

Return to school plan presented to BOE, President Wyatt asks for 'patience'

By Bobby Bordelon

An emergency meeting of the Greenbrier County Board of Education (BOE) led to wrestling with the new guidance from the West Virginia Department of Education's return to school plan on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

"The governor's statements seem to be along the lines of recommendations, but from the Department of Education [recommendation] wasn't the intention," Bryant told the Greater Greenbrier CO-VID-19 Task Force during the meeting. "... It is the new path we will follow, so we are somewhat trying to navigate these waters right now, but Clay Burch is our superintendent and we will follow his guidance."

From Jan. 4, through Jan. 15, counties will move to remote learning, and educators will use this two-week period to prepare for the return to in-person instruction. Families have the option to keep their children in virtual learning, regardless of changes to in-person instruction. In a recent press briefing, Governor Jim Justice explained why the administration is looking to resume in-person classes.

"We have got to get our kids back in school," said Justice. "During 2020 we learned that COVID-19 transmission rates in our schools during the first semester was 0.02 percent among students and 0.3 percent among staff. Our schools are safe when guidelines are followed."

"We also learned, when we switched learning modes to virtual learning, the outcomes are not good," Justice explained. "One-third of our students are receiving failing grades in at least one of their core classes. The virtual learning models do not work for many students without consistent, live engagement from a teacher. ... Also the DHHR reports that there is a reduction in child protective services referrals by an average of 50 to 54 percent per month. We've got a bunch of kids that are out there, really suffering. So we must get back in school."

Joining the Board of Education on the virtual meeting were a large number of parents and teachers, many with questions in the chat. Board of Education President Jeanie Wyatt noted that although the board couldn't answer questions in that format, many of these questions are still uncertain for the board as well.

"I know that many of you listening in to the virtual meeting have questions," Wyatt said. "The board meeting is not open to that so we will not be answering questions ... I'm sorry we can't answer all of your questions at this time, but I'm

See "School Plan" ____ Page 4



Sheriff Sloan sworn in for second term Chief Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent administers the oath of office to

Sheriff Bruce Sloan as he begins his second term of office on Jan. 1, 2021. Sheriff Sloan was accompanied by his wife June.

Following siege on Senate, officials call for unity

By Bobby Bordelon

After a rally held by President Donald Trump in Washington, DC, on Jan. 6, former protesters turned toward the U.S. Senate building, storming inside in order to prevent the certification of President-Elect Joe Biden's victory. Among the participants was one newly-elected member of the House of Delegates.

According to *The New York Times*, one person was killed and 14 capitol police officers were injured during the attack, which saw representatives, senators, their staff members, and security flee and barricade the building.

Shortly before the attack, the crowd was attending a Trump rally, where he spoke to debunked conspiracy theories about the election results, telling the crowd "We will never give up. We will never concede, it doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved.... Now it is up to Congress to confront this egregious assault on our democracy. After this, we're going to walk down and I'll be there with you. We're going to walk down. We're going to walk down, any one you want, but I think right here. We're going [to] walk down to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave senators, and congressmen and women. We're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong."

Although the Congress reconvened later that night after the building was retaken by police and law enforcement, many representatives pushed forward with rejecting the results of the election. Local WV District 3 Rep Carol Miller in the House of Representatives voted to overturn the legal electors from Arizona and Pennsylvania. However, both the Senate and the House confirmed Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States.

One of West Virginia's newly elected representatives, Derrick Evans, made the Times for live-streaming himself breaking into the U.S. Senate building. Although the video was shortly deleted, it was reshared across social media. The West Virginia Senator minority leader, our local rep Stephen Baldwin, has called for action to be taken.

"Today, our children must know that this is not how democracy works. Democracy is determined by ballots, not bullets. Democracy rests on the peaceful transfer of power because of free and fair elections. We do not inflict violence on those with whom we disagree. We condemn today's attack on democracy because this is a

COVID Task Force recognized as Volunteers of the Year

By Sarah Richardson Lewisburg has continued with the annual tradition of announcing the Volunteer of the Year as we welcome in the New Year. The city released a proclamation on the first of January declaring the Greater Greenbrier CO-VID-19 Task Force to be the recipients of the award for their tireless efforts of helping the local area navigate through the coronavirus pandemic.

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"The City of Lewisburg is fortunate to have citizens who actively volunteer their time and effort in our community, especially in times of need," reads the announcement. "Sometimes the services these volunteers provide are not highly visible but greatly enhance the quality of life in our community."

Mayor Beverly White said, "We are very grateful for all of the work the task force has done, and that they continue to do. I am amazed by their effort and dedication they have put in as this pandemic goes on."

The task force is led by Senator Stephen Baldwin and is made up of several different entities including the Greenbrier County Health Department, the Greenbrier County Board of Education, Communities in Schools, United Way 2-1-1, Access to Education/Dinsmore, Rainelle Medical Center, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Robert C. Byrd Clinic, the Feeding Seniors/Saving Businesses Bimbo Coles & Company Program, the Greater Greenbrier Long-Term Recovery Committee, the Lewisburg Fire Department, the City of Lewisburg, the City of Ronceverte, the City of Alderson, the Committee on Aging, Lewisburg/ Fairlea Food Locker, West Virginia Delegate Cindy Lavender-Bowe, West Virginia Delegate Jeff Campbell, Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Seneca Mental Health, High Rocks & the Hub, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, WVSOM Center for Rural & Community Health, Family Resource Network, and the Family Refuge Center.

The group was formed in March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, as a way to distribute information to the community and provide answers to questions about the pandemic and dealing with the coronavirus. They meet once a week in a teleconference and compose a release for the public containing updates and new information on the state of the area.

Usually, the recognized volunteers take a place of honor in the Shanghai Parade, but due to COV-ID-19 that wasn't possible this year. Mayor White specified that the city intends to honor the task force in the future when it is safe to do so.

Greenbrier Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol close out 2020 with promotions

On Wednesday, Dec. 30, several cadet members of the Greenbrier Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol met in person for the first time in many weeks to complete the final requirements for rank advancement. Cadet testing, which included drill formation and physical fitness, was performed outdoors at the squadron headquarters on the property of the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

Cadet Sarah Given was promoted to cadet staff sergeant, the fifth enlisted grade in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. Cadet Emily Wartham was promoted to cadet airman first class, the second enlisted grade. Cadets Tad Elkins, Maria Joy Fisher and Asher Givens each earned cadet airman status upon completion of their first achievements.

Following cadet testing, Squadron Commander Major Harold Moloney met with senior members to discuss goals and leadership needs for 2021. Moloney encouraged senior members of the squadron to step into volunteer roles including aircrew, bookkeeping, cadet program coordination, and public relations.

"Each of us has skills and knowledge that no one else in the unit has," Moloney See "Promotions" _____Page 2



Greenbrier Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol cadets and commander: Carlee Hamrick (left), Maria Joy Fisher, Asher Givens, Major Harold Moloney, Tad Elkins, Sarah Givens, Emily Wartham, and Andrew Holt



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Greenbrier Valley's Talk and News Headquarters



Red Cross Blood Drive to be held at White Sulphur Springs Library

The Red Cross is asking donors who are feeling healthy and well to help maintain the blood supply for patients who rely on lifesaving transfusions. There will be a blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the White Sulphur Springs Public Library. Donors do need to sign up at rcblood.org/appt to make an appointment. You can also call the library at 304-536-1171 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to make an appointment. The library is located at 344 W Main Street in White Sulphur Springs. The blood drive is made possible in part thanks to the efforts of the WSS Lions Clubs.

In light of the pandemic, the Red Cross is taking the following steps to ensure donors and volunteers safety. Donors and volunteers will be asked to wear a face mask at all times during the drive. Staff and volunteers will wear gloves throughout the day, changing gloves often. Volunteers, staff and donors will have their temperature checked before entering the drive. Hand sanitizer will be available at various points throughout the library. Donors beds will be sanitized between every donor. Only blood donors will be allowed in the drive. The American Red Cross is encouraging donors to use RapidPass which allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home or office and save time at the donation site. RapidPass can be found at www.redcrossblood. org/RapidPass and must be completed on the day of the blood drive.

Currently the library is providing only curbside services on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The blood drive is considered in the general community's best interest. The Red Cross has assured us they are taking appropriate safety measures and there is a real need for blood. Hope to see you at the Blood Drive on Thursday, Jan. 14. Please call 304-536-1171 if you have any questions.



Dent administers oath to Chief Deputy Martin Chief Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent administers the oath of office to Chief Deputy Josh Martin as he begins his second term as Chief Deputy on Jan. 01, 2021. He was accompanied by his wife Stevi.

Court could be 'heading toward' double homicide trial in Williamsburg shooting case

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier County Circuit Court could be "heading toward" a double homicide trial against Terri Lynn Storer, noted her defense attorney Brandon Johnson in a hearing under Judge Richardson on Tuesday, January 5.

In a routine hearing set to monitor the case, Johnson and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Blake agreed that both parties needed more time to continue negotiations for a resolution, but the future of the case is currently uncertain.

"We have continued to have discussions with the state," Johnson said. "We have met with our client as well. At this point, with the situation with COVID, we would like to continue the matter and push it down the road somewhat until ... there is a resolution to this or see if we are going to go to trial. I think at this point, I'd say it's heading toward a trial, but there is some additional stuff that needs to be done, but with COVID it's been difficult."

A Greenbrier County Grand Jury indicted Terri Lynn Storer with two counts of murder and Randy Lee Barnhart with two counts of accessory after the fact to murder in August 2020. The charges emerged from a shooting incident near the Greenbrier County and Nicholas County line on Coleman Road in Williamsburg.

