

## Greenbrier Valley mourns loss of two community leaders to COVID-19

### Rainelle loses Pat Church, local flood recovery expert

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier Valley has lost a crucial member of the community with the passing of Patricia Bartlett Church. As the town's grant writer and post-2016 flood FEMA coordinator, Church was responsible for bringing funds and help to the community when it needed it most.

"She was a very thorough and forceful person," said Andy Pendleton, former Rainelle mayor and friend to Church. "She knew exactly what I needed and what I wanted, she knew exactly how to put things in that I didn't know how to. I don't know if we'd ever be where we are as a town if it wasn't for Pat. It's going to be a hard adjustment. ... She knew how to communicate to get things done; she knew how to write the right words for grant papers, the permissions, everything that needed to be done."

Church is just one of the hundreds of thousands of victims of COVID-19 in the United States since the pandemic began - approximately 282,000 Americans have died of the disease as of Monday, Dec. 7, over 94 times the deaths that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. Since Church's passing, Governor Jim Justice has continued to push for more individuals to wear masks until vaccines are available to the public.

See "Pat Church" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5



Pat Church

### Judith Bland, ER nurse, wife of 'P Nut' Bland, remembers her husband after fatal battle with COVID-19

By Bobby Bordelon

This week, Judith Bland is picking up the pieces. She is an emergency room nurse at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center who contracted COVID-19 but is now mostly physically recovered, however, the disease left a lasting impact on her family.

Her husband, Gary Bland, passed away as a result of COVID-19 in November. Mr. Bland, also known throughout Greenbrier County as P Nut, was a staple of the emergency response community, having worked in nearly every role short of emergency room doctor over his 40 years of service in the community.

"COVID took my husband in 13 days," said Mrs. Bland. "He struggled for breath from day one. ... I didn't get to see him, physically touch him until Thursday morning. They intubated him Wednesday night. He was intubated but at least I was in the room. We



Gary Bland

See "Gary P Nut Bland" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

### Asbury fire claims Greenbrier County woman's life

By Bobby Bordelon

A structure fire brought emergency responders from across Greenbrier County to Route 12 a few miles south of the I-64 exit 161 on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 8. Due to the fire and the large number of response vehicles needed, Route 12 was closed for approximately an hour and a half that morning.

Greenbrier County Sheriff Bruce Sloan announced one Greenbrier County resident has passed away as a result of the fire. Inge Kizer was found deceased after the fire was contained by emergency responders.

"Upon arrival officers observed the single-story home to be on fire and emitting heavy smoke," reads the press release from Sloan. "It was initially unconfirmed if there were any occupants within the residence. Once fire crews had contained the fire the lone occupant of the home was located inside and was found deceased."

The lone occupant was identified as a local Greenbrier County woman.

"The victim was identified as Inge Kizer, age 80, of Asbury, WV," the release reads.

In addition, neither the state Fire Marshal or the sheriff's crime scene investigators found any indication of foul play.

"Investigators from the State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene to conduct their investigation into the cause and origin of the fatal fire. Their initial investigation did not reveal anything of a suspicious nature."

The initial call came in to Greenbrier County 911 Center concerning the fire at 7:18 a.m. on Tuesday, with dozens of vehicles responding to the scene. This included vehicles and emergency responders from Clintonville Fire Department, Alderson Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, Tri-county Fire, Williamsburg Fire Department, Lewisburg Fire Department, Lewisburg Police Department, Smoot Fire Department, Frankford Fire Department, the Greenbrier

See "Asbury fire" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

### At least five deaths confirmed in fire near Williamsburg area

By Bobby Bordelon

At least five deaths have been confirmed in Greenbrier County after emergency responders fought a house fire on Flynn Creek Road near Williamsburg on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

"Four victims who suffered fatal injuries were located and removed from within the residence, and another fatal victim was located outside of the home," Greenbrier County Sheriff Bruce Sloan announced in a press release on Wednesday, Dec. 9. "Crews on the scene continue to search for a possible sixth victim from within the interior of the structure. All of the victims will be transported to the West Virginia State Medical Examiner's office for examination."

The fire consumed the entire home and was confirmed by the Sheriff's department to not be related to the fire in Asbury earlier that day.

"Investigators from the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office arrived on scene to conduct their investigation into the origin of the fire, which totally destroyed the home."

Fire Departments from Clintonville, Frankford, Williamsburg, Lewisburg, Ronceverte, Tri-County, Smoot, Rainelle, and Fairlea, as well as Fairlea Ambulance Service and the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, responded to the scene. Corporal S. W. Hudnall, of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, is the lead investigator.

Although not independently confirmed by the sheriff's office or *Mountain Messenger* as being related to the fires, Frankford Elementary School Principal Linda King released a letter encouraging students who are having a hard time after the passing of three of their classmates to seek help.

King's statement was released in a mass email to

parents to notify them of the incident and also named three of the children involved in the tragedy. Initial reports by the *Mountain Messenger* included the whole letter, but these names have been omitted in subsequent coverage. King stated in a later interview that she hoped the content of the letter would not be distributed beyond parents to the community, but would allow parents to have a difficult conversation with their children about the event before returning to school.

"Our entire school family has been affected by this news," wrote King. "We encourage you to be especially sensitive and prepared to offer support to your child during this time. We encourage you to have your child to express his or her own feelings and to listen attentively. You may see behavior changes, loss of concentration, physical complaints, or regression."

King emphasized that students who may be having trouble with the news reach out to the school counselors or staff, including Elizabeth Richmond (erichmond@k12.wv.us) and supporting counselor with Rainelle Medical Center Christina Barnett (cbarnett@rmhealth.org).

In his COVID-19 press briefing, Governor Jim Justice also expressed his sadness for those hurt in the fire and several other tragic events across the state, such as record COVID-19 deaths and a manufacturing plant explosion.

"Word came that we had a terrible tragedy in the Williamsburg area in Greenbrier County," Justice said. "There was a fire. There were people that were supposedly trapped in the fire. ... The investigation is continuing as evidence at the scene is being processed. Specific details, including the manner and cause of death will not be released until confirmed by the medical examiner. That's tough stuff."



The scene of the Williamsburg fire on Wednesday, December 9

### Greenbrier County loses seven more to COVID-19

The Greenbrier County Health Department confirmed the deaths of three more county residents on Wednesday, Dec. 9, and four more deaths on Thursday, Dec. 10. A 71-year-old female, a 92-year-old female, a 99-year-old male, a 97-year-old female, an 85-year-old female, a 90-year-old female, and a 97-year-old female passed "due to complications of the virus." This brings the total number of COVID-19 deaths in Greenbrier County to 18. As of Wednesday, Greenbrier County had 308 active cases, 14 hospitalized, and 416 recovered.

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Inside This Week  
Number of Sections: 1

#### General

Briefly ..... 3  
Classified ..... 8  
Club ..... 10  
For the Record ..... 5  
Obituaries ..... 7  
Opinion ..... 4  
School ..... 6

#### Entertainment

Sudoku Puzzle ..... 9





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## Less than one week remains before ACA Health Insurance open enrollment deadline

**Free enrollment assistance available  
from WV Navigator**

The Affordable Care Act is still in place and open enrollment is almost over for West Virginians who need to enroll, re-enroll or switch health insurance plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Open Enrollment ends Dec. 15. If someone misses the Open Enrollment period, in most cases, they will not be able to get coverage again until 2022.

West Virginians who need help enrolling or who have questions about health insurance can take advantage of the free help that WV Navigator provides by calling their helpline at 1-844-WV-CARES (304-356-5834) to speak to a certified Health Insurance Navigator.

Jeremy Smith, program director for WV Navigator, a nonprofit enrollment assistance group, says getting help signing up is important, as many people are over-  
**See "ACA Dealine" \_\_\_ Page 3**

## BOE to reconsider school plan over the weekend

**By Bobby Bordelon**

Greenbrier County Schools shifted to mostly remote learning starting on Tuesday, Dec. 8 after a vote was held by the Greenbrier County Board of Education. This weekend, the board is expected to meet to determine how schools move forward as county-wide COVID-19 cases continue to rise, nearly breaking 500 confirmed cases according to Health Department numbers.

"The board has taken everything into consideration and we ... are going to place all secondary schools on remote learning for the remainder of the week," explained Jeanie Wyatt, board president. "We would like all elementary schools to report tomorrow, Wednesday, Dec. 9, and then they will all go remote for the remainder of the week. The board will then meet during the weekend to evaluate the map and decide on attendance data, the week of Dec. 14. Now, we also need to make the statement that if Greenbrier County goes red on the map, or orange, we are automatically closed. But as of now, we are still in the gold. At this point we need to make a decision next week."

Head school nurse Paula McCoy also explained

some of the information the board took into consideration before taking action.

"Like many of you that follow the WV DHHR map, you can see there are a lot of changes this week," McCoy said. "We are in gold with a percent positivity of 4.61 and our infection rate has been red for quite some time," ... Currently we have a little over 110 students and staff that are quarantined. That number is going to go up tomorrow due to contact tracing through different schools that we've learned about tonight. ... We do have people coming out of quarantine but we have just as many going in."

Citing the massively increasing local caseload, up to 480 confirmed cases in the county as of Dec. 8 from 338 just two weeks ago, if community transmission continues, the spike in cases could result in the overflowing of healthcare providers, leading to a much higher death rate.

"There are quite a few indicators that are beyond our control and these are the indicators that we are seeing skyrocket," McCoy said. "These indicators can lead to a higher risk of transmission in schools. That is certainly what we're trying to avoid. ... We know that our hospital is not at capacity but is certainly very close to that. Patients that are being admitted are having to wait some time to get a hospital bed, and some patients are being diverted to other facilities. That is a concern."

After the board voted to approve the measure, Wyatt explained concern for local healthcare providers was also a reason for the reconsideration of in-person learning policies. Thanking the department for their tireless work, Wyatt also explained the board seeks to balance the services the school system offers to students and public health and safety.

