

# Mountain messenger

February 13, 2021

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 7

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley - Lewisburg, West Virginia



Matthew Scott Campbell

## GVT announces new artistic leadership

The Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) Board of Trustees have selected Matthew Scott Campbell to succeed Cathey Sawyer as the new artistic director of the non-profit Equity regional theatre. Campbell began his tenure in January and will work with Sawyer during a transition period before her retirement at the end May 2021. Upon her departure Sawyer leaves a 30-year legacy with the company and the moniker of "The State Professional Theatre of West Virginia."

Campbell arrives at GVT as a West Virginia native. Most recently, he served as department chair and an Associate Professor of Theatre and Music Theatre at Viterbo University where he also developed their New Works

See "Artistic Director" — Page 3

## Pedestrian fatally struck in Fairlea

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, at approximately 11:30 p.m., members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a pedestrian struck by a vehicle on US Route 219 North in Fairlea.

Initial investigation revealed the pedestrian, identified as Johnny Ray Howard, Jr., 39, was struck by a northbound vehicle. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene following the incident.

Mr. Howard was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Deputy S. C. Havens of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office is the investigating officer. Deputy Havens was assisted by members of the Sheriff's Office and the Lewisburg Police Department.

## Commission signs broadband agreement, letter of support for grant

By Bobby Bordelon

A brief meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission saw continued progress on broadband expansion, a letter of support for the Blue Sulphur Pavillion, and updated county policy on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The commission's efforts to bring expanded broadband access to the Meadow River Valley continued with a signed agreement with Thompson and Litton.

"Thompson and Litton are the engineer, architect, and surveyor that will prime the locations, preparing all the spots for routes for where the right-of-ways," explained Commissioner Tammy Shiflett-Tincher. "Fiber will be hung on utility poles, utilizing [existing] First Energy poles."

Tincher outlined the reach of the proposed expansion.

"This is going to be 16 miles of aerial fiber along the route from exit 156 of Interstate I-64 to the Quinwood AML broadband tower," she explained. "The proposed route will follow Route 60 and Route 20 through the communities of Crawley, Rupert, Hines, Charmco, Orient Hill, Leslie, and Quinwood. This project is in conjunction with the CDBG grant that has been put together and applied for Greenbrier County by Region 4.

In addition, the commission approved:

A letter supporting a grant application for work on the Blue Sulphur Springs Pavillion. Commission President Lowell Rose explained this was "in support of a grant request for the Greenbrier Historic Society Friends of the Blue committee for funding to raise the columns to their original height, install a new roof to mimic the original, and install a new floor for the

See "GCC" — Page 3

## Rudy's renovation on hold due to concerns over neighboring building

By Bobby Bordelon

A communication breakdown during the fight to save two side-by-side buildings could result in neither project being completed in downtown Ronceverte. The Rudy's restoration project, headed by Chris and Jorge Rodriguez-Stanley, is currently paused pending the successful repair of a wall between it and the neighboring building.

The Rodriguez-Stanleys announced the project's halt on social media last week to ample attention, hoping to find a way to resolve the issue.

Between Rudy's and the building next door, known as the Rexall building, sits a small alleyway. The

Rexall wall has collapsed, leaving the inside of the building visible, the chimney bowing, and a tree growing out from between the loose bricks. Part of the collapse also damaged water runoff drainage from the roof, leading to water pouring into the alley and onto both buildings. The result is water and mold in the connected basements, structural and foundational damage to the Rudy's building, and ample visible damage to the Rexall building.

As of February, a drainage pipe has been added to divert water runoff out of the alley and onto the

See "Rexall" — Page 8



Under the collapsed Rexall wall



An alternate drainage pipe from the Rexall roof is diverting water outside of the alley to the sidewalk.

## Greenbrier River Trail signage project secures funding

By Sarah Richardson

In recent months the West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee and the USDA Forest Service announced the approval of \$40,000 in grant funding to go towards adding signage along the Greenbrier River Trail.

Greenbrier River Trail Association Secretary Robert Gronan said the project officially began this January, but it is still in the planning stages.

"We were awarded a \$40,000 grant to install interpretive signs on the whole trail from Caldwell to Cass," he said. "They will mostly have a historical focus, but will also contain information about the river, Native Americans, and naturalistic information."