"Through investigation it was discovered Jeremiah Thomas, 33, and Jennifer Thomas, 34, had allegedly gotten into an argument over a hunting lease with Randy Barnhart, 45, and Terri Storer, 45," reads an initial press release from the West Virginia State Police. "During this incident Jeremiah Thomas and Jennifer Thomas were fatally wounded." See "Williamsburg Case" __ Page 4

Promotions

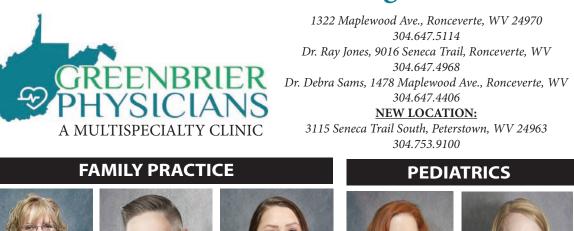
said. Moloney's term as squadron commander will end October 2021.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization. It performs more than 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions in the continental United States as tasked by the Air force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youth through CAP Cadet Programs. For more information about Civil Air Patrol programs, call 1-800-FLY-2338. Visit www.capnhq.gov.

Continued from Front Page

The Greenbrier Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol seeks volunteers, both cadets and senior members, interested in aerial and ground team search and rescue. For more information, contact Squadron Commander Maj. Harold Moloney at hmoloney@wvwg.cap.gov.

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BamBam is a male domestic shorthair and weighs 11 pounds. He sports a pink nose with a black and white coat.



BamBam and other animals are available at the Greenbrier Humane Society, located at 151 Holiday Lane off of Rt. 90 West in Lewisburg. They are closed Sunday and Monday, and are 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 firstcome, 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.

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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.

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. If you or a loved one is struggling with substance abuse, take the first step towards overcoming addiction. Call today for free addiction screenings or referrals: 1-800-431-1754. For more information visit https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/strange-side-effects-of-covid-19.html

Chamber of Commerce to meet

The Union Area Chamber of Commerce will meet Wednesday, Jan. 20, at noon in the Monroe Service Center Lobby. Lunch will be provided with an RSVP (respond by Jan. 17). The meeting will be set up with social distancing in mind. If you would like to participate, but virtually, please let me know. I have not conducted any virtual meetings in this space, so I will do what I can to accommodate.

Thanks to all our businesses who have participated in Chamber functions and initiatives in 2020. On behalf of the leadership team, we wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. As always, please share your ideas on how the Chamber can best help your business or organization.

Video of New Year's Party at Greenbrier draws backlash

By Bobby Bordelon

Cell phone footage from The Greenbrier's New Year's Eve party has drawn the ire of many in the state this past week, with Governor, and owner of The Greenbrier, Jim Justice responding to the frustration.

The video shows a large crowd of individuals packed into a tight space, a majority of which are not wearing masks or social distancing. This comes on the heels of a massively increasing caseload in West Virginia, while Justice has issued a ban on winter sports for schools in order to prevent such gatherings.

The video drew the attention of many on social media, from residents, to players frustrated they could not play, to representatives. Justice himself responded during a COVID-19 press briefing, accusing those frustrated by the video of attacking him politically.

"Bottom line, the whole thing is a hit at me from the standpoint of a political hit at me," said Justice. "That's all there is to it. ... If you don't think I'm pulling the rope, then you really got a screw loose. Everyday I come in here and I try to come up with ideas."

He continued on to say he was home "watching the ball drop" during the party, not involved with the planning, but also stated the business should follow the guidelines.

"I will promise you to God above that The Greenbrier is absolutely following every protocol that you can possibly follow," Justice said. "You got to remember this too. There's 1,500 employees and there's probably close to that in guests that are spread out and that are doing everything under the sun. ... I promise you, with all in me, if The Greenbrier is doing something they are not supposed to do, they will have me on them like stink on you-know-what. I feel the same about any business in our state. ... In every situation across this state you can come up with something somewhere. I'm not making any excuses, I'm not dodging any bullets. ... There are incidents of things that are happening there, they're done a good job. Could they have done better in this situation, probably so. But with all that being said, I don't know the details."

\$25,000 in COVID utility debt relief submitted by Ronceverte under CARES Act program

By Bobby Bordelon

A brief meeting of the Ronceverte City Council was held virtually with only one item of business - a wastewater ordinance - with a few general announcements during the comment period.

The West Virginia CARES Act Residential Utility Grant Program allowed cities to apply for utility debt relief on behalf of its residents. Before the application process ended last year, the applications submitted on behalf of Ronceverte residents by the city totalled over \$25,000.

"Those folks will hopefully be able to qualify for some of that funding," said Mayor David Smith. "We are holding those in hope that those [applications] come through for those folks."

Smith noted that anyone with further questions should call the city and speak with City Administrator Pam Mentz.

In addition to complimenting the job Mentz has done, Smith also took a moment to thank a number of city employees for several major efforts that they've made in the past few weeks.

"I would begin by praising the fire department for doing a good job taking care of the stockings," Smith said. "They handled that in a very safe way - the drive through, handing them out so we didn't have a lot of folks congregating, which could have been dangerous. Of course it was raining, so I don't think that was going to happen anyway, but that seemed to have gone very well."

"City street department did an excellent job with handling the lights," Smith continued. "They spent all night Christmas Eve taking care of that, so if you see those guys, pat them on the back for doing that."

He also noted that anyone who suspects they have a leak should reach out through the non-emergency number for the city, as several have been found by city crews as a result of these calls.

In other business:

Second reading of an ordinance concerning wastewater project funding was approved.

Work has begun on the city's upcoming budget.

Work on the city's water systems is expected to begin this month, after a delay in getting needed materials in.

Senate Siege Continued from Front Page

nation of laws, order, and decency.

All of those who participated in today's attack on the capitol, especially those who unlawfully entered the building and perpetrated acts of violence, should be prosecuted fully by the law that undergirds our democracy.

We understand that an incoming delegate, Derrick Evans, videoed himself participating in such acts. There is no place for him in the WV Legislature.

When our state was born, it took tremendous strength to carve West Virginia out of a divided nation. We are divided again today. It will take all our better angels to heal us. We pledge to do our part in the halls of the West Virginia Capitol, and we call on all citizens to do their part.

Check on your neighbors, help someone in need, engage with those who are different from you. That is how we will summon the strength needed to right this country again. By loving our neighbors throughout these majestic and grand hills of West Virginia."

In addition, both West Virginia Republican party Chairwoman Melody Potter and West Virginia Democratic Party Chair Belinda Biaforce, along with Vice-Chair Rod Snyder, released statements condemning the violence.

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Subject of missing juvenile search pleads guilty to reckless fleeing from an officer By Bobby Bordelon

The subject of a missing juvenile search in early 2020 plead guilty to reckless fleeing from an officer on Monday, Jan. 4. Entered under Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent, the plea does not directly deal with the missing juvenile, but instead with a high-speed chase that emerged after officers attempted to pull him over.

Officers with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department and law enforcement, Chief Deputy Joshua Martin and Deputy Brandon McCormick, sought to find Wolfe after receiving a call concerning a missing juvenile. A press release issued on Jan. 15, 2020, noted that the missing juvenile was believed to be with Wolfe, then aged 22.

The plea here, however, does not have to do with the then-missing juvenile - Bethany Burdette, an attorney appearing on behalf of the Greenbrier County Prosecutor's Office, explained "he had a passenger with him, and I believe there was a BOLO (be on the lookout) out for him, so officers went looking for him. ... That is not the event that he was charged with that we would look to prove today or at trial."

The plea agreement instead deals with the results of a chase that emerged during the search. Wolfe was charged with reckless fleeing from an officer in August 2020 by a Greenbrier County Grand Jury.

"What we would expect to prove is after Sergeant Smith with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department located him in Quinwood around school streets and activated his lights and sirens, Mr. Wolfe was in that vehicle that was spotted," Burdette explained. "He did not stop, drove through a couple of stop signs. There were speeds in excess of 70 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone. There were near collisions with a couple of vehicles."

A press release on Jan. 17, 2020, shortly after his arrest by Greenbrier County Sheriff Bruce Sloan further explains the chase.

"The vehicle traveled on a dead-end street and subsequently traveled through several residential yards before entering WV Route 20 traveling north," wrote Sloan. "Sergeant Smith continued north on Route 20 and lost visual contact with the vehicle. Moments later he located the vehicle after it had been involved in a single-vehicle accident in a curve. The accident occurred in Nicholas County approximately 1.3 miles north of the Greenbrier County line. Both occupants were treated for minor injuries at a local hospital and released."

Wolfe declined to give the court his version of the story, agreeing with the state's story. In addition, defense attorney Josh Edwards stated that there was not a meritorious defense should the charge go to trial.

The plea could carry a potential sentence of one to five years in the state penitentiary and a fine, totalling between \$1,000 and \$2,000. However, both the state and Wolfe's defense have recommended probation, including restitution owed as a result of vehicle or property damage. The case will move forward to sentencing after the probation department conducts a pre-sentencing investigation.