"We just feel like we need to take this step now and try to help the community spread as much as we can," Wyatt said. "All week long we've heard from people, and sometimes they don't understand, but our number one goal here is for our kids, faculty, and staff to be safe. ... Nurse McCoy, [Superintendent Jeff] Bryant, and I were on a phone call with the Greenbrier Valley Task Force this morning and it was the first time I had ever seen our health department upset and scared. They are very, very concerned. We have a mess, so it's time now that we start taking some strong action."

In addition to policy items and employee items, the board also agreed to change the typical meeting time from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the time being.

## Pinoy Store opens in White Sulphur

**By Sarah Richardson**

The revitalization of White Sulphur Springs continues this week after the

soft opening of Pinoy Store, an international goods and whole foods outlet, was held on Dec. 5. Owners Joshua and Franchesca Berry say they are striving to bring a variety of flavors and hard-to-find goods to the Greenbrier Valley.

Pinoy Store offers Filipino, Jamaican, and Indonesian staples right now, but their inventory is currently expanding based on local influence. "Our shelves aren't

**PINOY Store**  
INTERNATIONAL GOODS AND WHOLE FOOD

totally filled yet, so we were really able to listen to local feedback about what people would like to see," Joshua said. They are also partnering with Caring Acres Farm in Lewisburg to provide local beef, eggs, and produce in the future.

However, opening such a store in a rural area presents unique challenges. "It's hard to get things shipped

**See "Pinoy Store" \_\_\_ Page 10**

## Alderson Bridge lights have special meaning

This year is anything but traditional, so on Monday, Dec. 7, "elves" made some changes to the lights on the Alderson Memorial Bridge to show respect to some very special people.

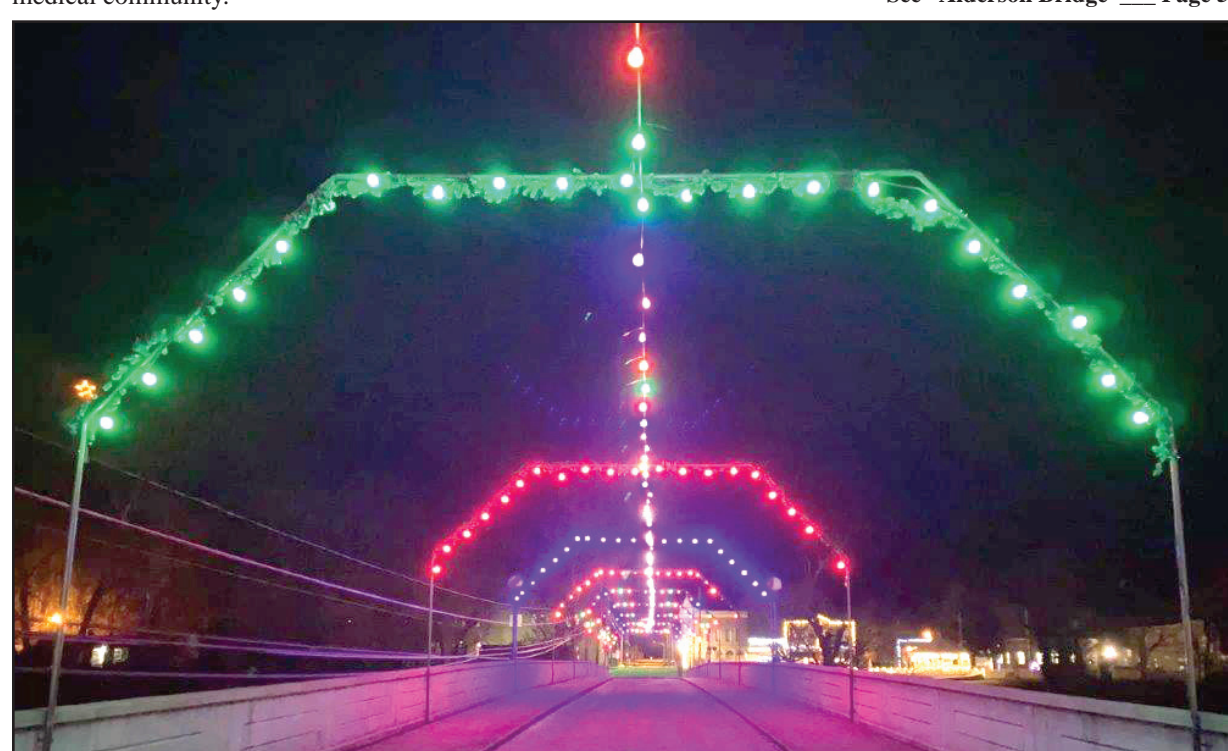
Mayor Travis Copenhaver said, "In the center of the bridge, four arches are lit with solid color bulbs. They have very special meaning. Just like the lights at the center of the bridge, that separates Monroe and Greenbrier Counties, these people are in the center of our hearts."

Facing South, from the intersection of Monroe Street North and Riverview Drive, the arch of green represents our respect and thanks for our National Guard and all Military service personnel doing special duty during the COVID-19 pandemic as they test, clean, and support the medical community.

The full red arch is lit in honor of Gary Bland, a former Fairlea fire chief and EMT who has assisted us in Alderson for many, many years. It also shows our thanks to the firefighters and EMS providers who are facing unprecedented times.

The full blue arch is lit in honor of Cassie Johnson, a Charleston Police Officer whose sacrifice for her duty was so unnecessary and will not be forgotten. It also is to show our thanks to those protecting and serving every day.

The last full gold arch is lit in honor of Alvon Ryder, a Pocahontas County 911 dispatcher who lost his life to COVID-19. Alvon was a friend to Alderson during disasters and worked with some of our own EMS providers as they worked and continue to work in Pocahontas County. It is  
**See "Alderson Bridge" \_\_\_ Page 5**



**Lights, which have special meaning in 2020, on the Alderson Memorial Bridge.**

## Senate Democrats elect Stephen Baldwin Minority Leader

Senator Stephen Baldwin (D-Greenbrier), has been elected Minority Leader by the Democratic Caucus of the West Virginia Senate. "I am deeply honored that my colleagues would provide this opportunity," said Baldwin. "Every single one of them could do this job and do it well. It's my privilege to serve with a tremendous team." Baldwin succeeds previous Minority Leader Roman Prezioso, who did not seek re-election.

Baldwin has served in the Senate since his appointment in 2017, having first been elected to the House of Delegates in 2016. He represents the Tenth District, which contains Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers County. Baldwin is a pastor at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church in Ronceverte. He is married to Kerry Richardson Baldwin, and they have one son, Harrison River Baldwin.

The Democrats will hold 11 of the Senate's 34 seats in the upcoming Legislative Session, which begins Feb. 10.



**Senator Stephen Baldwin**

"We will fight the good fight," said Baldwin. "I have two goals. One, we

need to build an organization as a caucus to serve as an effective loyal opposition. Two, we will work to inspire hope across West Virginia for a brighter future. Folks are understandably fearful right now. But as a person of faith, I believe in hope over fear. We will fight the good fight for our future."

### **Asbury fire**

**Continued from Front Page**

County Sheriff's Office, and the state Fire Marshal. Included in the response was the sheriff's crime scene investigation team.

Corporal B. W. Mitchell, of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, is the investigating officer.

## Local writers Crickenberger, Fritzius, Susman, published in Pandemic Anthology

Three writers with Greenbrier County ties have poems included in a new collection of writing, art, and photography titled In the Midst, a COVID-19 Anthology. Sara Crickenberger and Eric Fritzius, both of Lewisburg, and Courtney Susman, of Huntington, were selected for inclusion in the anthology.

Susman and Crickenberger drafted their poems included in the collection as part of a Carnegie Hall online creative writing workshop. The workshop, called Poetry and Prose from the Pandemic, was part of Carnegie Hall's series of spring online arts education workshops that also included song writing, baking, tie-dye, basket weaving, and beginning harp.

Sandy Tritt, editor of the collection, said writers and artists of every age from six continents contributed original art, photography, poems, essays, fiction, and scripts to create In the Midst, a COVID-19 Anthology. The works reflect a common humanity beyond age, ethnicity, or location - the raw emotion of being in the midst of a global pandemic with no end in sight is universal - and captured here to share with the world.

Fritzius, whose monologue "Fish Bowl" is included in the anthology, is an audiobook narrator and frequent actor with the Greenbrier Valley Theatre. His short plays have been performed across northern Appalachia and occasionally beyond the Mason-Dixon. He is the author of the story collection A Consternation of Monsters.

Susman, whose poem "Dry" is included in the collection, works for Generation West Virginia and is an adjunct faculty member at Marshall University. She received her MFA in Theatre Performance from The University of Southern Mississippi and BFA in theatre from Marshall University. For nearly nine years, Susman served as the Director of Education at Greenbrier Valley Theatre, where she taught and directed students of all ages. She also served as the Associate Artistic Director. West Virginia South Magazine featured Susman as a Mover and Shaker.

Crickenberger, whose poem "We Pause This Pandemic" was included in the anthology, is President/CEO of Carnegie Hall. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Virginia Tech, where she taught writing for seven years and served as Assistant Director of the Creative Writing Program. She earned her MA in Corporate and Organizational Communication from West Virginia University and BA in Journalism from Marshall University. Crickenberger has published poetry, prose, and journalism in newspapers, magazines, literary journals, anthologies, and textbooks.

People are suffering in so many ways from this unprecedented situation, Tritt said. But the pages of this anthology carry much more than tears. They also show the resilience of the human spirit. Some offer encourage-  
**See "Anthology" \_\_\_ Page 3**



# Briefly

## White Sulphur Springs Christmas Lighting Contest

It's time for the City of White Sulphur Springs Annual Christmas Lighting Contest! To participate in the Annual Christmas Lighting Contest and to be included in the judging, you can come into City Hall and fill out a form of participation. This contest is open for all residences within city limits. All decorating must be completed by Monday, Dec. 14, so that judging may begin. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

## AA meetings

will now be held Saturdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Contact at 304-647-0677 for Zoom details. Find listings for other meetings in West Virginia at aawv.org.

## Lee Street Studios

is open from Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to browse and shop the Market Gallery, halls, and artist studios. Visit us Second Saturdays on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 to shop and enjoy Artist Demonstrations. If interested in a particular artist's work or studio, call Lee Street 681-318-3551, and leave a message if you get voicemail. For more information visit website [www.leestreetstudioswv.com](http://www.leestreetstudioswv.com) and follow us on Instagram @leestreetstudioswv.

