouse, followed by several years at Walmart. Her biggest and greatest love was her family, raising Brooklyn and Gracie most of all.

DONALD EUGENE MILLER

Donald Eugene Miller, of Hometown, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2026, leaving this world to meet his Lord and Savior.

Don was born on November 8, 1933, the eldest son of the late Albert and Letha Miller. He lived a life marked by quiet strength, kindness, and a servant's heart. Don was the very best at being a brother, and he now rejoins his beloved sisters, Virginia, Elizabeth, and Lillian, and his brother, Orville, who welcomed him home with open arms in Heaven.

Known by all who knew him as "as handy as they come," Don



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had an incredible gift for carpentry and an unmatched understanding of how things worked. If something was broken, Don could fix it—often better than new. His hands were skilled, but his heart was even greater, and he was a true blessing to everyone fortunate enough to cross his path.

Don is survived by Gregory Wyckoff of Fort Worth, Texas, along with extended relatives in Ohio and West Virginia.

Burial was in Schowen Cemetery in Bancroft.

TRAVIS W. WITT

Travis W. Witt, 48, of Red House, passed away unexpectedly on January 27, 2026.

He was born to Wayne Lee and the late Debra Katherine (Cobb) Witt on August 6, 1977. In addition to his mother,

Travis was also preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Lucille and Amos Witt; and maternal grandparents: Gladys and Otis Cobb.

He was a member of the Ironworkers Local #787 Parkersburg, and was employed with the City of St. Albans Sanitation Department. He loved his family, spending time with his grandsons, dirt track racing and anything WVU. Let's Go Mountaineers!

In addition to his father, Travis is also survived by his daughter, Delaney Witt of Hurricane; grandsons: Rome Witt-Just, and Colter Hall; brother, Scott Witt (Shannon) of Bridgeport; and a host of friends and extended family.

A Memorial service for Travis was Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Chapman Funeral Home, Winfield, with Pastor Nyle Fisher officiating.



- | | |
|--|---|
| WILLIE (JUNE-BUG) MILLER
Hurricane
Birthday January 31 | DYLAN ELI BIRD
1951 Pine Grove Drive
Culloden
20th Birthday February 15 |
| LARRY STANLEY
Wilmington, Ohio
95th Birthday February 13 | LISA HAMMICKS
6423 Hurricane Creek Road
Hurricane
58th Birthday February 16 |
| LARRY CALL
874 Cow Creek Road
Hurricane
79th Birthday February 13 | IAN GREGORY McNEIL GILFILEN
2927 Main Street
20th Birthday February 16 |
| JOYCE YOUNG
6994 Hurricane Creek Road
Winfield
68th Birthday February 13 | ALISHA MAYNARD
South Carolina
Birthday February 16 |
| DANNY GRAHAM
105 Buckhorn Circle
Eatonton, Georgia
78th Birthday February 13 | ETHAN WHITE
Hurricane
19th Birthday February 16 |
| JACOB TYLER CRIBB
1205 Ann Street
Huntington
17th Birthday February 13 | RHETT PARKER ASHBY
Cross Lanes
8th Birthday February 16 |
| RUTH ALFORD
1091 Kelton Avenue, Room 602
Ocoee, Florida
98th Birthday February 13 | HEATHER GOTHARD
Proctorville, Ohio
28th Birthday February 16 |
| DR DAVID JEREMIAH
San Diego, California
85th Birthday February 13 | DR SCOTT JAMES HENRY
132 Willow Wood Circle
Hurricane
56th Birthday February 17 |
| CRYSTAL HARPER COLLARD
Morgantown
47th Birthday February 14 | JULIA HINKLE
Huntington
Birthday February 17 |
| BRUCE ALAN ADKINS
Huntington
71st Birthday February 14 | COLLEEN LAWSON
274 SW Ray Avenue
Port St. Lucie, Florida
74th Birthday February 17 |
| ROGER LeGRAND
84 Twp 337 Road
Kittshill, Ohio
66th Birthday February 14 | HEATHER NICHOLE CASTO BONHAM
Winfield
38th Birthday February 17 |
| NIKKI BARINARD AKERS
Frazier's Bottom
Birthday February 14 | PAMELA FERGUSON
171 Plantation Road
Pliny
Birthday February 17 |
| DR JONATHAN HILL
Clymer's Creek Road
Hurricane
42nd Birthday February 15 | CHRISTIE JOHNSON MATUSZKIEWICZ
Hurricane
Birthday February 17 |
| YVONNE ERWIN LANHAM
St. Albans
77th Birthday February 15 | SHERRY HODGES BUCHLA
Atlanta, Georgia
Birthday February 17 |
| CORA COMBS
Eleanor
72nd Birthday February 15 | DEBBIE GIBSON
2861 Hurricane Creek Road
Hurricane
69th Birthday February 18 |

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 are asked to arrive at 9:30 am.