Public Meetings Greenbrier County Commission

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 10 a.m. in Room 212. LIVE STREAM FROM https://www.facebook.com/gbrcourthouse/

Gbr. Co. Planning Commission

will meet Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. Attend in person (please follow all health and safety protocols) at: Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg OR *Virtual Meeting Option* *Meeting will be hosted on Zoom. Public can access meeting via: Internet Access: https://wvu.zoom. us/j/92694786259 (Meeting ID: 926 9478 6259) OR Phone Access: (dial) 1 (646) 558 8656 or 877-853-5257 or 888-475-4499

The video emerges as the Greenbrier County Health Department reported approximately 500 active cases in See "Video" ___ Page 10

For the Record Deeds

Cheyanne Alexander to Mark Zimmerman Jr., .913 acre, Frankford District

David Wigglesworth and Pamela Wigglesworth to Miyoko Gibson Revocable Trust, .704 acre, Fort Spring District

Steven Farren and Shellene Harrison to Christie Robinson, 11,671 square feet, Lewisburg Tax District Matthew A. Boyd and Rebekah L. Boyd to Lye Morey, Lots 15 and 16 of the Lilly Park Addition, Meadow Bluff District

Brian Hill to Michael J. Zimmerman and Stephanie Zimmerman, .205 acre, Frankford District

Fairview Associates LLC to Tony Hill, Lot 35 of the Pinnacle Subdivision, Lewisburg District

Laramey Zimmerman and Robin Zimmerman to Jerry Poage and Bobbie Scott, .51 acre, Williamsburg Dist. Opal L. Ash to Simon Andrew Fridley, Lot 11 of West Meadows Subdivision, Frankford District

Darlene Heaster to Vanessa Schroeder and Robert Schroeder, 6,000 square feet, Town of Rupert

Tana Moskowitz to Andrew Wayne Wellman, a parcel, Falling Springs District

Steven Cluss and Teresa Cluss to Dennis Price and Kathleen Price, Lot 14 of Fairway Cottages Neighborhood, White Sulphur District

Roger Lance and Melissa Lance to Nicole Muhs, 2.5 acres, Town of Rupert

Melanie Garner and Willa Justice to Patricia Long and Michael Butts, two tracts, Frankford District

Terri Ramboldt to Todd Ramboldt, 2.013 acres, Irish Corner District

"West Virginia Delegate Derrick Evans was among the violent mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, today to disrupt the certification of the presidential election," wrote Biaforce and Snyder. "He must be held accountable for participating in an act of insurrection against the United States government and risking the lives of lawmakers and Capitol police. The West Virginia Democratic Party calls for his immediate resignation from the House of Delegates and that he be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

However, the GOP statement stops short of calling for Evans' dismissal.

"Today, all West Virginians and Americans should come together and condemn the violence that was displayed at the United States Capitol and resulted in the loss of one precious life," wrote Potter. "While the right to peacefully protest is sacred and a cornerstone of our Republic, there is no room for violence. The West Virginia Republican Party stands unequivocally with President Donald J. Trump and his efforts to pursue election integrity. The senseless acts of violence displayed at the Capitol today distracts from the major issue of election integrity. May God continue to bless the United States of America."

Later in the evening, as rioters were still in the building, Trump tweeted a video repeating false election

claims, then telling rioters in the Senate building "Go home. We love you. You're very special. ... I know how you feel." Shortly after, Twitter temporarily disabled his account.

In a speech given after the riot, Biden pushed back against the election conspiracy as well.

"In America, when questions are raised about the legitimacy of any election, those questions are resolved through the legal processes. ... Time and again, President Trump's lawyers presented arguments to state officials, state legislatures, state and federal courts, and ultimately to the United States Supreme Court twice. They were heard by more than 80 judges across this country. And in every case, no cause or evidence was found to reverse or question or dispute the results. ... Even more stunning, 17 Republican Attorneys General, and 126 Republican members of the Congress, actually, they actually signed onto a lawsuit filed by the state of Texas. That lawsuit asked the United States Supreme Court to reject the certified vote counts in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. This legal maneuver was an effort by elected officials and one group of states to try to get the Supreme Court to wipe out the votes of more than

See "Senate Siege" _____ Page 4

(Meeting ID: 926 9478 6259)

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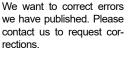
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OPINION

Letter to the Editor Protecting Free Speech

Dear Editor:

2020 has been a year of government overreach. Thus, it is very important that we are diligent about protecting our Constitutional Rights.

I have been an activist most of my life. I have been to numerous protests and other political events. Bra burning adventures, veteran's rights, racial justice, environmental protection, worker's rights, ad infinitude. I have a habit of stacking the various protest signs on the window still in the living room.

Earlier this year, I created a sign for a racial justice/ police reform protest. I decide to a play on Governor Jim Justice's quote "Follow the ****** guidelines." I frequently find euphemisms for vulgar words. One of my favorite euphemisms is "firetruck" for the four-letter f-word.

I had this sign on my window still and was told by a lawyer that the wording was offensive and not covered by the free speech clause. I suspect that someone was more offended by the word Civil Rights, Racial Justice or perhaps the word "Republicans."

Granted, I am just a humble working class retiree but I do know how to read a law book and google search Supreme Court cases.

One such case is Cohen versus California (1971). A young man was in a courthouse wearing a jacket bearing the words "F*ck The Draft!" He was subsequently arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to 30 days in jail. He took it to the California Court of Appeals. He lost the appeals and the California Supreme Court refused to hear it. He moved it up to the United States Supreme Court.

The United States Supreme Court ruled that profanity can not be banned under the First Amendment and that an individual could not be convicted under a local disturbing the peace law when he wore a jacket bearing the words "F*ck the Draft" into a California courthouse.

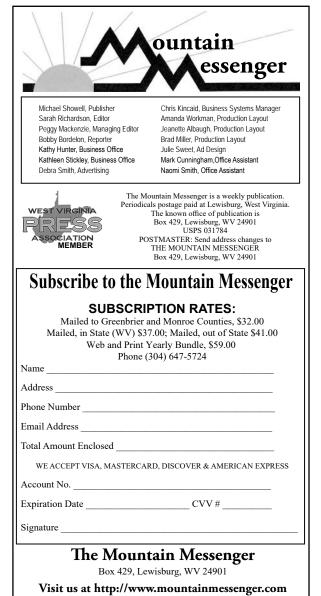
In Cohen v. California (1971), Justice John Marshall Harlan II reasoned that "while the particular four-letter word being litigated here is perhaps more distasteful than most others of its genre, it is nevertheless often true that one man's vulgarity is another's lyric." Harlan warned that "governments might soon seize upon the censorship of particular words as a convenient guise for

School Plan

Continued from Front Page

asking each and every one of you to please be patient with us. We were blind-sided by this, the same as all of you. The board is going to work through it, do what we can, see what we can do and what we can't do. I just ask for your patience."

One important note is the guidance from the Department of Education specifies that "there is no provision for absences due to COVID or quarantine" and employees would have to use personal or sick days, or unpaid leave in order to quarantine. This is as a result of the expiring CARES Act benefits that were not renewed by Congress. However, this could be reconsidered by the county, with the presentation noting directly after that "Greenbrier County may provide some local leave for COVID or quarantine provided the employee has followed all mitigation guidance and the contact is a result of workplace exposure."



banning the expression of unpopular views." Cohen stands for the principle that profane words, in themselves, cannot be banned under the First Amendment.

Thus the word firetruck by other name is still constitutionally protected and we need to make sure all our rights stay that way.

> Bonijean Isaacs White Sulphur Springs

Williamsburg Case

Continued from Page 2

Greenbrier County Prosecutor Patrick Via previously explained the dispute consisted mainly of who should have access to a piece of land often used for hunting.

In August, Storer was permitted a \$500,000 bond, with mandatory home incarceration. After making the decision, Richardson explained the arguments for both the defense and prosecution for bond, saying the "court needs to consider all of the circumstances and make an equitable and appropriate decision that recognizes both the importance of the defendants [continued appearances and cooperation] as well as the risk to the community of further offenses. Reviewing this, I have to take very seriously the nature of the charges. Two murder charges have been brought against this defendant. ... That by itself, in the court's view, creates a risk of the defendant's appearance at further proceedings."

However, Richardson continued, the "defendant has not fled during the period following the alleged offense, has maintained contact with her attorneys, and [maintains] that she wishes to pursue a vigorous defense of this indictment. Taking those factors into account ... I am going to permit the defendant to be released on bond."

Commentary Justice, Game Changer deliver complete holiday experience to 40 families

Gov. Jim Justice, the "Head Coach and General Manager" of the West Virginia Game Changer initiative, said this week that the recently announced "Change Their Holiday" promotion through Game Changer raised over \$50,000 in just three-and-a-half weeks leading up to the holidays.

As a result, 40 West Virginia families affected by opioid and substance misuse were able to enjoy a complete holiday experience - down to the presents and the holiday meal - that otherwise might not have been possible.

"Together, we were able to make a real difference in the lives of dozens of families and children all across the state, who may not have been able to fully enjoy the holiday season without a little bit of help," Gov. Justice said.

"The holidays are a magical time of year. Every single child in West Virginia deserves to experience the joy of unwrapping a great present or enjoying a delicious holiday meal, and every parent in West Virginia deserves to be able to provide these kinds of memories that will last a lifetime," Gov. Justice continued. "The fact that Game Changer was able to raise this kind of money and pull this off in such a short period of time is a testament to the generosity of all the West Virginians and businesses who helped make this promotion a success. I could not be more proud."

Gov. Justice announced his commitment to West Virginia Game Changer in July 2020. One of the largest public-private coalitions of its kind in the nation, Game Changer is aimed at tackling opioid and substance misuse, along with other issues impacting West Virginia's youth.

Through a cooperative effort with Jobs & Hope West Virginia and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) along with major corporate sponsors Walmart, Pepsi, MVB Bank, McDonald's, The J.W. Ebert Corporation, ParMar-Mountaineer Marts and Aetna Better Health of West Virginia, families throughout the state received an average of \$1,200 in gift cards from Walmart, ParMar and Mountaineer Marts and Mc-Donald's. Many were faced with their children not receiving a visit from Santa Claus or being able to prepare a meal on Christmas Day.