## Addiction Screenings available

Did you know that nearly 38% of adults in the U.S. have battled a substance abuse problem at some point this year? That's over three times the amount that have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Be safe this season and keep an eye out for loved ones who might be caught in the grip of addiction. Addiction Screenings: If you or a loved one is struggling with substance abuse, take the first step towards overcoming addiction. Call today for free screenings or referrals: 1-800-431-1754. For more information visit <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/strange-side-effects-of-covid-19.html>

## Greenbrier Committee On Aging participating in Food Assistance

Go to [governor.wv.gov](http://governor.wv.gov) and click on WV Strong Summer Food Assistance or call 211 for pick up locations. Greenbrier County Committee on Aging is participating for seniors age 60+ and grandchildren under 18 years of age living in the home who are not already receiving meals from senior centers, food pantries, or the Board of Education. Pick-up for the Rupert location is Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Drive up service only - you will not get out of your vehicle. Please call 304-392-5138 to reserve your box and to schedule pick-up.

## Gary P Nut Bland

were transporting him to Raleigh General and he passed away on the trip. He didn't make it to Dawson. It's still so unbelievable."

Having recently retired from Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance, coworker Sheila Williamson explained, "He was a CPR instructor, he was a 911 dispatcher, he did security, he was a DJ, he DJ'd kids parties and at the nursing home. He was a director of the Greenbrier County Red Cross for a while. ... He was very close to two of his uncles - James, but they call him Purdy, and his uncle Jerry. Both of them he did security with."

"He had a lot of jobs, he didn't do just one thing," Mrs. Bland said. "He detailed cars, he was a DJ, he was a municipal judge of Ronceverte. He also, of course, did security, he loved doing security at the Fairgrounds, anything to do with the Fairgrounds he absolutely loved."

The Blands were annual attendees of the Greenbrier County Parade of Lights, a memorial to 9/11 and fallen emergency responders across the country. After attending this year's event, a second parade was held in P Nut's honor, with approximately 60 vehicles from departments across the county running their lights in his memory.

Set for Sunday, Dec. 6, the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance said on social media, "We hope to see the streets lined with cars with people to give Gary one last send off that he deserves. He loved motorcycles and old cars and hotrods, and we'd love to see some lined up on the streets."

"They had a wonderful memorial parade for P Nut, Gary Bland," said Ronceverte Mayor David Smith. "That was phenomenal - all the ambulance squads, several fire departments, city police. He's going to be missed, he really will be."

In Alderson, one of the lights running across the Alderson Memorial Bridge this year is in honor of Mr. Bland.

"The full red arch is lit in honor of Gary Bland, a former Fairlea fire chief and EMT who has assisted us in Alderson for many, many years," reads the announcement from Alderson. "It also shows our thanks to the firefighters and EMS providers who are facing unprecedented times."

Mrs. Bland has now mostly physically recovered from COVID-19, having testing positive before Gary. She noted that she doesn't know if he contracted the virus through her work, his work, or someone in the public.

"It was just so difficult. I just never thought in my life that he wasn't gonna make it," she explained. "I knew the numbers and I knew what his vital signs were, and the nurse part of me knew what it looked like, but the wife part of me said 'No, he's going to be okay. He's going to fight it.' ... I wasn't allowed to go in the COVID ward. I had tested positive the same day that P Nut did. Once he was on the COVID floor, we pretty much just Facetimed. He couldn't talk because he was so short of breath. When they moved him to the ICU, I couldn't even go down there. I had to stand outside the building and look at him through the window. ... The patient is so isolated. He was depressed because he couldn't see anybody. A couple of times I had to reorient him on what day it was because it's just not a good place."

On the last two days, however, she was able to be with him in person.

"I'm so lucky I was there from Thursday morning to six o'clock Friday morning. I left the ICU at 4:45 and I went home to pack clothes to meet him at Raleigh General Hospital, where we were transferring him. I talked to him all night, brushed his hair, even though he was intubated I talked to him all the time and I prayed on him. When I left I told him 'I'm gonna meet you at Raleigh General.' I said I've got to go get my clothes and get a hotel, I'll meet you there, and I'll stay there with you until we get over it. He passed in transit, he didn't make it to Dawson."

Now back to work in the Emergency Room, Bland is treating people with the same virus that killed her husband.

"The COVID is just so rampant, we get patients in there that show the same things that P Nut had. I still have to do my job but yet it falls back in my mind, thinking about P Nut. It's very hard. It's very hard. But I've got the support of all my coworkers, they'll look at me and know. They'll hug me or say it's okay to cry or okay to be mad. I'm so mad that all of this has happened. It's just not right for COVID, a virus, to take away the love of my life. It's just not right."

She emphasized the need for the public to take precautions - wear the mask, social distance, and prevent community spread.

"We have to wear the N95s, then a mask over the N95s, and a [face] shield. That's all in place since the numbers started going up and up and up. It's just unreal. Some people you wouldn't think have COVID, have COVID. ... We see a lot, we really see a lot. The numbers are just going up and up. Anybody before that we

wouldn't have tested for COVID, we're testing for COVID. If they have just a cough, it doesn't matter if they have a fever [or not], we test them for COVID."

An intense fondness came over Judith each time she said P Nut out loud, laughing as she remembered him urging her to be more patient as they worked together both professionally and at home, doing home improvement projects and gardening.

"He was the love of my life, did I tell you that?" Mrs. Bland said. "I'd never known a man that was just as kind and as generous as he was. ... He interviewed me for EMS, me and my sister, and that's the first time I met him. I said he had the prettiest blue eyes I've ever seen. I was hooked. We'd work together, we were just partners for a little while, we were helping each other through different situations in life, and got really close. It just blossomed from there. I thought 'this could not happen there is not this nice of a man.' I just never thought there was a guy out there that was as nice, as real, as he was."

Noting that he had lived his entire life on Baker Street, Judith Bland once asked how they had never met before their relationship blossomed into a ten-year marriage.

"There's no way I didn't see him in passing before we hit it off. I asked, 'I don't know how I had never met you before' and he said, 'it just wasn't our time.' The Lord didn't put it together until it was the right time for us to meet and I truly believe that."

Although seemingly fearless and determined in his many roles, Bland did have one fear mentioned by the people who worked with him.

"He was scared to death of snakes. Oh yeah, it was bad enough that it was what everybody ribbed him about all the time."

When asked about his fear of snakes, Judith laughed and remembered when they moved in together.

"Our relationship blossomed out and I was going to move him with him. My daughter had a bald python. She was in the army, she was away in Afghanistan when we moved in together, and I was going to bring her snake. He wouldn't have that at all. I wasn't allowed to bring the snake. The snake stayed with my ex-husband and I brought ... a chameleon [my daughter] Katie Hunter bought me. He was okay with the chameleon, but he was scared to death of the snake. I brought an aquarium and he was sure that snake was in that aquarium."

When asked if she had a message for the Greenbrier Valley community, Mrs. Bland did not hesitate.

"Thirteen days took my husband," she emphasized. "You need to wear that mask, you need to wash those hands, you need to use that sanitizer, you need to social distance. Don't go to your mother's when it's Thanksgiving or Christmas with your family member from out of state that you haven't seen for years. It's a bad idea. If I can help one person to realize it is super dangerous, and it is just a virus, but it can take out your family member in 13 days."

In a video posted to social media by the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance, a call came in over dispatch to emergency responders, announcing Bland's passing. The dispatcher, voice full of emotion,

"On behalf of Greenbrier County dispatch and emergency responders, it is with great sadness that we announce that EMT Bland has completed his last and final call here on earth. His work is completed and he is cleared to go home. EMT Bland has faithfully served his community for 40 years. We are thankful to him and his family for his sacrifice over the years. He is now with the Lord and he will now be watching over his family, friends, and fellow first responders as they carry on his legacy. He will forever be in our hearts. ... Rest easy brother, we will take it from here."

## Mountain Messenger

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## DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

The Greenbrier Humane Society, located at 151 Holiday Lane off of Rt. 90 West in Lewisburg is closed Sunday and Monday, and open from 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Their cat adoption fee is \$65 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first kitty vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim and flea treatment.

Their dog adoption fee is \$85 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first dog vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim, flea bath and flea treatment.

They also offer donation-based spay/neuter vouchers, and clinics are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation! Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

## Remember a veteran this season

It is a season to give, and what a better way than to remember a loved one. A deceased veteran to be remembered for years to come than to have his or her name placed on one of the black granite pieces at the Veterans Memorial in White Sulphur Springs. More information can be obtained by contacting Bobby R. White at 304-536-3538. Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter #1072.

## ACA Deadline

Continued from Page 2

whelmed by the options and may not know the deadline to sign up is approaching. He said, "Over the course of 2020 we know that thousands of people have lost their jobs and their employer-based health insurance. The Health Insurance Marketplace can give families a great option to get health coverage." However, anyone interested in signing up must do so before the deadline. "Most people are used to getting their health coverage through a job so they might not be familiar with the Marketplace's Open Enrollment process and deadline, or all of the coverage options available. We are doing all we can to make sure we are available throughout the next week to help as many people as possible get signed up."

Financial help is available when signing up for health insurance through the Marketplace. Last year, 8 in 10 applicants qualified for financial help in obtaining health care coverage. For those that are already enrolled in Marketplace health insurance, new plans and prices are available. Those with current Marketplace coverage should pick a new plan or re-enroll in their existing plan by Dec. 15, 2020, to prevent a lapse in coverage.

Anyone in West Virginia can call 304-356-5834 now to reserve an appointment. Consultations are available over the telephone or through a telehealth option which will allow callers to see their application completed in real-time. There is no charge for enrollment assistance. More information and free online chat is available at [www.wvnavigator.com](http://www.wvnavigator.com).

## Anthology

Continued from Page 2

ment. Some ways of coping - especially creative ways, such as taking up new hobbies. Others find humor in hair, the quest for toilet paper, and the mandate to "wash your hands." Some describe new skills or practices that have improved their lives - things they will retain long after the pandemic is over. And many show appreciation to the ones who've sacrificed to keep the world moving.

