

FACTS & OPINIONS

Go figure 2%

The recycling rate in West Virginia as of the end of 2022.

The poll

This week’s question

- Do you recycle?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ I don’t know

Vote by noon Monday @ Hampshire Review.com

Last week’s question

116 votes cast  
Would you consider buying an electric vehicle the next time you purchase a car?

14 Yes  
91 No  
9 I don’t know  
2 I already own one

Poll watching

Cheryl Griffith: “Already have. Love it. Saving lots of money.”  
Deirdre LeHew: “No. We don’t have many charging stations around here and it gets too cold for them to charge or keep a charge. I am not dying by freezing to death in my own car if I can help it.”  
Jean Shoemaker: “Absolutely not!!!!”  
Alan Dice: “Already plan to.”

Did you know?

On June 23, 1944 – 79 years ago on Friday – a powerful tornado struck north central West Virginia, killing over 100 people.

Wordwise Sexadecacentennial

A 160th-year celebration – just like the one the Mountain State celebrated yesterday, on June 20.

FYI

Letters to the Editor have a 400-word and once-a-month limit. No anonymous letters will be printed. A letter must include the writer’s name and a phone number, address or email address we can reach for verification.

A college student’s guide to finding motivation

Something I’ve noticed about myself as a college student back home for the summer is that it takes a lot of energy for me to get ready in the mornings. It feels like I have to pull my limbs back together and roll out of bed to even begin getting dressed.

A joke that I like to make with friends and coworkers is that whatever looks good that day, is what I spend energy on. If my makeup looks good, that’s what I put my focus on. If my hair looks good, that’s what’s got my attention. Though it is kind of a joke, it’s also kind of not.

The amount of mental strain it can take to pull myself together to go to work, hang out with my friends or even just brush my hair is a little bit depressing.

You are probably reading this thinking, “Wow this girl sounds lazy,” and maybe you aren’t wrong – but I try



Faithlyn GRAHAM

GROWING WITH GRAHAM

not to judge myself too harshly because I know how hard I work throughout the school year to hold myself together.

All those hours during the school year spent studying, going to classes, and having to schedule myself meals throughout the day because I’m juggling two jobs on top of my classes.

I try to think of all those times when I struggle to pry my eyes open.

I think this is something a lot of

college students, even high school students, can relate to. I like to think of it as “summer burnout” – when you can finally let all that pent up exhaustion out and maybe even relax for a split second.

It may sound like I am complaining, but young adult burnout is real and overlooked. It may not be some crazy feat to wake up in the morning, but I think that it’s OK to admit that sometimes it is.

If waking up is the most productive part of my day, I see that as a win, because at least I got up. At least I didn’t let the temptation to call off work and sleep win today.

If I give 110 percent all year in school and in my career, is it so wrong to let my summer-self function at 20 percent for just a little bit of time? If you are a college student, high school, or even just a young adult struggling to

find motivation, I think it’s important to remind yourself that you are doing enough.

You can’t just wake up one day and have the life you want. Remember that all of this work you are putting in now will pay off one day. If you haven’t heard it in a while, know that there are people who are rooting for you, and you are going to get all that you want in life.

If you have to struggle to get up in the morning, know that it doesn’t make you a failure.

Every day you wake up is a win. Put your energy into one thing every day, and you will be just fine.

Faithlyn is a Hampshire native heading into her third year at WVU’s Reed College of Media. She is the Review’s intern for the summer. □

Sweet, sweet fields of gold

Just around the corner, down any road in Hampshire County, floats the sweet, sweet smell of fresh cut hay. Roll down the window and take it in – fresh air. On sunny days tractors ride through the gently waving fields of grass, cutting for hay. Rakers and balers return in the following days to roll it up into big round bales.

There is a beauty in the golden hay bales scattered across the rolling hills against the forested mountain backdrop. Travelers and tourists enjoy the view and the aroma.

One city visitor was heard saying, “I love how they artfully placed those bales in the field!” Country life is good.

Behind the scenes that fill the traveler’s senses is the hard work of Hampshire County farmers. Timing the cutting, raking and baling of the hay against the potential rain is critical. It has to be dry to bale. Farmers also can’t mow too soon as quality is based on grass maturity. It’s a balance; some say a gamble.

Those bales also are an essential part of raising livestock. Cattle, sheep and horses depend on hay to get them through the winter. It’s their source of crucial fiber, protein, vitamins and minerals.

In the spring, travelers are also delighted to see little calves dancing about the fields. Smiles flash across their faces seeing the young smuggling with the mama cow or chasing other calves

through the field. It warms the heart.

Those bucolic scenes are on one of the many farms across the county, like Loy’s, McDaniels, Rudolph, or Quicken Farms. Those little calves, fresh to the world, are always under the watchful eye of a farmer. Sometimes, a cow giving birth may need help because a calf can come out backward. If frost is on the ground, the newborn could get too cold to survive. The farmer needs to be there. Early



Peter WOOD

AROUND THE CORNER

mornings are just part of farm life. As farmer Mike Rudolph once said, “It’s never a dull moment.”

Those fields of hay and cattle are a joyful experience for those visiting Hampshire County. Some are also coming

to tour the farms in our county. The Hampshire County Farm Crawl is coming on July 15 and 16. Folks visit Hampshire County to be outdoors, enjoy local foods and see farmers, musicians and artists in action.