Your Opinion Is Valuable

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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.

The notes from the Department of Education's power-

point outline the return to school:

• Remote learning will continue into the weeks of Jan. 4 and Jan. 11.

• All prekindergarden through eighth grade students will return to in-person learning on Jan. 19, regardless of the Department of Health and Human Resources color map. There will be no more WVDE Saturday map.

• High schools will return to in-person learning on Jan. 19, based on the DHHR color map. These students will resume in-person unless the map is red, with the superintendent deciding on the return date.

• Families may continue to choose remote learning or West Virginia Virtual. Applications for this program will remain open through Jan. 15. "Please be flexible with families who want to move to full remote or return from full remote."

• After school in-person may resume on the 19th. Virtual afterschool will continue Jan. 4 to 15.

• The five day meal boxes will be distributed on Wednesdays for in-person learners at each of Greenbrier County's 13 schools. Remote learner five day meal boxes will be available at secondary schools on Wednesdays, with pick up times set between 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• During this time, all staff report and work in isolation to provide remote instruction and prepare for the return to school.

• Winter sports are delayed until Mar. 1. Practices, not games, may begin on this date.

• "No word yet" on spring sports.

Beyond this, the presentation also spelled out some of the mitigation strategies that will be in place:

• "Data shows that schools are the safest places for our children and are safe for staff."

• "Masks will be worn at all times for staff and students, pre-kindergarden to grade 12."

- "Hand washing and hand sanitation is critical."
- "Disinfecting and cleaning will continue."

• "Social distancing where possible - six feet no longer a requirement."

• "No large gatherings."

• "Contract tracing will continue."

• "Schools or classrooms may be closed for contact tracing or staffing issues. Boards of education should not close entire counties."

"We will do our very, very best to make it work," Bryant said. "... It is important to know that this was given to us by the Department of Ed and this is not a suggestion or a recommendation, this is the is the guidelines of what we will do." Richardson set further hearings and a deadline for filing motions by early March, giving the defense time to process discovery and the state to file for admissibility of evidence.

"Hopefully the distribution of the vaccine and getting through the next few months will make the situation substantially better than it is right now," Richardson said. "... The court has adopted a policy of avoiding large in-person gatherings such as jury trials and meetings with the grand jury while the Harvard Global Health Institute's classification system shows Greenbrier County in the high-risk, red category, which is where we have been for a number of weeks."

Senate Siege

Continued from Page 3

20 million Americans in other states. And to hand the presidency to a candidate who lost the Electoral College, lost the popular vote, and lost each and every one of the states whose votes they were trying to reverse. It's a position so extreme, we've never seen it before. ... Every single avenue was made available to President Trump to contest the results. He took full advantage of each and every one of those avenues. President Trump was denied no course of action he wanted to take."

President-elect Biden celebrated the strength of our institutions and the will of the people under attack.

"Today, our nation passed a grim milestone, 300,000 deaths to this COVID virus. My heart goes out to each of you in this dark winter of the pandemic, about to spend the holidays and the new year with a black hole in your hearts, without the ones you loved at your side. My heart goes out to all of you who have fallen on hard times through no fault of your own, unable to sleep at night, staring at the ceiling, weighed down by the worry of what tomorrow will bring for you and equally important for your family. ... And most of all, we need to stand in solidarity as fellow Americans, to see each other, our pain, our struggles, our hopes, and our dreams. We're a great nation. We're good people. We may come from different places, hold different beliefs, but we share in common a love for this country, a belief in its limitless possibilities. For we, the United States of America, has always set the example for the world for a peaceful transition of power. We'll do so again. I know the task before us won't be easy. It's tempered by the pain so many of us are feeling."

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.



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OBITUARIES

Deborah Kay McClung



Sinks Grove-Deborah Kay Price McClung, 70, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, at the Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg after a short but brave battle with breast cancer.

"Debbie," as friends and family knew her was the daughter of Marie Price and the late Denzil Price, of Sinks Grove, WV.

Born Sept. 1, 1950, in Ronceverte, Debbie spent her childhood in Monroe and Kanawha County. She was a 1968 graduate of Union High School in Union and went on to study art at the former Greenbrier Women's College, Concord University and West Virginia University.

She used this education to become an award-winning artist and photographer as well as serve many businesses in the community as an ad designer for the *Mountain Messenger* newspaper for several decades. Debbie always helped people in need and after retirement, was a devoted caregiver to her mother at home and enjoyed spending time with her grandson.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed history, archaeology and learning about various cultures and places around the world. She enjoyed travelling and her favorite places to visit included Williamsburg, VA, and the beach.

She also loved gardening, winning numerous awards for her violets over the years, and having a fondness for the irises she grew around her home.

Debbie always loved animals, breeding and raising Himalayan cats in the '80s and '90s. She always had multiple pets that she cared for dearly.

She is survived by her mother, Marie Price of Sinks Grove; her sister, Marsha Cray and companion Jim Canfield of Lewisburg; husband of 40 years, Lee McClung of Sinks Grove; her daughter, Jennifer Ridgeway and husband Anthony of Union; Debbie was of the Christian faith. Her final wishes were to be cremated and have her ashes spread on the farm where her pets were buried. Family will meet at a later date to carry out her wishes.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in memory of Debbie be made to the Monroe County Animal League at P.O. Box 343 Union, WV 24983.

Those wishing to send the family online condolences or sign the online guestbook may do so by visiting <u>www.groves-mann.com</u>

Arrangements by Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV.

Phyllis Livesay McWhorter Mann



Lewisburg-Phyllis Livesay McWhorter Mann, 94, of Lewisburg and Orlando, FL, went home to be with her Lord on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020.

Phyllis was born in Lewisburg on May 2, 1926, to O. Porter Livesay and Lucy Ford Livesay.

Throughout her life, she was an excellent teacher, continuing to teach in various capacities. She attained her master's degree in early childhood education and shared her knowledge with other teachers who taught children in a creative program through Orange County Schools, in Orlando, FL. Phyllis enjoyed volunteering. In Lewisburg, she volunteered with the Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Carnegie Hall, PEO and the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. Phyllis blessed many people with her wonderful thank you notes and other correspondence. She enjoyed the art of keeping in touch through notes and letters and kept years of notes and cards from others too! Her gift of hospitality made its way to groups she drew together through friend gatherings, work, church, and other activities. She never met a stranger and always was looking to improve the lives of others.

parents.

She was a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend and will be missed by many. Surviving Phyllis are her family members: Cheryl (Sherry) and Bruce Sutterby, Joe McWhorter, Mike and Jennifer McWhorter, Tom and Laura Mann, and Christie and Mike Finn. She had grandchildren and great-grand-Grandchildren inchildren. clude (alphabetically by first names) Amy Thompson, Chad McWhorter, Kelly Finn, Max McWhorter, Reilly McWhorter, and Tyler Sutterby.

The family would like to thank the staff of Stonerise Lewisburg (formerly the Brier) for their loving care and friendship for Phyllis over the last few years. Additionally, we thank her special visitors from Lewisburg United Methodist Church; Pastor Jonathon Turner, of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church; and her friends from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church. How blessed we have been.

A celebration of Phyllis' life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Stonerise Lewisburg Activities Department (formerly The Brier), 979 Rocky Hill Road, Ronceverte, WV 24970; The Greenbrier Valley Theatre, P.O. Box 494, Lewisburg, WV 24901; or Gwen's Meals, P.O. Box 54, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.Wallaceand-WallaceFH.com

John W. Halcomb

Fort Spring-John W. Halcomb, 58, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, at his home. John was born Sept. 13, 1962, in Mullens to the late Ed and Dorothy Woolwine Halcomb.

John was a retired truck driver having driven for several companies and then retired from the West Virginia Department of Highways and was a proud US Army Veteran.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Eddie Halcomb.

Surviving John include his daughter, Ashley Palmer and husband Aaron of Kansas City, MO; grandson, Wesley Palmer; sister, Rhonda Whitt of Sophia; Randall Halcomb and wife Rosemary of Chesapeake, VA; brother-in-law, Roger Whitt of Mullens; nieces and nephews, Cheryl Bond, Randall Halcomb, Jr., Roger Whitt II and Holly Halcomb.

Per John's wishes, he will be cremated.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.Wallaceand-WallaceFH.com

Peggy Joyce Morgan Webb



Fairlea-Peggy Joyce Morgan Webb, 88, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, at The Brier/ Stonerise Lewisburg Nursing Home.

Peggy was born Aug. 4, 1932, in Ronceverte, to the late Lonnie and Glenna Morgan.

Peggy retired from AT&T in

1987 after 20 years of service. She was a lifelong member of Trinity United Methodist Church. She sang in the church's choir for over 50 years, was involved in the church council, the finance committee, the lay leader committee, and member of United Methodist Women.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Edwin P. Webb; sister, Jean Michelinie; and brother, Lonnie Morgan, Jr.

Survivors include three daughters, Tina Watkins (Tommy) of White Sulphur Springs, Christy Ford (Glen), and Kendra Webb of Lewisburg; grandchildren, Brandon Watkins, Loren McMillion (Jeremy), Jessie Ford and Frank Ford. Peggy also had three great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte with the Rev. Dr. Felica Wooten-Williams and the Rev. Mike Estep officiating.

Burial will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens.

Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to the service.