"I've always said that when you share your art or your writing, you share your soul," says Tritt, who is CEO of Inspiration for Writers, Inc. "I hope you are as touched as I have been by these honest, from-the-gut reactions while still in the midst of this historic pandemic. Hopefully, we'll see our way out of this soon, and this anthology will become a collection to help future generations understand what it was like to endure separation from friends and family, shutdowns of schools, churches and 'non-essential' businesses and, of course, the fear and suffering caused by illness and death."

Copies of *In the Midst*, a COVID-19 Anthology are available from booksellers, or contact editor Sandy Tritt at [IFWeditors@gmail.com](mailto:IFWeditors@gmail.com).

# OPINION

## Commentary

### Nearly \$20B spent by Americans this Small Business Saturday

By SBA's acting Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Steve Bulger & West Virginia District Director Karen Friel

American consumers spent an estimated \$19.8 billion at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday, according to data recently released by American Express, up from \$19.6 billion from last year. Data show shoppers from coast to coast made a significant impact at small businesses during the 11th annual Small Business Saturday, held Nov. 28. Started by American Express in 2010 and co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration since 2015, Small Business Saturday continues to provide small businesses and communities across the country with an economic boost to start the holiday shopping season.

Not surprisingly, online shopping at small businesses on the day was up significantly, with 56% of shoppers making a purchase online, up from 43% in 2019. More than 50% of Americans who reported shopping small on the day said they supported a small business through social media by endorsing local shops or shopping at a small business because of a recommendation on social media.

“Small Business Saturday’s success is proof of the economic benefits of supporting our locally owned small businesses,” said the SBA’s acting Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Steve Bulger, who oversees the federal agency’s operations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, DC, Maryland and Delaware. “Most survey respondents who shopped on Small Business Saturday say shopping at small, independently owned businesses supports their commitment to making purchases that have a positive social, economic, and environmental impact.”

“Small businesses are the engine of our economy in West Virginia making up nearly 99% of all businesses, and Small Business Saturday is a time to make certain we are returning the favor and shopping small on a daily basis,” states SBA’s West Virginia District Director, Karen Friel. “They employ nearly half of our workforce in West Virginia, and not only do they provide a salary to those employees, but they also support our youth and community through sponsorships and donations. I encourage you to continue to shop small, all year long, and support the small businesses owners that keep our communities running.”

The survey also demonstrates the broad awareness that the Small Business Saturday movement has raised among consumers, with 97% of shoppers recognizing the positive impact they can make by shopping small, and 85% reporting they also encouraged friends and family to do so, too. The SBA and our partners continue to encourage Americans to make a conscious decision to Shop Small®, and shop safe, year-round by spending at local merchants and community businesses.

## Commentary

### New Life Retreat, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and education

The United States has been in a world of hurt in 2020. COVID-19 has spread across the country, affecting businesses and families nationwide. To make matters worse, alcoholism and substance abuse, in general, have seen a steep increase since the quarantine order has taken effect. The virus has been the media’s main focus, so most people haven’t considered how rapidly addiction has grown in communities.

For instance, alcohol sales have spiked nearly 60% compared to the same time in 2019. Online alcohol sales shot up by 243% during the initial stay at home orders in March. Alcoholics weren’t the only ones affected by the pandemic either. Drug overdoses increased by about 11% in the first three months of 2020. The purity of drugs is also less absolute as narcotic supply chains faced issues from border shutdowns. This drop in the purity of products on the street made illicit drugs considerably more unpredictable, leading to an increased chance of fatal overdoses.

It can be easy to focus on the fear surrounding the virus itself, and most people don’t realize how substance abuse issues are developing or worsening during this pandemic. Three times as many people in the United States have a problem with substance abuse than have been exposed to the Coronavirus. The gravity of this situation has not received the coverage it needs, so many do not know of the increased risk of overdose.

The only way to fight against this growing problem is by raising awareness. Families should reach out to loved ones who might be developing an issue with substance abuse and share the truth of the situation with their children starting at a young age.

For more information on the growing problem of substance abuse, visit <https://www.narcononnewlifere-treat.org/blog/a-country-unraveled.html>

Addiction screenings: Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals: 1-800-431-1754.

(Submitted by Caleb Hughes, director of Public Relations at Narconon, a 501c3 nonprofit)



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## Commentary

### Morrissey joins multistate lawsuit against Facebook

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey filed suit against Facebook Inc. as part of a bipartisan coalition of 48 attorneys general Wednesday alleging the company has and continues to illegally stifle competition to protect its personal social network monopoly.

The lawsuit claims Facebook illegally acquired competitors in a predatory manner and cut services to smaller threats, depriving users from the benefits of competition and reducing privacy protections and services – all in an effort to boost profits through increased advertising revenue.

“America thrives best with robust competition,” Attorney General Morrissey said. “We must not condone actions that block meaningful access to competition and exploit a user’s private information. Such behavior reduces consumer choice, stifles innovation and degrades privacy protections for millions.”

Facebook has operated as a personal social networking service since 2004. It facilitates sharing content online without charging users a monetary fee, but, instead, provides these services in exchange for a user’s time, attention and private data.

The lawsuit sets forth multiple violations of federal antitrust laws. It alleges Facebook employs various methods to impede competitors in an effort to maintain market dominance and secure billions in potential advertising revenue.

The attorneys general assert Facebook has utilized two strategies - acquire potential rivals and suffocate or squash third-party computer software developers.

The lawsuit identifies Facebook’s acquisitions of WhatsApp and Instagram - for nearly \$19 billion and \$1 billion, respectively - as examples of its strategy to eliminate competition with purchase prices significantly higher than market values.

The coalition further alleges that Facebook targets competitors with a ‘buy or bury’ approach: if a competitor refuses to be bought out, Facebook effectively eliminates the competitor’s ability to operate within Facebook.

The lawsuit seeks to block Facebook from future acquisitions valued at \$10 million or more without advance notice to the plaintiff states. It also seeks to halt ongoing and future illegal, anticompetitive conduct, as well as a court order to divest illegally acquired companies.

West Virginia joined the New York-led lawsuit with attorneys general from Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the territory of Guam.

### OPED piece submission guidelines:

To submit an OPED piece to the *Mountain Messenger* it must comply with the following rules:

1) OPED pieces may contain constructive criticisms, thoughts, or observations, which we publish on an individually approved basis.

2) No name-calling, hate speech, or other derogatory language is permitted. We do not publish letters containing “bashing,” personal attacks, and the like. However, we do appreciate mindful concerns, assessments, and thoughts.

3) All letters must be signed by the author and include the city in which they reside.

Please note all submissions are subject to individual editorial approval. Please do not mail or hand-deliver letters, email [news@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:news@mountainmessenger.com).

## Letter to the Editor

### Solar United Neighbors

Dear Editor:

We are living in challenging times, and many issues are converging. Our society is currently facing a public health crisis, economic crisis, social justice crisis and climate crisis. It’s difficult to navigate all of these issues at once, but there is a common thread. We have been living on this earth unsustainably and that has contributed to each of these crises. But what can we do about it? Here’s one solution.

We can decrease our carbon footprint, lower our electricity bills, provide jobs and reduce environmental justice issues by going solar! That’s why I’m considering transitioning to solar and I’m getting support from a local group working to help homeowners in Southern WV, Solar United Neighbors. Together, we can take control of where our electricity comes from and provide good-paying jobs in the process. Solar energy is also a cleaner alternative to coal or natural gas because solar does not release the air pollution that contributes to climate change.

Last year, I bought a duplex in Lewisburg and I’ve wanted to put panels on my roof ever since. It will give me peace of mind knowing that I am investing in our future, as well as boost sales on my rental unit, and reduce my electricity bill all at the same time. I’ll also be advocating for extending and increasing the tax incentives for renewable energy to make it more affordable for others to go solar. The current tax credit is set to expire next year which will make it more challenging to invest in solar.

The big question that’s probable on most people’s mind when considering purchasing solar panels - How much will this cost? Luckily, Solar United Neighbors is here to help! They make going solar more affordable by joining with our neighbors as part of a solar co-op and offer support through every step of the process. In addition to guiding us through the decision-making process, working with the co-op will help us get a discount because of our group purchasing power. Co-op participants decide which installer to select through an open, competitive bidding process.

If you’re interested in going solar, there’s a great opportunity in our community right now. The Southern WV Solar Co-op is still accepting participants. Signing-up as a co-op participant is not a commitment to anything, just an opportunity to learn more about going solar as part of the group. If you’re interested in learning more, you can find information online at <https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/southeast-wv-solar-co-op/or> by attending an upcoming virtual information session on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. Click the event tab on the webpage to register.

Autumn Leah Crowe  
Lewisburg

## Commentary

### Warner signs Declaration of Election Results for 2020 General Election

At a press conference on Wednesday, Dec. 9, Secretary of State Mac Warner signed the declarations for the official election results certified by the counties for the Nov. 3, 2020, General Election.

“The pandemic challenged election officials to use all legally available voting options to guarantee every legally registered voter the right and opportunity to participate in the Primary and General Elections of 2020,” Warner said. “In West Virginia, we led a successful, record-setting General Election, and I am proud of how we worked together to uphold the integrity of the election process.”

In the 2020 General Election, voters cast 802,726 ballots, including 145,133 by absentee and 263,012 during the early voting period, the highest early and absentee participation in West Virginia history. The overall turnout is the highest since the record-setting presidential election of 1960 when West Virginia had at least 50,000 more residents than today.

Of those who cast absentee ballots, 1,562 of them were cast electronically, including 271 voters with physical disabilities that prevented them from voting in-person and without assistance, and 1,291 military and overseas voters.

At the press conference, Warner commended the state’s 55 county clerks for their close coordination and communication with his office. Collectively, county clerks managed 1,708 precincts and more than 9,000 poll workers, many of whom stepped up when alternate poll workers were needed in place of veteran poll workers.

“West Virginia’s General Election was deployed safely, securely and accurately thanks to the hard work of these election officials,” Warner said.