Tourism, including agritourism, is a big part of the Hampshire County economy and throughout West Virginia. What brings them here is the clean rivers, green forests and beautiful farm fields. It’s also why many choose to live here.

Hampshire County farmers are the hard-working folks creating those memorable scenes and growing America’s

food. This time of year, tourists and residents alike set out on the Hampshire County roads to enjoy beautiful farm fields and that sweet, sweet smell just Around the Corner.

With a farm background and degrees from West Virginia University in forestry and entomology, Peter Wood completed his 30-year career as a science communicator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Now retired and living full-time in Hampshire County, he is exploring our rivers, forests and communities to share their stories. □



Picturesque hay bales artfully placed by Hampshire County farmers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are typed as submitted. No changes are made to sentence structure or grammar.

Seek and ye shall find truth, it matters!

America is the envy of the world because of our laws and institutions.

- Regular, peaceful and orderly transfers of power thru free and fair elections;
- Governed by the Constitution and the rule of law that applies to everyone equally.
- A justice department that by law functions independently without the interference of politicians or demigods;
- A Federal Bureau Investigation that is professional, effective and honest;
- A judicial system that is bound by the Constitution and Bill of Rights that protects the rights of the individual, little guy and big shot equally.

Millions of people throughout the world dream of coming to America and participating in our free society where everybody has an equal opportunity to work hard and achieve success as they define it. Thousands attempt to come both legally and illegally, risking great physical and financial hardship.

We enjoy these freedoms from birth and we take them for granted. Yet today they are all under constant attack from the partisan media, foreign enemies and self-serving politicians. We Americans need to thwart this attack on the blessings of our country. We must stand up for our institutions. How can we do this? By seeking and speaking the Truth! Each of us must take the time to seek out the truth where we can find it.

The internet is both a blessing and a curse. The blessing is that we enjoy almost instant access to volumes of information on any topic. The curse is that not all of the information is true, accurate or unbiased.

We have the ability to search the internet and use the filter of our common sense, integrity and diligence to ferret out the facts and read them. Let our friends and neighbors know your findings, and teach our children not to be fooled by scams and unfounded rumors or conspiracy theories.

In the case of the Indictment of the former president, we can read the original Indictment in its entirety online at pbs.org. This 47-page document reads like a novel in plain English, straightforward and supported by facts presented to a Florida Grand Jury. You need to read it to understand that it is not a political stunt as proclaimed by some in Congress and the media, but a diligent effort to preserve our democracy through the rule of law. SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND... TRUTH, IT MATTERS!

Joanne Hepworth, Paw Paw □

Unthinkable things

We are faced today with any number of situations that are at first glance incomprehensible, that are so far outside our experience and prior knowledge that they are, in a word, unthinkable. For example:

A recent study examined what would happen in three large Southern cities if a multi-day power blackout occurred during a multi-day heat wave. Such blackouts have doubled in number in the U.S. since 2015, while the number and severity of heat waves has been steadily increasing. If the concurrence occurred in Phoenix, according

to the study, half the city’s population, nearly 800,000 people, would need emergency-room care for heat stroke and heat-related illness. Phoenix has 3,000 emergency-room beds. The study estimates that 12,800 residents of the city would die.

This would be a mass casualty event worse than the deadliest weather event in U.S. history, the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, in which about 8,000 people died.

12,000 dead in a single city from hot weather? Unthinkable.

Last year, in rapid succession, three waterfront homes in the



Tom LEWIS

THE BIG PICTURE

barrier-island community of Rodanthe, North Carolina, fell into the sea, victims of relentless sea-level rise caused by global warming. Another 12 homes nearby are in imminent danger. Desperate homeowners are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to move their homes

back from the advancing waters, costs that are not covered by insurance. They are clamoring for the government – someone – to do a beach replenishment, which involves dredging sand that has washed out to sea and piling it back up on the beach. It would cost \$40 million to do and \$175 million to maintain for 30 years. No one has the money, or knows where to get it.

A century-old beach community wiped out by rising sea levels driven by climate change? Unthinkable.

State Farm Insurance, the largest property insurer in the state of California, announced last week that it will no longer issue

policies in California because of the risk of wildfires. This is just the latest sign of widespread deterioration in the health of insurance companies, which are being bled dry by the cost of climate-change-fueled destruction. In Florida and Louisiana, the entire industry is on its knees because of the massive costs of last year’s Hurricane Ian. Several insurance companies have simply disappeared, and the state agencies designed to pay the claims of their policyholders are tapped out. Those who can get insurance in the region are paying triple the rates of just last year, four times the national average, about \$6,000 a year for the average home. The

situation is survivable as long as no more hurricanes come ashore in the Southeast.

No insurance for beach houses in Florida and forest retreats in California? Meaning the abandonment of two of Americans’ favorite habitats? Unthinkable.

New York City is racing to complete a 2.5-mile-long, 16-foot-high system of seawalls and floodgates along the shore of Lower Manhattan. The \$1.45 billion dollar project was launched after Hurricane Sandy killed 44 people and inflicted \$19 billion dollars in damages in New York City alone. If the next superstorm were to succeed in flooding central Manhattan, which

is relatively low lying, it could shut down the financial center of the country and much of the world.

The global financial system crippled by a New York storm? Unthinkable.

Meanwhile, what is taking up all the attention of the country’s movers, shakers and chatterers? Abortion bans, book bans, drag-queen bans, trans athlete and bathroom bans, voting restrictions, proposed limitations on social programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

You know, things that used to be unthinkable. □