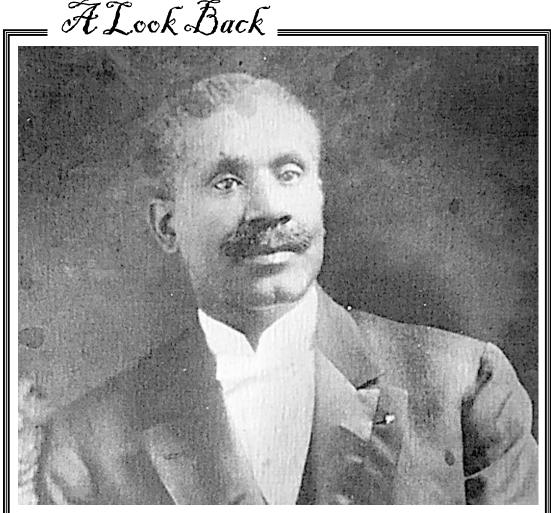
In lieu of flowers, the family would like contributions to be made to Trinity United Methodist Church.

The family would like to send a special "thank you" to the staff at The Brier/Stonerise Lewisburg Nursing Home.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, masks and social distancing are required while attending Peggy's visitation and services.

Please send online condolences by visiting <u>www.wallaceand-</u> <u>wallacefh.com</u>.

Arrangements made by Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, Ronceverte, WV.



her grandson, Drew Ridgeway of Union; two nephews, Philip Cray and fiancé Susan Weinfurtner-Blair of Ashland, KY, and Luke Canfield of Charleston, WV.

She was preceded in death by her father and several aunts and uncles.

Phyllis was blessed in her life to have two wonderful husbands, Joseph M. McWhorter, and Samuel B. Mann. Both preceded her in death, as did her

Brody Hanson joins American Angus Association

Brody Hanson of Lewisburg is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

Photo from Bishop Matthew W. Clair by Dr. Margaret B. Ballard

By William "Skip" Deegans In Union, there is an easily overlooked roadside marker that commemorates Matthew Walker Clair who broke the color barrier in the Methodist Church. Clair's parents came to Monroe County before the Civil War. It is not clear if they were free people or slaves, and they may have lived on the Alexander-Caperton plantation before moving to Union. Educational opportunities for African Americans were all but non-existent in Monroe County.

Clair, born in 1865, may have received his early educa-

tion from his mother or from Harriett Caperton. Later, the family moved to Charleston where Clair, employed as a dishwasher at the Hale House (later Ruffner Hotel), attended the Simpson Methodist Church and became a preacher there. With support from the community, Clair enrolled in the Centenary Bible Institute (now Morgan State University) in Baltimore where he studied theology and the classics.

Clair graduated in 1889 and took his first pastorate at the Harper's Ferry Methodist Church. From there he went to Staunton and then to Washington, D.C., where he was the pastor at the prestigious Ebenezer Methodist Church. He became the first African American to be elected a general superintendent. In 1920, Clair, along with R. E. Jones, became the first African Americans to be consecrated Methodist bishops. He later served in Liberia for eight years and died in 1943. Clair's son, Matthew Walker Clair, Jr., was also a Methodist bishop.

Sources: Bishop Matthew W. Clair by Dr. Margaret B. Ballard; Encylopedia of African American Religions.





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Rural Youth Engagement through Public Art Grants Available

Applications are now being accepted for the FY21 Rural Youth Engagement through Public Art Grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA). Approximately \$65,000 in grants will be awarded.

Deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 1, 2021.

Eligible projects will take place in communities with less than 25,000 residents and will engage local youth. Schools, not for profit youth groups, not for profit arts organizations, and local governments are eligible to apply. Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2021.

A complete grant application package, including eligible project expenses and evaluation criteria, is available by contactal Facilities and Capital Resources coordinator, at (304) 558-0240) ext. 725 or at JennaR.Green@ wv.gov. The application package will also be available on the department's website at http:// www.wvculture.org/arts/ grants.html.

ing Jenna Green, Cultur-

The announcement of grantees is planned for early February 2021.

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History brings together the state's past, present and future through programs and services in the areas of archives and history, the arts, historic preservation, and museums. Visit the department's website at www.wvculture.org for more information.

The Department of Arts, Culture and History is and Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer.

Winter 2020 issue of GOLDENSEAL magazine now available

The Winter 2020 issue of GOLDENSEAL is now available. It covers a wide range of stories about West Virginia history and culture from across the state. Since 1975, GOLD-ENSEAL has been West Virginia's Magazine of Traditional Life. Attached is a list of retailers where GOLDENSEAL magazine is available.

This issue's cover story is dedicated to dancer, artist, author and teacher Jude Binder of Calhoun County. The article, written by Douglas John Imbrogno, highlights Jude's work with children in central West Virginia as part of Heartwood in the Hills, a school for the arts she founded in 1982. For nearly 40 years, she's inspired young people to discover the excitement of the arts and to live out their dreams, wherever those dreams may lead them. Other articles examine the Mountain Craft Shop, "Wetzel County's only amusement park," in the words of owner and chief toymaker Steve Conlon (by Zack Harold); apple butter making, a family tradition in Hampshire County (by Tina Ladd); a little house with a lot of special memories on the campus of Shepherd University (by Carl E. Feather); the fight for women's suffrage in the Mountain State (by Christine M. Kreiser); Raleigh County's mysterious Ferguson Rock (by Merle T.

Cole and Tom Sopher); tributes to the old WVU Field House in Morgantown (by Norman Julian) and growing up listening to Mountaineer basketball on radio (by John A. Hunter Jr.); the burning of the state capitol in January 1921 (by Stan Bumgardner); the poem "The Many Mamaw Melitas Who Raised Us (by Andréa Fekete): doodlebugging in Barbour County (by David Ball); the life of teacher and farmer Jack Corder of Doddridge County (by C. Lee Corder); a virtual tour in and around the Preston County town of Aurora (by Donetta Sisler); and a visit with scrap-metal artists Ken and Joy Sinsel of Hancock County (by Carl E. Feather). In this issue, GOLDEN-SEAL also honors West Virginians in the fields of history and arts who we lost in 2020. State folklorist Emily Hilliard writes a moving tribute to Lincoln County's Elaine Purkey, a folk singer, labor songwriter and teacher who touched countless lives. GOLDENSEAL is published quarterly by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History. You may order copies from GOLDENSEAL's online store or call 304-558-0220, ext. 134. Individual copies are \$5.95/ issue + \$1.00 shipping, or you can order subscriptions for one year (\$20), two years (\$36), or three years (\$50).

Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have noticed that the boxes that frozen foods come in appear to be cardboard that has been wax coated. Can they be recycled with cardboard?

Like Frozen Food

Dear Like Frozen Food,

Believe it or not, most food containers that appear to be wax coated are not waxed. According https://recyclespot.marcblogs. org/2017/07/13/melting-mythsabout-wax-coated-food-containers, paper food containers are actually coated with polyethylene (PE) plastic. The PE serves as a moisture and gas barrier, which prevents transmission of liquids and gases through the paper container. Thus, take-out food containers such as frozen food boxes, coffee cups, paper plates, and fast food boxes are neither recyclable nor compostable.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I just finished using the contents of a PAM olive oil spray can. Does the olive oil keep it from being re-

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cycled?

A Recycling Cook

from being recycled. Spray cans (aerosol cans) are used for everything from food to paint to cleaning products to pesticides. According to earth911.com, all aerosol cans are recyclable as they are made of either steel or aluminum, both of which are a high-value metal that can be recycled infinitely into new metal items. Regardless of whether they are aluminum or metal, aerosol cans recycle with steel cans. Just be sure the can is empty by either shaking it and listening for any liquid that may be inside or keep spraying until only air comes out. Don't try to remove the spray nozzle on the top of the can as it could be dangerous. The plastic cap on top of the can should be removed and is not recyclable.

Don't forget that all Christmas lights are recyclable, regardless of whether they work or not. All strings

of lights can be taken to the Recycling Center or Lowes for recycling.

Dear Recycling Cook,

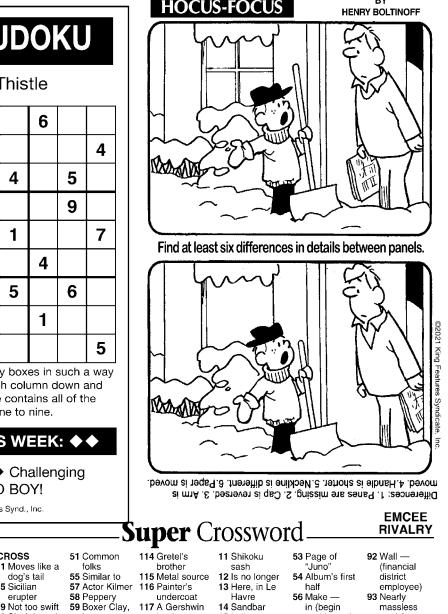
No, oil does not keep a spray can

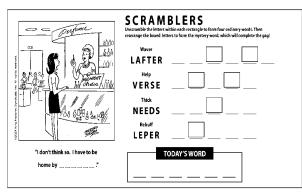
Dear Readers,

Good news, Dole Food Company is now working on replacing their plastic wrap packaging with compostable banana leaves! Dole plans to eliminate all fossil-based plastic packaging by 2025. Thank you, Dole. Eliminating plastic wrap packaging will make a substantial impact on the environment.

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







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MOUNTAIN STATE SPOTLIGHT

Here are the voices the giant drug distributors don't want you to hear

By Eric Eyre and Lauren Peace for Mountain State Spotlight

This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. For more stories from Mountain State Spotlight, visit www.mountainstatespotlight.org.