Warner also noted West Virginia’s efforts to deter voter and election fraud associated with the elections. In April, Warner and U.S. Attorneys Bill Powell and Mike Stuart announced the formation of the WV Election Fraud Task Force - a multi-agency law enforcement effort. The Task Force includes the U.S. Attorney’s Office, FBI, WV Attorney General’s Office, WV State Police and local law enforcement, and the WV Secretary of State’s Investigations Division.

The Secretary of State’s Investigations Division operates an Election Fraud Tip Line through which citizens can report suspicious election activities 24 hours a day. The anonymous toll-free number is 1-877-FRAUD-WV.

Morrissey also announced that West Virginia will join a case brought by the state of Texas in the United States Supreme Court regarding other states’ alleged irregularities and potential unconstitutional actions that undermine the confidence in the electoral process. The suit is not pertinent to West Virginia’s election, which was one of the most secure and safe in history. For questions or comments related to the case, please contact the Attorney General’s Office at 304-558-2021.

### Your Opinion Is Valuable

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## Pat Church

“I’m surprised she got COVID and am overwhelmingly sad that it got the best of her, she was a strong leader and a strong person in the town of Rainelle, including when I was mayor,” Pendleton said. “She had become one of my best friends ... even after I was mayor.”

Acting Mayor Bill Bell explained that filling her shoes for the town was going to be near impossible.

“She was incredible, she took time to mentor me,” Bell said. “She taught me a lot of stuff. ... To be quite honest with you, she was one of our main cogs in our gear system. It’s going to be a tough transition. It’s just hard. ... You don’t know how impactful you are to somebody’s life when you get in these positions we’re in. I had been telling Pat for the past three months - we sign up for elections here in January for who’s gonna run, ... I told her, I, Bill Bell, am replaceable to the town ... but she was not replaceable. [She’s] so valuable to our community. There are people you’ll meet in your life that are that way.”

Church and her sister, Twyla Diehl, were children of West Virginia despite moving from place to place as a child. One of the four children of Dale and Marge Bartlett, her parent’s military careers carried the siblings around the world, including some time in Germany before she turned six.

“Our father was in the military so we were army air force brats,” said Diehl with a laugh. “We moved a lot. Whenever we moved, she was always making friends easily and staying active. My mother was originally from West Virginia. She grew up on Patterson Mountain, near Springdale. She had gone into service when she got out of high school and our dad was from Minnesota. They met in California in the military. ... He was a pilot. ... He retired, got a job at the post office in Rainelle, ... bought a home in Rainelle.”

Around 1963, the family moved back to Rainelle for a few years. A student at Meadow Bridge High School, Church had to complete her senior year in Florida after her father received a new assignment. Traveling would be something she continued to do as an adult, working for Mahle Industries as an executive, traveling the world working on quality control.

Later, Church worked for the Coal Heritage Foundation and eventually came on the Rainelle team thanks to Pendleton. Initially, her major role was to assist with the 2016 flood recovery efforts in town, coordinating with families and FEMA.

“[She] walked in the door [to Town Hall] and that’s when I needed her,” said Pendleton. “I asked her to stay and help with the FEMA clean up and do all that we needed to do to fill out the paperwork. She was the resource we needed from the very beginning.”

She also served as the town’s grant writer. Recently, she was instrumental in helping the town secure \$750,000 in grants from the state, which was celebrated with a press conference.

“Pat was our grant administrator, that was her key role,” said Bell. “She was very involved in [recovery] after the flood, ... Slum and Blight, helped with putting people in the right direction for who they needed to contact. To put it in a nutshell, she was a wealth of information. ... She helped get the grants - the day Governor Justice was here, right before the election, we were all up here with him. They had me quarantine too.”

Over the past month, Church was ill with COVID-19, Diehl and her family helped coordinate care and attempted to remain positive, but Church passed away on Dec. 1.

“You couldn’t come in to see her, you could only talk on the phone,” Diehl said. “I only came to drop some stuff off. They called a nurse to come and get it. I don’t even know if she got to open the bag because right after that they put her on the ventilator. It was just a roller coaster because one day she’d be feeling better then she’d go downhill.”

“She and I would get together every chance we got to have lunch or go shopping,” Diehl said. “A week before she got sick we had lunch and went shopping together. Last time I talked to her was right before they put her on the ventilator. She had asked me to bring her some stuff. ... She said ‘they don’t have a clock in my room’ ... I had a little portable, battery operated clock that I put in the bag, so she could see the time, and [when I spoke with her], she said ‘I feel so bad that I don’t even care what time it is.’”

Although a service is not planned, a candlelight vigil was originally planned for Friday, Dec. 4, to honor Church’s memory. However the vigil was not held due to weather. Diehl explained that mass gatherings, even good intentioned ones, weren’t something the family was planning to do during the pandemic.

“With COVID, we can’t really have a funeral,” Diehl said. “She wanted her ashes to go to her son in Tennessee. She had planned to go down to Tennessee for her birthday on Nov. 20 ... before she got sick. ... She hadn’t seen them for a while.”

She is survived by her husband, Doug Church, son Wade Word, stepsons Mike Church, Jason Church, and Leslie Church, her siblings Diehl and Reney Bartlett, and many, many more.

Even as the Greenbrier County Health Department and the state of West Virginia attempt to control the virus, Diehl looks back on her time with her sister, remembering an incident the siblings would tease Church about.

“Pat was learning how to drive,” Diehl said. “We were up there visiting and she wanted to practice backing up, she always had trouble backing up to the day she passed away. We were out front, my cousin, Pat, and myself, and she started backing up. She started going over this little bank by the field near my grandmother’s house and I remember my mom yelling out ‘Why can’t you reach over there and step on the brakes?’” and she said ‘I didn’t want to run over the hose!’ ... We always used to tease her about her driving.

...

The town of Rainelle added an open letter to social media honoring Church:

As Rainelle is a small tight knit community many of you are aware of the passing of our beloved Mrs. Church last week on Dec. 1.

Pat Church occupied the position of grant administrator, joining our team in March of 2018. Pat came to us with vast, immeasurable business experience. She was a professional in all the tasks and projects she was involved in. Nothing was too big or too small for her attention and when it had her attention, she made things happen!

Continued from Front Page

A wonderful mentor she was quick to share knowledge, tips, and contacts. Teaching us, keep pushing to attain our goal for the town and our community. If we didn’t hit our goal Pat was getting us as close as possible by beating every bush, shaking every tree, leaving no stone unturned. She knew our most powerful resource was our heart and our people. Pat wanted us all to participate in the betterment of the Town of Rainelle. She always saw the potential and believed we could make it happen.

Patience was not a strong suit for her nothing moved quickly enough, especially the scan to e-mail function on our all in one HP printer. The automated attendant answering service most government agencies have held a special place.

Pat Church was our friend. She cared about her co-workers outside of the office, asking about family, children, pets, and how you were doing. She genuinely cared for people. Helping was always her first instinct. Pat had life experience and wouldn’t shy away from telling you the truth, even when she knew you didn’t want to hear it.

Pat had a large family, the center of her foundation. She loved being everything, wife, mother, grandma, sister, always planning around special events. Taking time, looking for just the right thing for a special, meaningful gift. Cooking was something she enjoyed to do for her family. She would often come to work with a recipe she just threw together that we just had to try. Pat often spoke of cooking on her wood burning stove for her and her husband Doug. She enjoyed that little stove.

She also enjoyed reading, a good glass of wine, and staying up to date with what everyone was doing on Facebook. One of her favorite pastimes online was to check in on “Choco the Macho Chihuahua.” Pat once said that she could be in the worst possible mood but Choco always got a smile out of her. He reminded Pat of her fur baby Wrangler. Wrangler was the apple of mommy Pat’s eye, she loved him with all her heart.

Pat had so much heart, grit, passion, and integrity in her character. We just wanted to express what a remarkable gift and blessing she was to everyone who loved her and to the community as a whole. Pat Church will be profoundly missed. WE LOVE YOU, PAT.

## Alderson Bridge

Continued from Page 2

also our way of thanking our own Greenbrier, Monroe, and Summers County dispatchers - and dispatchers everywhere - for the behind the scenes life-saving they do.

The “elves” also wanted to recognize the healthcare providers: doctors, nurses, and all allied health providers as well as those who keep medical facilities maintained and clean. Since there are no white bulbs (they overpower the color) in the 410 bulbs on the bridge, they were recognized by all the rest of the mixed colors of the lights this year. Their tireless, selfless dedication is amazing!

These small acts are meant to honor and respect the real day to day heroes among us and those who have left us. May God continue to watch over and protect everyone.

Merry Christmas from “the Gem of the Hills.” You all make us ‘Alderson Proud!’”

People who want to see the Alderson Memorial Bridge lights are invited to drive through Alderson. The bridge will not be open to vehicular traffic this year but parking is available at the Visitors Center on the Greenbrier side and along Railroad Avenue on the Monroe side of Alderson. A quiet walk on the bridge under the lights would be beautiful addition to anyone’s Christmas season, particularly this year. For the little ones, Santaland, although smaller than in previous years, will provide plenty of entertainment for small family groups who can stay distant from others.

## Public Meetings

### Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at 804 Industrial Drive, Suite 5, in Maxwelton. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

### Rainelle Town Council

meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rainelle City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

### Greenbrier Co. Health Department

will meet Monday, Dec. 14, at 12 noon at the Health Dept. in Fairlea. On the agenda:

- Staff / Volunteer / Board training

### Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. via teleconference to hear the following applications. For Information on how to join the Zoom meeting call 304-645-2080 before 4 p.m. on Dec. 14. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 9, 2020
- Comments from the public
- **Public Hearing:** Martha Graham, 1923 East Washington Street - replace roof with new architectural shingles in onyx black and install new seamless gutters and repair the fascia to original style
- **Public Hearing:** Montwell Commons, 970-990 Jefferson Street North - install metal entrance sign posts on 219 (Montwell Commons see design page, and wooden posts on Lafayette streets entrances - these posts will be to display signs that will display business names
- **Public Hearing:** Montwell Commons - sign application for Amy’s Market to be placed on the front and side of the building and also out on the post at each entrance (see attached designs)
- **Public Hearing:** Ream Interest, 422 Lafayette Street - replace existing windows and paint exterior of house with installation of possible siding
- **Public Hearing:** Robert B. and Julia D. King - 1702 Washington Street East - install small new front porch at front entrance of house, and paint to match the house with SW 7006 Extra White
- **Public Hearing:** Cheryl Dobbs, 186 Lee Street - tear down shed-lean to and construct new 8x12 shed with pad in cedar in its place - existing chicken coop will not be touched
- Comments from the Commission
- Comments from the Zoning Officer

The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Historic Landmarks Commission will be held Monday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m. with a deadline of Wednesday, Dec. 23.