While the overall design of these signs has yet to be

finalized, Gronan emphasized that the Association is making sure they will be installed in non-intrusive fashion, as to not block any of the natural beauty of the trail.

The grant submission form states:

"While there are existing signs at access points along the Trail providing information about the history of the area and the flora and fauna, there are many areas of historical and environmental interest where signage is lacking. There is also a lack of signage providing directional information, orienting visitors to exactly where they are on the trail and where they are in relation to surrounding communities, and to the trail's amenities. We are seeking financial assistance with additional signage

See "New Signage" — Page 2

## Past due rent could be paid for by December COVID relief bill, Ronceverte Councilmember Sills puts program in the spotlight

By Bobby Bordelon

A family with past-due rent payments needing help after losing income in 2020 could have a new way out thanks to the rental assistance program recently created by Congress.

As the Ronceverte City Council recently celebrated the payment of over \$25,000 in past due utility bills from CARES Act money, Councilmember Leah Sills encouraged both residents of Ronceverte and citizens of West Virginia with past-due rent to look into the new program.

"I work for Legal Aid of West Virginia, which is why I know a lot of this stuff, it's what we do," Sills said. "Assisting under-privileged populations is all we do. We have a number of other issues and help that has come out of these pandemic relief bills that could be helpful for people in the area. I always direct them to [our] website (lawv.net). We have a whole bunch of topics up with legal aid for West Virginians and there's a whole section on COVID topics."

## GV Aquatic Center announces approximate September opening, \$800,000 fundraising goal

By Bobby Bordelon

Despite the recent installation of a steel superstructure for the upcoming Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center, an update from the organizers from Sunday, Feb. 7, detailed the impacts of COVID-19 market changes on the project. This includes construction delays and the need for an additional \$600,000 in fundraising before the project can be completed.

Although planned as a live event initially, a heavy weekend snowfall turned the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center's Drive-In Celebration into an exclusively online event. Organizers Jamie Hamilton and TAG Galyean explained the current outlook of construction, and noted much of the groundwork is already completed.

"So what you see now, if you go out and take a look, ... is the high-roof steel structure," said Galyean. "This

is the structure in which the pool on the east end of that is the competition pool, on the west end [are] the recreation pool and the therapy pool. The next thing that will happen, if the weather allows us to start this week, is the high-roof area will begin to be roofed. ... It's on site, ready to be paid for and erected."

Despite the positive progress, the need for more fundraising was also announced.

"COVID has created a number of challenges and the cost increase of a lot of things is right at the top of that list," said Hamilton. "The projections our board has made now, thinking of every possible conceivable expense this project will face at this date and beyond, we're looking at about a 13 percent cost increase relative to what we originally expected. ... That is equivalent to what we originally expected. ... That is equivalent to what we originally expected."

See "COVID Rent Relief" — Page 8

See "Aquatic Center" — Page 8

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Today's Rock

**New Signage** Continued from Front Page



(Photo greenbrierwv.com)

to enhance both the educational value of the trail and the comfort level of trail visitors, by letting them know exactly where they are and where the sites are that they may want to visit.

The Greenbrier River Trail Association is fortunate to have an active and skilled group of volunteers, who have built shelters and a bathroom on the Trail, who will be able to construct and erect the wooden structures to which the signage will be affixed.

Signage will be designed and placed at designated locations along the trail to meet the goals of the project. Signs will be designed in keeping with the pristine nature of the surroundings with emphasis on "blending" with the natural environment as much as possible. They will be constructed so as to withstand the test of time and weather to provide long term benefits."

The application also notes the economic impact the trail has on the surrounding area, stating, "Multi-use recreational trails such as the Greenbrier River Trail have proven to have a positive economic impact upon the communities within their regions. A 2015 West Virginia University economic impact study concluded that Greenbrier River Trail usage brought in over four million dollars in economic benefit to the surrounding communities."

Gronan said the signs should be ordered late this year and installed in 2022.

# Attorney General Morrissey reaches \$10M settlement with opioid marketer, promoter

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey reached a \$10 million settlement Thursday with a major consulting firm he blames for having designed marketing plans and programs that helped fuel the state's opioid epidemic.

The settlement resolves allegations that McKinsey & Company Inc. collected millions from the nation's largest opioid manufacturers, most notably a more than 15-year relationship with Purdue Pharma, to boost sales of OxyContin even well after the opioid epidemic peaked.