The nation's largest opioid distributors are pushing to block testimony from West Virginians who want to speak out about how the addiction crisis has ravaged their communities.

The companies' lawyers say "personal stories of addiction" have no place at an upcoming trial that seeks to hold the drug wholesalers accountable for the opioid epidemic. They argue that such testimony would be nothing more than hearsay - and inadmissible in court.

They also have asked a judge to muzzle potential witnesses who believe prescription painkillers acted as a gateway to street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. And they're trying to put a lid on information about the recent conviction of one of their executives.

The Cabell County Commission and the City of Huntington, which are suing the distributors in federal court, have railed against the companies' effort to exclude testimony from people who have suffered from the crisis. The two governments accuse McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen of unleashing the opioid epidemic by saturating the region with prescription pain pills. The witnesses' stories are relevant and deserve to be heard, attorneys for the city and county say.

The bellwether opioid trial was scheduled to start in early January, but U.S. District Judge David Faber has postponed the proceedings, citing the recent surge of coronavirus cases in West Virginia and other states. Faber has yet to set a new trial date. The trial is set to take place at the Robert C. Byrd federal courthouse in Charleston.

Here are some of the stories drug distributors have asked Faber to bar.

• •

Jan Rader is Big Pharma's worst nightmare.

Rader is the long-time fire chief in Huntington, the first female fire chief in the state. She has saved hundreds of lives of people who have overdosed, and she has helped start innovative programs that cut Huntington's overdose deaths in half.

Besides these accomplishments, Rader is also a dynamic public speaker; her TED talk has gotten more than 1.8 million views and she had a lead role in a documentary film, "Heroin(e)," which was nominated for an Oscar. have seen and experienced," Rader said in an interview with Mountain State Spotlight. "All of these [companies] have some culpability in cleaning up the mess they helped to create. I think this story should be heard by the entire country and the entire world."

One of the links the drug distributors want to keep Rader from making is connecting their prescription opioids to street drugs like heroin and fentanyl.

During Rader's deposition in June, the companies' lawyers asked Rader how many people addicted to heroin or fentanyl started by taking prescriptions like Oxy-Contin or hydrocodone.

"About 80%," she said.

"And about how many people have you talked to and asked that question, how they started?"

"Hundreds and hundreds," Rader responded.

That counters the distributors' argument that people have been mostly overdosing on street drugs in recent years, not the prescription opioids the companies deliver to pharmacies and hospitals. They leave out how people suffering from opioid use disorder became addicted in the first place.

"Addiction, substance abuse disorder, is a disease, something you'll be dealing with the rest of your life," Rader said. "With the damage that's been done here, it will take decades to get back to normal. And it's all because of greed."

. . .

On a Friday afternoon in July, Kelli Sobonya didn't hold anything back when a drug company lawyer pressed her about people she knew who were addicted to opioids.

Her cousin died of an overdose. Her nephew, hooked on prescription painkillers and later heroin, had been in and out of jail over the past decade. Several friends in retirement were now raising their grandchildren whose parents had fatally overdosed.

"I mean, I've known so much pain from this opioid addiction," Sobonya told lawyers while giving a deposition last summer. "I'm sorry. I'm getting emotional because I know the effects of what the opioids have done to their friends and families."

Now, the drug distributors want to stop Sobonya, a Cabell County commissioner, from talking about those struggles

The companies' attorneys characterize Sobonya's testimony as "hearsay" and "irrelevant." They argue that Sobonya can't tie any of her stories to any specific prescription opioids delivered by distributors, and they wouldn't be able to cross-examine any of the people Sobonya brings up.

But Sobonya told Mountain State Spotlight that she hopes to speak out, if there's a trial.

"Those stories need to be told, their faces need to be seen," she said. "People need to hear what all these families have gone through, the lives that have been lost or forever changed."

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"He's still in the throes of addiction," she said. "He's been arrested multiple times."

Her cousin, who lived in Huntington, was prescribed opioids after injuring her back at work.

"We buried her this year," Sobonya said of her cousin who overdosed. "She left behind a 14-year-old son."

Sobonya, a former Republican legislator, said one of her friends is raising three granddaughters. The youngest was a year old when her mother overdosed and died; Sabonya still remembers the phone call she got from her friend, screaming and crying, after the daughter overdosed while waiting for a treatment bed at a drug rehab facility.

"Our Cabell County citizens are raising grandchildren when they should be enjoying retirement," Sobonya said. "It's a lifetime commitment. And when they get older and die, who's going to care for these children?"

• • •

The drug distributors aren't just trying to block West Virginians with first-hand experience dealing with the fallout from the opioid crisis. If they have their way, you also won't be hearing from one of their own - McKesson's former regulatory affairs director, David B. Gustin - at the upcoming trial.

The companies are seeking to screen off evidence about Gustin's guilty plea, conviction and sentencing in October.

Gustin struck a plea deal with federal prosecutors, admitting he failed to report a Kentucky pharmacy's extraordinarily large and suspicious orders of prescription pain pills. McKesson kept delivering painkillers to the drugstore, even after Drug Enforcement Administration agents sent the company a subpoena about the pharmacy and questioned Gustin.

The distributors have argued that Gustin's conviction was "inadmissible hearsay" based on "unproven charges," according to court documents

The City of Huntington and Cabell County want to present details of Gustin's criminal prosecution at the trial.

Gustin, who worked at McKesson for 21 years, was responsible for stopping powerful painkillers from being diverted to the black market in 15 states, including West Virginia. He oversaw McKesson's warehouse in Washington Court House, Ohio, which shipped pain medications to Cabell County and Southern West Virginia.

As regulatory affairs director - a job which court documents filed by his lawyer argue Gustin wasn't qualified for - Gustin's duties included setting monthly limits on the number of painkillers pharmacies could order. McKesson frequently raised those caps after pharmacy owners complained.

In March 2019, Gustin was indicted on felony charges that he conspired with others to illegally distribute the painkillers oxycodone and hydrocodone, as well as an anti-anxiety medication. After agreeing to plead guilty to a lesser misdemeanor charge, he was sentenced to two years of probation. The lawyer did not respond to a request for comment last week.

•

Connie Priddy is the program coordinator for the Huntington opioid Quick Response Team.

The program, run in conjunction with Cabell County EMS, aims to re-establish contact with people who have had suspected overdoses within 24 hours to 72 hours of their call to 911.

"It's like a check-in," Priddy said. "Just to say 'hey, we're here for you. And there are treatment options when you're ready.""

Her job has connected her with health care workers across the country, and placed her on panels in Washington, DC, where she's presented on the model that Huntington has used in its fight against the opioid epidemic and worked to help others start the same in their own communities.

A big part of the job is data collection creating new ways for EMS workers to record suspected overdoses, even if the call to 911 was made for something different. And Priddy likes data. During her deposition in Huntington last summer, she made that clear.

It's the personal stories, Priddy told Mountain State Spotlight, that the drug companies want to hush at trial.

"I think that what the pharmaceutical companies don't want to hear is that it's not just a few individuals that have some kind of moral failing," Priddy said. "I think it's so easy to say, you know, Huntington deserved this, these people made a choice. But it can be anyone."

Priddy, a Huntington native, has spent her entire life in the city. She has watched Huntington change before her eyes, as pills poured in and people were left behind.

Before she helped establish the overdose response team, she spent 30 years working on the frontline as a health care worker, mostly as a helicopter nurse. Priddy has seen a lot of trauma, responding to the region's most critical calls. It's a day in the late 2000s that sticks with her the most.

"In one day, I flew three separate people. One had an amputated hand, another was a transplant patient, and the third had a heart attack. Three separate issues," said Priddy, who was assigned with taking down medical histories during the flights.

The common thread?

"All three of those individuals told me they were on 160 milligrams of OxyContin," Priddy said. "None of these people, from my perspective, had chronic pain... but somebody was prescribing it for them. It was part of their medical history. It was legal."

And that, says Priddy, is where this crisis began. In the years that followed, as prescriptions dried up, people turned to what they could afford: heroin.

"You know, the pharmaceutical companies don't want anybody to speak about that. I was there on the front lines the whole time. I saw it," Priddy said.

That makes Rader a formidable force if she's allowed to testify.

"If I get to testify, and I hope I do, it will be about what we as a community

Twelve years ago, Sobonya's nephew became addicted to prescription opioids in high school, after his shoulder was injured during a football game.

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For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director **Don Smith at donsmith@wvpress.org**, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302. Gustin left the company in 2016. He's now retired.

"The past 18 or so months have been a living nightmare for him and his family," Gustin's lawyer to a federal judge in court documents. "Undoubtedly, this prosecution has sent shockwaves through many corporate compliance departments. The message has been sent." "They don't want you to know that it's real people. Where you see these individuals today is not where they started out. You see them walking in the street, you see them homeless.

"You didn't see them years ago, when they were a little girl swinging in her backyard," she continued. "They don't want you to see that. They want you to see these individuals that seem so dark and flawed, and think that they somehow created this themselves. That's just not true."