## Stream Partners Program announces Greenbrier River Watershed Association to receive \$5,000 grant

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program recently announced the recipients of its annual grant awards, with 17 watershed groups receiving grant amounts totaling \$77,025.

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association received \$5,000.

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program is a cooperative effort between the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), the state Division of Natural Resources (DNR), the state Division of Forestry, and the Soil Conservation Agency. The program has \$100,000 appropriated each year to award to watershed associations interested in protecting and restoring state streams. This year, 17 organizations received funds up to \$5,000 each.

“The West Virginia Stream Partners Program is proud to support the watershed volunteers across this state who have dedicated years to the love of West Virginia and our streams and rivers,” said Stream Partners coordinator Jennifer Pauer. “Over the past 25 years, we have supported 122 organizations and their volunteers. The \$5,000 investment in these communities is matched with hundreds of volunteer hours and additional project funds that have proven to improve our streams and the quality of life within the watersheds and state.”

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program began in 1996 with the creation of the West Virginia Stream Partners Program Act. The state Legislature appropriated general revenue funds to support a grant program that encourages citizens to work with state agencies and local stakeholders, supplies seed grants, and helps organizations form partnerships to complete projects that will have long-term effects on the community and the watershed. Many watershed associations formed in 1996 are still active and successful today.

## For the Record

### Deeds

Allison S. Cox and Stephen Zachary Cox to David R. Moles and Ashley Moles, Lot 28, Caldwell Addition, White Sulphur Corporation

Janine E. Johnson to Mike Finno and Melissa Coffman Finno, 0.121 acre, Ronceverte Corporation  
Alex Hensley, Linda Hensley, et al, to Brian Potts and Abbey Potts, 1 acre, Anthony Creek District  
Johnson and Johnson Investments LLC to Justin Scott Deeds and Claudia Elaine McDaniel, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Dickson Blue Heaven Subdivision, Lewisburg District

Joy Ann Butcher to Gregory S. Hovey, 17.17 acres, Blue Sulphur District

Verlin Butcher to Gregory Hovey, 2.56 acres, Blue Sulphur District

Richard J. Bantel to Amber Ray Tuckwiller and Philip Eugene Tuckwiller, 2 lots, Frankford District

David Jens Haworth to Martin L. Tarbox and Brenda L. Tarbox, lots 9 and 10, White Sulphur District

David Jens Haworth to Martin L. Tarbox and Brenda L. Tarbox, 2 tracts, White Sulphur District

Cecelia J. Pruitt to Robert Rowe and Karen Rowe, lot 19, Blue Sulphur District

Michael P. Shelton to Christina R. Adkins, 2 tracts, Blue Sulphur District

Christina R. Adkins to Christina R. Adkins and Michael D. Griffith, Jr., 2 tracts, Blue Sulphur District

Mark Ford to DSW Properties, LLC, 0.047 acres, Ronceverte Corporate District

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_







# OBITUARIES

## Steve Hinkle



**Lewisburg**-Steve Hinkle, 69, passed away suddenly at his home Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020, of a probable aneurysm. He was the youngest of nine children born to the late Ralph S. and Floye M. Nettles Hinkle.

In April 1991 he married Donna Hovatter and became an instant dad to three young boys, age 4, 9, and 11, whom he adopted in 1992. Steve was an avid deer hunter and outdoorsman and shared these with his sons. He was a man of few words, gentle but strong, could fix anything, and was as dependable as the sun rising each morning.

Steve was an athlete all through school, and was a "natural" Little League Softball player. He played football for Greenbrier East HS, and was among the first graduating class of GEHS in 1969. He continued playing softball in his 20s and early 30s on local teams, always the pitcher.

He began working for EA "Shine" Tuckwiller when he was 16 and started full-time as soon as he graduated. He enjoyed (almost) every aspect of farming and raising cattle. Steve continued working at Stone Hill Farm until COPD slowed him down at age 63.

In addition to his parents, whom he cared for until they both passed away in 1983, Steve was preceded in death by his sister, Clara "Sis" Groves, and brothers, Lacy and Earl "Pop" Hinkle.

He is survived by his wife of almost 30 years, Donna; his sons Ben, Luke, and Jesse Hinkle; sisters, Ina "Skeet" (Fred) Hess of Illinois, and Patsy (Ron) Warnick of Washington; brothers, Harold (Grace) Hinkle, and Burl "Jebo" (Bobbie) Hinkle of Lewisburg; Gary "Gus"

(Kathy) Hinkle of Texas; 16 nieces and nephews, and numerous great-nieces and -nephews.

Steve was an organ donor and wished to be cremated. There will be no service at this time.

The family requests that donations in Steve's memory be made to the Edward R. Tuckwiller Scholarship Fund (at Premier Bank), Fairlea Ambulance, Lewisburg First Responders, or the Fire/Rescue Dept in your area.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

## Marion Lee Bowyer

**Alderson**-Marion Lee Bowyer, 68, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born Oct. 19, 1952, in Alderson, he was a son the late Marion Russell and Drema Terry Bowyer.

Marion was a retired over-the-road truck driver; loved horses, all animals, he loved fast cars and was an avid fisherman.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Bowyer.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 48 years, Letha Mae Eggleston Bowyer; two sons, Joseph Bowyer (Toni) of Staunton, VA and James Bowyer (Jessica) of Covington, VA; grandchildren, Justin Highlander, Dylan Bowyer, Madison Bowyer, Hunter Bowyer, Rylee Bowyer, Shaleigh Burns and Preston Hoover; one great-grandson, Cayden Highlander; two sisters, Wilma Hendricks of Roncerverte and Anna Bryant of Alderson; and brother, Russell Bowyer of Alderson.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, with Pastor Gary Baker officiating.

A walk-through visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home in Lewisburg.

Covid-19 guidelines will be followed and the

wearing of masks inside the funeral home will be enforced.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

## William Preston Patton

**Lewisburg**-William "Bill" Preston Patton, 86, passed away after a brief illness Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, in Oxford, MS.

He was born Sept. 22, 1934, in Renick to the late William Preston and Ruth Spencer Patton.

After graduating from Alderson High School, Bill attended Berea College and graduated from West Virginia University. He remained an avid Mountaineer fan. While teaching in Pocahontas County, he met the other single teacher, Carolyn Feagans. They were happily married for 41 years until her death.

Bill worked as administrator for Farmers Home Administration, personnel manager at Kellwood Manufacturing, probation officer in Roane County and guidance counselor at Spencer High School. Bill was an elder and active member of the Spencer Presbyterian Church, member of the Jaycees (and contender in the Lucky Legs Contest). His volunteer contributions included working on the planning phase of Marcap Manor, serving on the boards of Roane County Family Health Care and Roane Solid Waste Authority, and being a volunteer ambulance driver. After his wife's death, Bill returned to Greenbrier County, became a master gardener, and joined the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. He was a kind and gentle soul who cared about and took care of others, except only when cards or board games were played - diversions that awakened a fierce warrior within him.

Family and friends were most important to Bill. He leaves children, Charlotte Patton Parks (Paul) of Oxford, MS and Drew Patton (Kelli) of Spencer, WV; grandchildren, Natalie and

Rachel Parks and Preston and Sawyer Patton; and former wife and friend-to-the-end Phyllis Crickenberger. He also leaves his sister, Margaret Kellison; niece, Donna Kellison; first cousins Linda and Brenda Spencer to whom he was especially close; as well as many other cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Spencer Presbyterian Church or Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

## Helen Elizabeth Jones

**Lewisburg**-Helen Elizabeth Jones, 90, former-

ly of Charleston, passed away Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, at Brier Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Helen was born Apr. 9, 1930, at Roncerverte to the late Jess Edward and Mary Ridgeway Jones.

Helen graduated from the Charleston General Nursing School and was a retired LPN for CAMC General Trauma Center with 39 years of service. She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Charleston. She never forgot a birthday, anniversary or special occasion. Always sending cards for each event and was always putting others before herself. She will be greatly missed.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by sisters, Dorothy Smith, Louise Magnum, and Janice Welch; brother, Richard L. Jones; and special niece, Jane Brumfield.

Survivors include brother, Ralph Edward Jones and wife Lommie of Richmond, VA, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church Cemetery with Pastor Emory Hanna officiating. There will be no visitation.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

## Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
Can a dog kennel be recycled?

*Pet Lover*

**Dear Pet Lover,**  
Unless your dog kennel is metal, the only part of your dog kennel that possibly can be recycled is the stainless-steel door. If you are interested in repurposing your kennel and it is a fairly large one, consider making it into a green house. <https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/make-a-greenhouse-from-an-unused-dog-kennel-zbcz1606> gives step-by-step directions.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

The other day I was preparing items to take to the Recycle Center and my helper said at times I was wish-cycling and not recycling. What in the world is wish-cycling?

*Only a Recycler*

**Dear Only a Recycler,**  
Wish-cycling is wishing or hoping that something you want to recycle is recyclable, so you put it in with the recyclables hoping that it will go through. Usually these are items you would expect to recycle, but don't. Perhaps a bottle without a recycle symbol or a can you don't have time to clean. Nei-

ther of these items will recycle, but you send it anyway hoping that they will be recycled. According to <https://recyclenation.com/pizza> boxes are one of the more common items to be wish-cycled. Plastics with a recycle symbol that are not locally recycled, such #1 plastic berry or produce containers, make up much of the wish-cycling that comes to the Recycle Center. Plastic storage containers, greasy items, small plastic lids, and plastic bags are other examples. Wish-cycling wastes both time and money as all these items must be removed by employees before processing begins.