Let's come together to show our seniors how much they are appreciated!

EVERETT NEVILLE
1115 Stewart Additon Rear Milton
74th Birthday February 18

BOYCE BAKER
Trenton, Ohio
59th Birthday February 18

VANNA WHITE
Conway, South Carolina
69th Birthday February 18

HERSHEL JON GILLISPIE
Katy, Texas
75th Birthday February 18

MARSHA McKINNEY
2628 Raceview Drive Ona
Birthday February 18

EDWARD (BUB) HEDRICK
Fort Myers, Florida
Birthday February 18

KATHY LOSH
Culloden
86th Birthday February 18

TINA LEADMON
2017 Trace Creek Road Hurricane
64th Birthday February 18

MARY JANE CONNER
Alabama
51st Birthday February 18

REV KENNETH CONN
P.O. Box 504
Flatwoods, Kentucky
73rd Birthday February 18

JACKIE LEE BLACK
1000 Jane Drive Culloden
80th Birthday February 19

MARCUS BLACKMON
P.O. Box 275 Branchland
77th Birthday February 19

LORIANNE CROOK OWENS
Brentwood, Tennessee
69th Birthday February 19

RANDY FOX
Candler, North Carolina
Birthday February 19

REBECCA RICHMOND
3012 Sansom Court Milton
65th Birthday February 19

CHRISTANNA DONAHUE
#2 Morris Court Culloden
Birthday February 19

MINDY SCARBERRY
Barboursville
Birthday February 19

ERIC ALAN MORRISON
1607 W Mud River Road Milton
58th Birthday February 19

JUSTIN CHAPMAN
219 Johnston Drive North Carolina
37th Birthday February 19

DANNY BURDETTE
Smyrna, Florida
76th Birthday February 19

Polar Plunge Benefits Special Olympics



These two teens practiced their acrobatic jumping skills when they dove into the pool.

Continued From Page 1

held in Hurricane. The icy event included a contest with group and individual costumed plungers earning bragging rights.

Group costume contest winner was "B the Bobs." The individual winner was Mike Harmon portraying Forrest Gump. Very chilled plungers and their supporters gathered at the Fireside Grille after the event to warm up and enjoy the Fireside's offerings.



Grumpy old men jump into the icy pool.



Precious and Karma Taylor were one of the teams at the Polar Plunge.



The costume contest is a regular event at the Polar Plunge.

Happy Anniversary

Steven and Unchu Crowl of Nitro celebrated their forty-third wedding anniversary on February 4.

Joshua and Christine Jackson of 117 Glenwood Street in Milton will celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 14.

Larry and Becky Wallace Harper of Culloden will celebrate their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary on February 14.

Gary and Penny Green of 1 Grady Lane in Wellston, Ohio, will celebrate their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary on February 14.

Steve and Ebbie Deweese of Buffalo will celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 14.

Preston and Velma Sheets of 631 Parson's Ridge Road will celebrate their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary on February 17.

Larry and Pam Pauley

Lighthouse Baptist Food Pantry

Lighthouse Baptist Church, located on Route 60 in Hurricane, will have their monthly food pantry on Saturday, February 14. The food pantry is open the second Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m.

Card Shower Requested



A card shower has been requested for Ruth Alford, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday is on February 13th.

Send cards and letters to:
Ruth Alford
1091 Kelton Avenue, Room 602
Ocoee, FL 34761-3162

of 364 Whittle Run Loop in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, will celebrate their twelfth wedding anniversary on February 18.

Kanawha Kordsmen Join With Harmony ReChaired

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, you may remember running into "Those guys in red" serenading some lucky individual. Well, it's that time of year again, but you might be interested to know that the Kanawha Kordsmen are working side-by-side with our new sibling ensemble, Harmony ReChaired!

The chapter, now known as Charleston WV A Capella (CWVAC), hosts two choruses! All your favorite things about the Singing Valentines are the same. It's still \$55 for a song, a rose, and some candy to anyone in Kanawha or Putnam counties; \$45 for a video sent anywhere in the world; or \$35 for a phone delivery. What better way to show a loved one how special they are than to send the gift of song!

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