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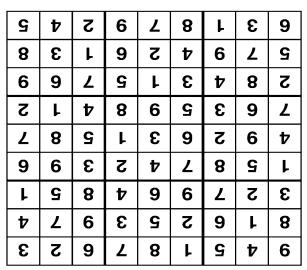
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(2019-S-00000011 - Greenbrier County - JAMES A FACEMIRE)

To: HAMBRICK ANNETTE L, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

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Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest,	\$	101.94
to March 31, 2021.		
Amount of subsequent years' taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with	\$	9.76
interest to March 31, 2021.		
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served	\$	428.74
and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2020,		
following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.		
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale	\$	42.75
to March 31, 2021.		
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check	\$	583.19
must be made payable to the The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer		
of Greenbrier County.		
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check	\$	35.00
must be made payable to the The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor .		
You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2021, by paying the abo	ove tot	al
less any unearned interest.		
Return this letter and both certified funds to the		
WV State Auditor's Office,		
County Collections Division		
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 1, Room W-114		
Charleston, West Virginia 25305		
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2		

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT MR-34-BR

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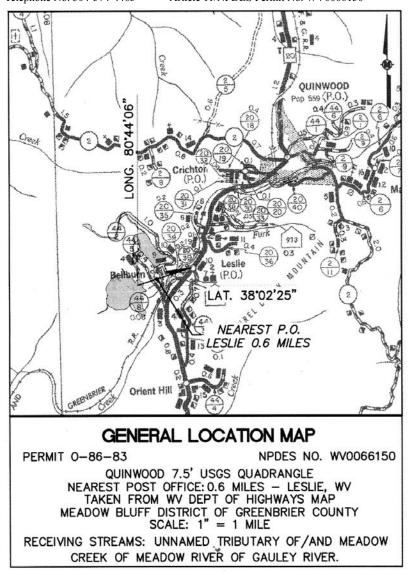
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An anti-degradation review has been conducted. Tier 1 protection is afforded because effluent limitations ensure compliance with water quality criteria for all designated uses. Where applicable, a full Tier 2 anti-degradation review has been conducted.

Comments on the Article 11 WV/NPDES application or requests for a public hearing regarding the Article 11/NPDES application shall be tn writing and if a public hearing is requested shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Such written comments or requests should be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above, and <u>must</u> also reference the Article 11/NPDES permit number shown above. Comments received by February 8, 2021, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered. A copy of the Article 11/WVNPDES application, draft permit, rational page, and fact sheet (if required) will be available for inspection and obtaining copies during normal business hours at the DEP Regional Office located at the address above.

DEP Telephone No. 304-574-4465

Article 11/NPDES Permit No. WV0066150



NRCTC is launching a new LPN to RN bridge program in Lewisburg for 2021

New River Community and Technical College is accepting applications for the college's new LPN to RN associate of applied science bridge program in Lewisburg starting in January 2021.

"We have worked diligently to establish this program in Greenbrier County to meet the need for registered nurses," said College President Dr. Bonny Copenhaver. "The addition of the RN bridge program expands the nursing offerings that we are able to provide, as we currently offer the practical nursing certificate program at our campuses in Beaver, Lewisburg and Summersville."

The intensive 16-month hybrid program will meet at the college's

Greenbrier Valley Campus three days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. New classes will begin annually in both January and August.

The LPN to RN bridge program is designed for LPNs with unencumbered licenses. Students interested in applying must first apply to New River CTC for general admission. Registration for the spring 2021 semester is currently underway at New River CTC.

For information on the LPN to RN bridge program, email rn-program@newriver.edu. For general information about New River CTC, visit www.newriver.edu, email admissions@newriver.edu or call 866-349-3739.

Free Virtual Beekeeping Classes to Kick Off in January

The Appalachian Beekeeping Collective (ABC) is excited to announce several free beekeeping classes starting in January of 2021. All classes will be delivered online, and open to the general public.

Is Beekeeping Right for You? is a one-hour general overview of beekeeping taught by ABC beekeeping staff, with a Q&A after the presentation. There is a session on Tuesday, Jan. 5, and Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

ABC will also be offering two series of its free, five-week introductory beekeeping course, Beekeeping 101. Series 1 begins Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 PM and Series 2 begins Monday, February 8 at 6:30 PM, with both series covering the same comprehensive content. Beekeeping 101 is also a prerequisite for becoming a partner with ABC in 2021. ABC partners receive assistance with startup bees and equipment as well as ongoing mentoring support through the year. This could be you! ABC's partners program currently works with over 100 beekeepers in 8 southern WV counties and 5 southwest VA counties.

in any of these classes can register on the ABC website (www.appheadwaters.org/upcoming-classes), or on ABC's Facebook events page (www.facebook.com/appalbeecollective).

The Appalachian Beekeeping Collective (ABC) is a group of beekeepers, scientists, and educators committed to making beekeeping sustainable in our region, and developing opportunities in sustainable beekeeping. For more information, visit ABC's website (http://appheadwaters.org/beekeeping/) or Facebook page (@appalbeecollective).

Interested attendees

Equipment for Sale

AGCO Finance LLC will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for Certified Funds, plus applicable sales tax. Equipment: MF 1736L TRACTOR/LOADER S/N M17360GJJ-44202BH BH5 ROTARY CUTTER S/N 1HCHR1163401183. Date of sale: 01/13/2021.

LEGAL

Time of Sale: 9:00 A.M. Place of sale: BOONE TRACTOR, 15668 SENECA TRAILER N., LEWISBURG, WV 24901. Equipment can be inspected at place of sale. The equipment will be sold AS IS, without warranty. Final sale of equipment will be contingent upon winning bidder meeting all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. We reserve the right to bid. For further information please contact Nick Hoyt (484) 655-3934, Reference Number: 1831995.





Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

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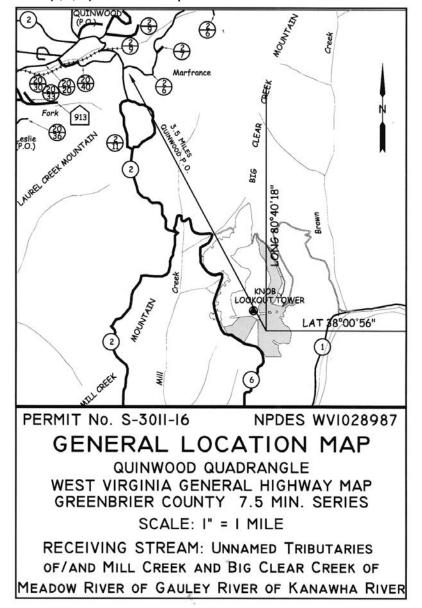
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Increment No. 2 13.14 acres Increment No. 7 22.00 acres

The permit is located in Meadow Bluff District of Greenbrier County, 3.5 miles southeast of Quinwood on unnamed tributaries of/and Mill Creek and unnamed tributaries of/and Big Clear Creek of Meadow River of Gauley River of Kanawha River.

Princess Polly Anna & JCT Enterprises, LLC completed backfilling and regrading on 9/15/20 and is requesting release of sixty (60) percent of the reclamation performance bond for the above increments, currently in the amount of \$112,240.00 Written comments will be received at the WVDEP address until March 1, 2021 or thirty (30) days from date of **final publication**.



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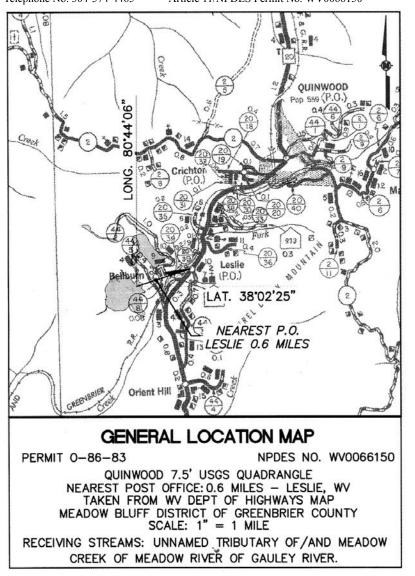
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MAIL

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LEGAL

Public Notice is hereby given that the Greenbrier County Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Floor Courtroom of the Greenbrier County Courthouse. This meeting will also be held virtually by Zoom and we will ask for the public to attend virtually to meet the COVID guidelines.

- Time: Feb 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/94784566510?pwd=amp3VjVmcmIPMXVDOH
- NtT1JBaVdSUT09
- Meeting ID: 947 8456 6510
- Passcode: 016511 One tap mobile
- 929-205-6099 US (New York)

PUBLIC HEARING 1: The Board will consider the request and application of Donna Ayash for a **Special Exception** from the Greenbrier County Zoning Ordinance. The appellant requests permission for a small wedding venue and events at 2788 Rich Hollow Rd., Lewisburg. The subject property is zoned Forest Recreation, located in the Fort Spring district, described in Deed Book 611 on Page 204 and shown on Tax Map 8 as Parcel 10.

This legal advertisement has been compiled from information submitted by the Appellant. Accuracy of submitted information is the responsibility of the Appellant. The Board of Zoning Appeals is not responsible for errors and omissions in this legal advertisement as a result of erroneous or inaccurate information submitted by the Appellant. The petition is available for public review at the Board of Zoning Appeals office in the Courthouse. Anyone wishing to comment on this appeal is urged to attend the meeting or send written comments to the Board of Zoning Appeals, 912 Court Street N, Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901.





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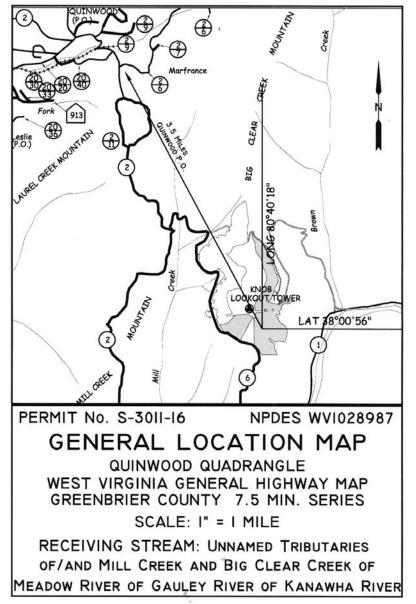
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SCHOOL

Anderson to guide Fantastic Ekphrastic workshop through New River

Expand your creative writing skills in 2021 in New River Community and Technical College's "Fantastic Ekphrastic" writing workshop with author Belinda Anderson. The four-week class will begin Jan. 26, 2021 and be offered by conference

"Winter is a great time for creative writing," Anderson explained. "You can stay snug at home and attend the writing workshop either via an internet conference call connection, or using your land line telephone - no high-speed internet is required."