**Dear Readers,**

You came through for us when the Recycling Center was receiving lots of plastic bags. Now we need your help again. Christmas shopping brings with it lots of cardboard boxes. Many of these boxes are coming to the Center to be recycled, which is great - unless they are full of packing materials, especially Styrofoam. The Recycle Center is currently receiving a lot of boxes full of packaging and they become an expense rather

than income for a couple of reasons. If a box full of packaging and Styrofoam is missed and is baled, the extreme pressure causes the packaging, and particularly the Styrofoam, to shoot out all over the floor. If, by chance, a box full of packaging is missed, baled and sent to the buyer the entire load may be rejected and returned to us. Too many rejects and the purchaser will no longer buy our cardboard and we must find a new buyer - which is difficult. Please be sure all your cardboard boxes are empty and pass the word along to other recyclers who may not have seen this article.



Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com](mailto:recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

# email us

[NEWS@MOUNTAINMESSENGER.COM](mailto:NEWS@MOUNTAINMESSENGER.COM)

## NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:

# Greenbrier Greeters

If you have recently moved to this area, please contact us for a free welcome visit.

We would be glad to share gifts and information about the area, provided free by local businesses and professional services.

Barnwood Living • Caring Acres Farm • Cartier Raine Spa • Bella The Corner Gourmet  
City National Bank • Cornerstone IGA-Philip Cutlip  
Creative Kitchens • Edith's Store • Fairlea Animal Hospital  
The Ferrell Eye Clinic, P.C. • First Baptist Church, Fairlea  
Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center  
Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick  
Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy  
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center • Greenbrier Valley Theatre  
Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital • The Heart Center-Thomas W. vonDohlen, M.D.  
Knight Henderson-American National Insurance  
Lawrence J. Ickes, CPA, A.C. • Lewisburg United Methodist Church  
Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital, Inc.-Dr. Mary Ann Mann  
Mary Kay Cosmetics-Erica Buzzard • Mountain Messenger  
Olive + Shea Natural Nail Studio • Post Net • Premier Bank • Robert C. Byrd Clinic  
Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital  
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church • S.J. Neathawk Lumber •  
Spare Time Sports Bar & Grille • St. James Episcopal Church  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, WSS • State Farm Insurance-Chris Hall  
Summit Community Bank • True Value Home Center

**Heather Blake, Owner 304-646-2624**

Alice Hollingsworth 304-645-3788  
[greenbriergreeters@gmail.com](mailto:greenbriergreeters@gmail.com)

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304-645-1851

## MINE SAFETY AGENCY

Accepting Exam Applications  
for Safety Instructors

The West Virginia Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety  
is accepting exam applications for positions of safety instructor.

Applicants must have a minimum of five years of experience  
in the position for which they plan to test.

Exam applications are available online at  
<https://minesafety.wv.gov/BCMHS.html>  
or at any MHS&T regional office and the Coal Board office.

Completed applications must be mailed to the address below  
and received by 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

**WV Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety**  
106 Dee Drive, Charleston, WV 25311  
ATTN: Safety Inspectors Exam

Testing will be administered January 19 and 20, 2021,  
at the West Virginia Training and Conference Center - Poca Room  
431 Running Right Way in Julian WV, 25529.

Maps class for safety instructors - 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, January 19  
Safety exam - 8 a.m. Wednesday, January 20

For additional information, contact the Coal Board office at (304) 205-4120.



# GREENBRIER VALLEY ADVERTISER

## FOR SALE

**1990 FORD F-350 MOTOR HOME** in good condition. Call 304-646-8785.

**FOR SALE:** Door-2ft x 6ft 8in with animal door & doorknob. \$15 Call (304) 445-7700

**FOR SALE:** Movies. Call (304)445-7700

**STIHL GAS LEAF BLOWER** model BG86. In very good condition. \$175. For more information call (304) 536-2279.

**BRAND NEW ROOM SIZE ROOSTER RUG** 10 or 11x8ft. with a huge rooster in the middle and black and grey striped borders. The background is light gray. \$200. For more

information call (304) 645-6452.

**FIREWOOD**, split seasoned, and in the dry. Delivery available. For more information call (941) 735-2119.

**FULL SIZE ANTIQUE MAHOGANY CHINA CABINET.** In excellent condition, with curved serpentine glass and front. \$450. For more information call (304) 536-2279.

**CLOTHING \$2 A BAG.** For more information call (304) 445-7700.

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**WANT TO BUY: 6FT. BRUSH HOG** in Fayette County. Call (304) 640-3730

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julie@mountainmedianews.com or call 304.667.7265.

**LEGAL**  
**MEETING NOTICE**  
Region 4 Planning and Development Council will have a Full Council Meeting on December 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. The Region 4 PDC Office is located at 885 Broad Street, Suite 100, Summersville WV 26651. Please call 304-872-4970 for further information or to be provided the Zoom link to the meeting.

## LEGAL

### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 09, 2021 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s)

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
005	1505338	S389-STR/IP-21 00	HSIP-2021(028)DTC	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, NICHOLS, OTHER

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

\*These are projects on which any contractor with a Category "W" Prequalification Rating may be eligible to bid.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. All bidders holding valid bidding proposals will be notified of such deferment, delay or postponement and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Highways  
Ryland W. Musick, P.E., Ph.D.  
Deputy State Highway Engineer - Planning and Programming

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# DINING & entertainment guide

## Dutch Haus Restaurant

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Reservations Required On All Orders Including Carry Out and Curb Side Pick Up

**WEEKEND SPECIAL SHRIMP PRIMAVERA**  
Over Fettuccine. Served with salad and garlic bread.

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Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes or Sweet Potato Casserole, Gravy, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Pie & Rolls with Butter  
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Mon-Fri 11:00-9:00, Sat & Sun 8:30-11:00  
**304.645.2723**

## United Way of GBV to host Empty Bowls

Friends and neighbors, we here at the United Way of Greenbrier Valley are eager to welcome in this holiday season with a fantastic way for you all to give back to our precious communities. Empty Bowls, our treasured fall fundraiser for food pantries and food service programs, fell victim to COVID-19 like so many other wonderful events during 2020. Our commitment to helping our community during a time of need never waivers, so for this holiday season the United Way of Greenbrier Valley presents Around the Soup Bowl!

This is digital collection of soup recipes given to us from citizen chefs and local restaurants from around the community. Each of these exciting recipes could become the next perfect family night go-to meal. Or if you're in quarantine pass the time by making each one! From a hearty beef and barley soup to the delicious west African peanut stew our digital booklet is filled with 22 unique recipes. Help us in filling the bowl of another this season by making a contribution to the United Way of Greenbrier Valley's Empty Bowls donations page. Once received, you will

be emailed the digital recipe booklet, and we encourage you to share on social media the fantastic soup you made! Each donation will go directly towards supporting a food security program in Monroe, Greenbrier, and Pocahontas counties! The link to use is: <https://www.unitedwaygreenbrier.org/EmptyBowls>

For most of us, it's difficult to imagine going to bed hungry, not having food in the refrigerator, or even experiencing many days without a proper meal. Unfortunately, this is the reality for some folks right here in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties. The amount of food-insecure homes is far too high. Fortunately, there are organizations such as the United Way of Greenbrier Valley that are committed to raising funds and awareness around this issue and are working to end hunger in our area.

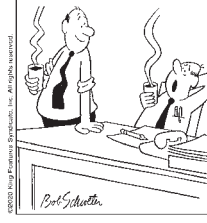
United Way of the Greenbrier Valley responds to the needs of the communities in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties through education, health, and basic needs initiatives. Learn more at [www.UnitedWayGreenbrier.org](http://www.UnitedWayGreenbrier.org) or call 304-647-3783.

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[GREENBRIERWV.COM](http://GREENBRIERWV.COM)

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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7				6	8			
		3	4					9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

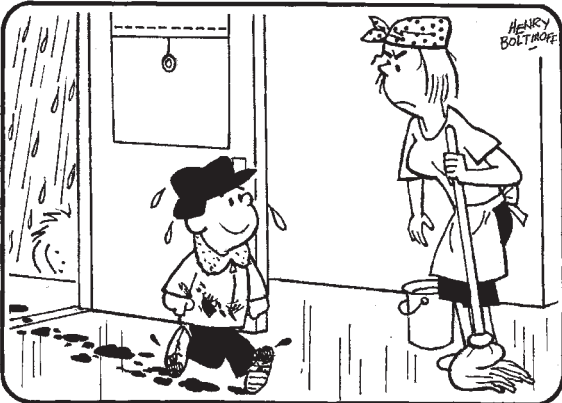
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate   ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

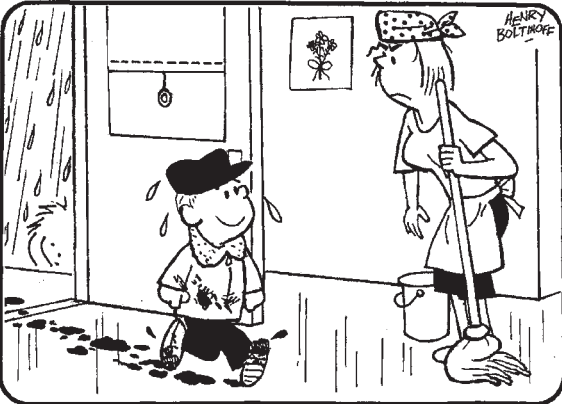
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Bandanna is backward. 2. Picture has been added. 3. Shade is lower. 4. Bucket has no water. 5. Boy's hat is different. 6. Broom handle is taller.