The conference ca writing workshop debuted in the fall, with good reviews. Student Peggy Debnam wrote that attending from home was one of the best aspects of the class.

"I had all my resources in front of me, which made it very relaxing. Relaxing and stimulating at the same time," Debnam said.

"Fantastic Ekphrastic" takes a traditional creative writing device and expands it to help advance writers of all experience levels. Writers can experiment in the genres of fiction, nonfiction and poetry or focus on one mode.

The workshop will be held on

Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. The conference calls will include lecture, with time for questions and participant sharing, and group e-mail follow-up as needed.

"I find the sound of someone's voice on the telephone the next best thing to conversing in person," Anderson said. "Plus, there's the benefit of being able to have that conversation while wearing sweats. If you want to wear your pajamas during class, go for it."

The word ekphrasis derives from the Greek rhetorical exercise of describing art, real or imagined. From the Poetry Foundation: "a notable example is 'Ode on a Grecian Urn,' in which the poet John Keats speculates on the identity of the lovers who appear to dance and play music, simultaneously frozen in time and in perpetual motion."

Johannes Vermeer's painting titled "Girl with a Pearl Earring" inspired author Tracy Chevalier to write a historical novel creating imagined circumstances for the painter and the model. The novel, in turn, inspired a play and a film.

"The act of ekphrasis sharpens your descriptive abilities, which benefits you in all types of writing," Anderson said. "As the workshop progresses, you'll develop the ability to see how any type of object can add an important element to your work."

Tuition for the class is \$75, and the registration deadline is Jan. 14. Participants will be emailed the conference call number and access codes after registering for the class.

"All you have to do is call a number, enter the access codes you'll be given, and then you'll be connected to the group. It's that easy," Anderson explained.

For college information or to register visit www.newriver.edu/community or contact Gloria Kincaid (304-793-6101, gkincaid@newriver.edu).

Learn more about Anderson and her work online at http://www.BelindaAnderson.com

New River CTC's Workforce Education Division provides community education classes and employable educational opportunities including noncredit courses, workforce development programs and customized training.

New River CTC holds spring registration events

Registration is underway at New River Community and Technical College for spring classes starting Jan. 19, 2021, and campus events are planned to help students register for classes.

"New River CTC's Campus Connect events give both our current and new students an opportunity to come to campus, talk to our faculty and staff and register for spring classes," explained Executive Director for Institutional Advancement and the New River CTC Foundation Michael Green.

Campus Connect events are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mercer County Campus in Princeton on Jan. 5; the Nicholas County Campus in Summersville on Jan. 7; the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg on Jan. 11 and the Raleigh County Campus in Beaver on Jan. 14. Those interested in attending can register for the events online at www.newriver.edu/campus-connect/. Masks are required in all New River CTC buildings.

More than 40 of New River CTC's degree and certificate programs qualify for free tuition through the West Virginia Invests grant program, and the college is currently accepting new students. Cosmetology, cyber security and welding will have new class starts in January.

For the spring 2021 semester New River CTC will continue offering web enhanced face-to-face classes using Zoom video conferencing, online classes and faceto-face lab classes for technical, nursing, allied health and EMS programs.

Registration for the spring semester will continue through Jan.15, 2021. Visit www.newriver.edu, email admissions@newriver.edu or call 1-866-349-3739 for more information about New River CTC.

Berea releases fall 2020 Dean's List

More than 509 Berea College students were named to the fall 2020 Dean's List. A student is named to the Dean's List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Mickaela Reed of Ronceverte and Peter Soukup of Gap Mills were both named to the Dean's List.

Berea, the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor, and service. Supported by Berea's No-Tuition Promise, Berea College admits only academically promising students with limited economic resources, primarily from Appalachia. All students must work 10 hours or more weekly, earning money for books, room and board. The College's motto "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," speaks to its inclusive character, and the quality of its programs ensures that graduates from Berea go on to distinguish themselves and the College in many fields.

Wesleyan celebrates December 2020 graduates, conducts virtual commencement exercises

Greenbrier Valley chapter of research society wins international award

The Greenbrier Valley chapter of the scientific research honor society Sigma Xi, which currently includes 16 students at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) as associate members, received the second-place award as a Chapter of Excellence for the year ending June 30, 2020, out of all chapters internationally

The award is given based on exceptional ter." chapter activity, innovative programming and community leadership. Nominees are chosen by regional and constituency directors of Sigma Xi based on chapter annual reports. Winners are selected by the organization's Committee on **Oualifications and Mem**bership. Brian Griffith, Ph.D., a A total of 47 WVSOM

vice president of the local chapter and a member of WVSOM's biomedical sciences faculty, said the award is Sigma Xi's most prestigious chapter award.

"It's wonderful to receive this award and to have been nominated as one of the top chapters in the world," Griffith said. "It's a great honor for WVSOM and for the Greenbrier Valley chap-

Sigma Xi's Greenbrier Valley chapter is headquartered at WVSOM and serves individuals and institutions in the southern and eastern regions of West Virginia and adjacent Virginia, including Lewisburg, Beckley, Charleston and Princeton, W.Va., as well as Covington, Va.

Virginia, 2 hours east of

Charleston, 3 hours south

of Pittsburgh and 4 hours

west of Washington, DC.

For more information,

please visit the College

website at www.dewv.

students have been inducted into the Greenbrier Valley chapter as associate members in the past 10 years. The school has contributed to seven of Sigma Xi's annual Southern West Virginia Regional Middle School Science Fairs, in addition to research seminar lunches and presentations by Sigma Xi distinguished lecturers. Most the chapter recently, hosted a November presentation by Dr. Agustin Fuentes, a lecturer and a writer for National Geographic, titled "The Creative Species: Imagination and Collaboration in Human Evolution."

benefit both institutions and the public at large.

"Sigma Xi is an advocate for quality scientific research, and seeks to increase everyone's awareness of science," Davis said. "Together, our chapter, along with WVSOM and its medical students, have presented an enormous number of scientific outreach activities for children and adults."

WVSOM is one of only two osteopathic medical schools affiliated with Sigma Xi, whose mission is to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition. The organization was established in 1886 and has chapters across the U.S. and in other countries.

West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC) conducted virtual commencement exercises on Tuesday, Dec. 8 to celebrate its December 2020 graduates, which is composed of 33 undergraduate and graduate students.

"We are excited to celebrate the achievements of our December 2020 graduates," said WVWC President Joel Thierstein. "We look forward to hearing about all the wonderful directions they will go in their lives."

West Virginia Wesleyan will confer undergraduate and graduate degrees to 33 Wesleyan students via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8. The December 2020 graduating class comprises 26 students from West Virginia, two from Maryland, one from North Carolina, one from Pennsylvania, one from Virginia, one from Colorado and one international student from Spain.

Local December 2020 graduates are as follows:

• Letha Little (Lewisburg, WV), Master of Science in Nursing

• Haley Roberts (Renick, WV), Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education - Cum Laude

· Jessica Schoolcraft (Renick, WV), Master of Science in Nursing

Video

the county alone. After the video, an investigation was announced by the department, with representatives from the hotel and the health department pinpointing areas of concern and reviewing all of the guidelines.

The video also drew the concern of local reps, such as a statement from Senator Stephen Baldwin.

"In the last 10 months, there have been too many social gatherings which violated guidelines. Just look at our infection rates.... The video on social media of a party at The Greenbrier is upsetting. Because it showed a violation of guidelines. Because it puts the community at risk. Because it runs counter to the work the task force and the hotel do every week to keep local folks safe. Because we are all equals and we all must follow the guidelines the same or else we are all at risk. We can't be having large groups like that or else these high infection rates will just continue."

Matthew Weintraub named to D&E President's List

edu.

Matthew Weintraub of Lewisburg, a student at Davis & Elkins College, has been named to the president's list for the fall 2020 semester. The president's list includes all fulltime students with a 4.0 GPA for the semester.

Related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Davis & Elkins College is located in Elkins, West

cont. from Page 3

He also noted that calling out specific businesses in this way often doesn't help get them to come onboard to follow the guidelines. Noting that The Greenbrier is part of the Greater Greenbrier COVID-19 Task Force, he called for unity and for people to remain safe.

"I've never, though, thrown a single local entity who failed to follow guidelines under the bus publicly," Baldwin said. "Especially those who are on our task force, know they've made a mistake, and pledge to be better. We are all in this together, so I make every effort to stay positive. ... This video is indicative of a larger issue we face right now. People are tired of living like this. They are hosting and attending parties. Churches are allowing singing and large groups. Businesses are looking the other way on masks. We must stay strong until we finish the race. This is a marathon, and we have many miles to go."

emeritus, is president of the Greenbrier Valley chapter. He said the organization's members enjoy working with WVSOM in pursuit of goals that

Larry Davis, Ph.D.,

a WVSOM professor





The West Virginia Press Association is now accepting nominations for the

WVPA's Hall of Fame, **Class of 2021**

The written nomination must include a brief biographical sketch.

Nomination details at wvpress.org Submit nominations by March 1, 2021 Email to Don Smith, donsmith@wvpress.org or by mail to WV Press Association 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV 25302