## Super Crossword

FILM CLASSES

- |  |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Store away</p> <p>6 "Out of Africa" author</p> <p>10 TV "angel" player</p> <p>14 Bus costs</p> <p>19 Equestrian arena</p> <p>21 Puccini song</p> <p>22 Trump's first wife</p> <p>23 Case yet to be cracked</p> <p>25 Rocker Bonnie</p> <p>26 Honked</p> <p>27 Major port of Japan</p> <p>28 Ocean's main body</p> <p>30 — Jose</p> <p>33 Quality Inn alternative</p> <p>35 April 1 gag</p> <p>40 Supple</p> <p>43 Tons</p> <p>44 Finch from fear</p> <p>48 Roving sorts</p> <p>53 Danish port city</p> <p>54 Hockey's Bobby</p> <p>55 Internet automaton</p> <p>56 Freshen</p> | <p>57 Central California city</p> <p>59 What may develop between eHarmony members</p> <p>63 Ballet attire</p> <p>64 Minuscule</p> <p>65 In the dumps</p> <p>66 Reebok rival</p> <p>67 Gift label</p> <p>70 Carry out</p> <p>75 Psychic gift</p> <p>76 Other, to Gabriela</p> <p>78 Filmflam</p> <p>79 Top-secret govt. group</p> <p>80 Not colorful</p> <p>82 1980 Lennon-Ono album</p> <p>86 Second half of an LP</p> <p>90 "It's the end of —"</p> <p>91 Vetoes, e.g.</p> <p>92 Defunct U.K. record label</p> <p>94 Boxed stringed instrument</p> <p>95 Part of FDR</p> <p>97 Six Flags amusement park in New Jersey</p> | <p>100 Capped body part</p> <p>102 "Morning Joe" airer</p> <p>103 Lessens</p> <p>104 Specialty of Sophocles</p> <p>110 Flub</p> <p>112 It's south of Rwanda</p> <p>113 Issues a ticket to, e.g.</p> <p>116 Minuscule</p> <p>122 Stan's old film partner</p> <p>123 Its first part is "Inferno"</p> <p>127 Has to have Wiggly fishes</p> <p>129 Lists one by one</p> <p>130 Slalom curves</p> <p>131 "Nuts!"</p> <p>132 Fish snarers</p> <p>133 Tasty tidbit</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Closed</p> <p>2 Ballplayer</p> <p>3 Martine</p> <p>4 Lhasa —</p> <p>5 Glimpse</p> <p>5 Putting target</p> <p>6 State of rage</p> <p>7 Lawn base</p> <p>8 BBs, bullets, etc.</p> | <p>9 Florida islets</p> <p>10 Hanukkah menu item</p> <p>11 Geometry calculations</p> <p>12 "Cut!" caller: Abbr.</p> <p>13 Diurnal</p> <p>14 Raging blaze</p> <p>15 — -garde</p> <p>16 Give a boost</p> <p>17 Be admitted</p> <p>18 "The father of lies"</p> <p>20 Potential binge-watching buys</p> <p>24 Heavy sword</p> <p>29 Lowly laborer</p> <p>31 Ring legend</p> <p>32 El — (Pacific current)</p> <p>34 Most sour</p> <p>35 Grad's gala</p> <p>36 Start all over on</p> <p>37 Got 100 on</p> <p>38 Three trios</p> <p>39 Toady (to)</p> <p>41 Like tossed dice</p> <p>42 Kind of wasp</p> <p>45 Part of BLT</p> <p>46 MLB stat</p> <p>47 Ending for bass or ball</p> | <p>49 Unkind</p> <p>50 "Dumb Dog" musical</p> <p>51 52-card sets</p> <p>52 Win every game of</p> <p>58 Not just short on</p> <p>60 Helmsley of hotels</p> <p>61 Invasions</p> <p>62 Add scent to</p> <p>67 Salutation on a June greeting card</p> <p>68 Do penance</p> <p>69 Liquid oatmeal food</p> <p>71 While furious</p> <p>72 Valuable qualities</p> <p>73 Caribbean's — Islands</p> <p>74 Chuck Berry title girl</p> <p>77 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit)</p> <p>81 Popular fishbowl fish</p> <p>83 Gaunt quality</p> <p>84 Neither fish — fowl</p> <p>85 Chinese thinker</p> <p>87 Lao —</p> | <p>87 As a result</p> <p>88 Had life</p> <p>89 Tram's load</p> <p>93 "— delighted!"</p> <p>96 How much 1990s music was released</p> <p>98 Fine, rare violin</p> <p>99 TiVo predecessor</p> <p>101 Got ready for print</p> <p>104 Hearty steak</p> <p>105 Governs</p> <p>106 City on the Rhone</p> <p>107 Tour leader</p> <p>108 High-speed Amtrak train</p> <p>109 In the — of (amongst)</p> <p>111 Derby, e.g.</p> <p>114 Not odd</p> <p>115 Trig ratio</p> <p>117 Legal wrong</p> <p>118 Sharif of "Lawrence of Arabia"</p> <p>119 Allot</p> <p>120 Conception</p> <p>121 Certain sac</p> <p>124 That vessel</p> <p>125 Cashew, e.g.</p> <p>126 Ambulance gp.</p> |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

THEATER 8  
**MOVIES**  
Showtime: 7:45 pm  
R

THEATER 8  
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Showtime: 7:45 pm  
R

THEATER 8  
**MOVIES**  
Showtime: 7:45 pm  
R



# CLUB

## Richlands Ruritans prepare for Christmas

The Richlands Ruritans met at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the Calvary Methodist Church in Richlands. The meeting was a business meeting. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the members wore face masks and practiced social distancing.

The first order of business was a vote to make a donation to the Calvary Methodist Church for the use of their church hall for the Richland Ruritan's meetings.

Plans were made to conduct an

officer installation ceremony at the December Christmas dinner meeting. This meeting of Ruritan members and guests will be held at the Humble Tomato restaurant in Lewisburg. Members were asked to bring a food donation to the meeting for distribution at the local food bank.

The Richlands Ruritans club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a dinner meeting at the Calvary Methodist Church on

Route 60W. The Ruritan Civic organization is a national network of clubs working together for a stronger America. The Ruritans' focus is to support community services in small towns and rural communities across America. The Ruritans were founded in 1928 in Holland, VA, and celebrated their 92nd year this May. The Richlands Ruritans Club provides scholarships to local college students and 4-H campers and maintains Tuckwiller Park.

## CYAC names No Shave for the Brave fundraiser winners, Sheriff's Office announces food drive



Shannon Morris

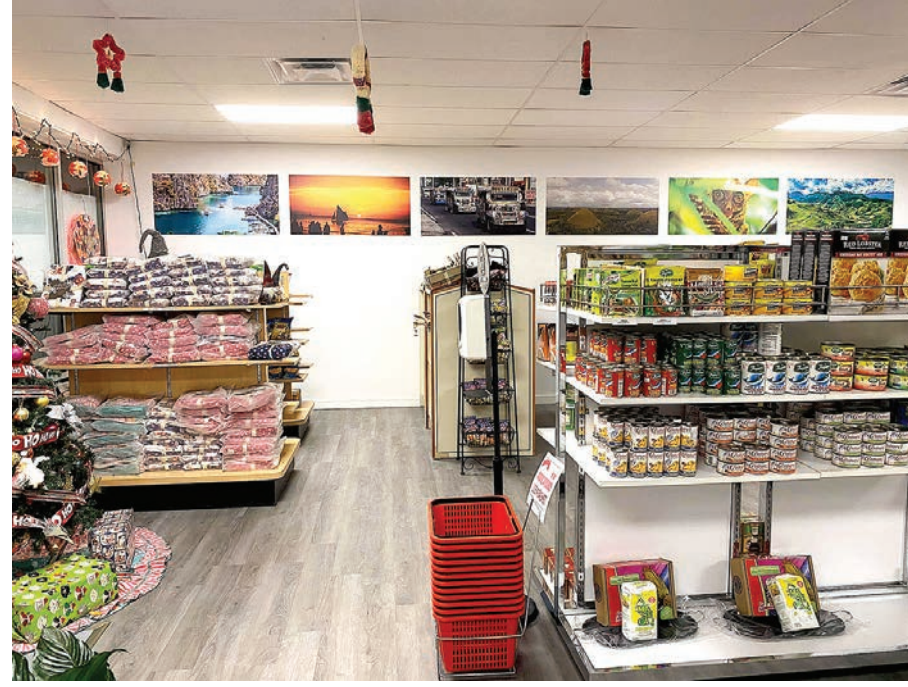
James Hylton

The Child and Youth Advocacy Center has announced the results of the 2020 No Shave for the Brave Fundraiser. The CYAC strives to bring justice, hope, and healing to children and families who are victims of abuse in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas Counties. With donations from the community they are now able to continue to help even more children and families on their path of healing.

Officer James Hylton raised the most money, and Deputy Shannon Morris won best Beard. Congratulations to both officers!

Also, now through Dec. 21, the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office is conducting a food drive to help assist with the collection of food for the holidays. They are collecting canned and non-perishable foods during this time to be given to local food pantries for distribution in our area. This effort is overseen by Deputy Morris. If you wish to donate, collection boxes can be found at the Lewisburg Sheriff's Office, the Rupert Sheriff's Office, and at the Exxon Station located in Hart's Run.

## Pinoy Store



Pinoy Store already has a variety of international products, but their inventory continues to expand. Photo courtesy of Pinoy Store Facebook page

into this area," he added. "We are working against that challenge right now, as well as dealing with COVID difficulties." Despite the obstacles, their inventory continues to expand, and foot traffic has been "consistent"

since their opening day. Joshua and Franchesca met seven years ago when they were both working in Aspen, Colorado, and they later moved to West Virginia together. They have now been living in the area for seven years,

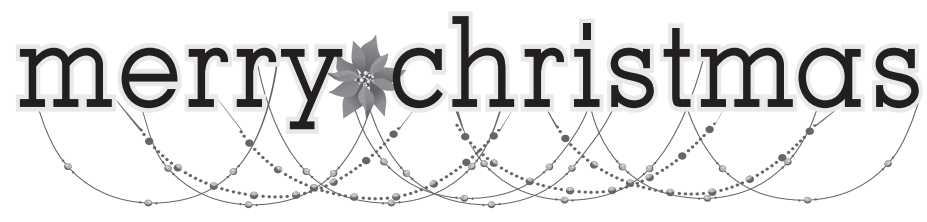
and have two children together. Franchesca is Filipino, and saw how difficult it was to find foods from her culture in the area. The two would make regular trips to Roanoke, bringing back goods, and then moved

cont. from Page 2

onto the idea of opening their own store.

"I love seeing the joy that this brings to the community," said Joshua. "I didn't realize how big the demand was for this locally." He also stressed the importance of healthy eating, and emphasized that also providing locally sourced whole foods is very important to their shop.

Pinoy Store is currently open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. Follow their updates on Facebook at Pinoy Store (@internationalgroceryonline) for updates.



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