The Attorney General alleges McKinsey targeted high-volume prescribers, considered ways to conceal its activity and involved itself in conflicts of interest by consulting with governments and nonprofits to clean up the very crisis it helped create, all while still working for those same opioid makers.

"Marketing efforts to boost the profits of opioid drug makers have caused - and continue to cause - immense harm to West Virginia," Attorney General Morrissey said. "Such strategies valued profits above human life, and those responsible must be held accountable. These funds must be used to solve the root causes of opioid abuse, and I am committed to working to develop a long-term plan to help our state's citizens and communities on a road to recovery."

The settlement and corresponding lawsuit were filed Thursday in Greenbrier County Circuit Court.

The settlement requires McKinsey to pay \$10 million to the state, prohibits the New York-based company from doing business related to opioids and requires McKinsey to develop a records retention system. The lawsuit alleged that some employees had considered de-

leting or destroying documents related to the company's work with Purdue.

The lawsuit alleges McKinsey's strategy targeted prescribers who wrote the most prescriptions to boost sales and specific patients to increase brand loyalty. For instance, McKinsey allegedly urged Purdue to consider direct-to-patient, mail-order pharmacies after scrutiny by a large pharmacy chain.

The Attorney General further alleges McKinsey viewed the growing drug abuse crisis itself as a profit-making opportunity by suggesting Purdue manufacture and market opioid treatment and rescue medications.

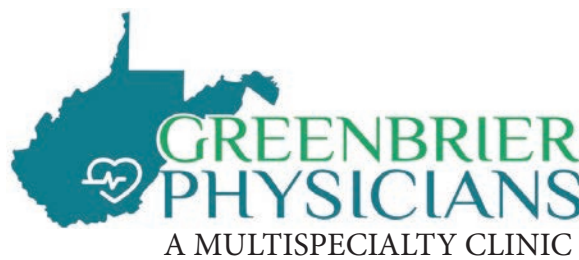
In the face of mounting overdose deaths and lawsuits, McKinsey also proposed a plan for Purdue's eventual exit from the opioid business.

The lawsuit alleges McKinsey also worked with Johnson & Johnson, Mallinckrodt LLC and Endo Health Solutions Inc., along with Purdue. Attorney General Morrissey filed suit against each of those manufacturers and one other in 2019.

The settlement does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing by McKinsey. All parties agreed to the settlement to avoid the expense and uncertainty of further litigation.

Legal work regarding the McKinsey settlement was handled within the Attorney General's Office, meaning no portion of the \$10 million settlement will be diverted to reimburse outside law firms. That provides a substantial savings for state taxpayers and helps ensure proceeds fund the agreement's intended purpose - remediation of the drug abuse crisis in West Virginia.

## Bringing Quality Healthcare For Your Convenience to the Following Locations:



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 304.647.5114

Dr. Ray Jones, 9016 Seneca Trail, Ronceverte, WV  
 304.647.4968

Dr. Debra Sams, 1478 Maplewood Ave., Ronceverte, WV  
 304.647.4406

**NEW LOCATION:**

3115 Seneca Trail South, Peterstown, WV 24963  
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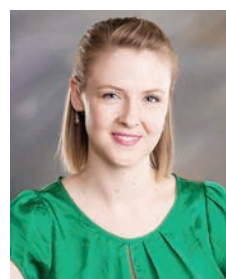


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## PICK OF THE LITTER

**LUCAS**

Lucas is a one year old chow mix and weighs 40 pounds. This fluffy guy has a handsome smile that is sure to win you over!



**LEWIS**

Lewis is a four-year-old male domestic shorthair who weighs 11 pounds. This handsome boy has both tabby stripes and a stark white coat.



These 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 first-come, first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation! Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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# Briefly

## Addiction Screenings available

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

## AA meetings

are 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](http://aawv.org).

## Ballot for upcoming Rainelle elections set, not enough candidates to fill council

By Bobby Bordelon

The candidate slate is set for the upcoming Rainelle elections for mayor, recorder, and councilmembers. Currently, not enough people are on the ballot to fill the five-member Town Council with only three candidates running. Acting Mayor Bill Bell encouraged anyone looking to make the town a better place to sign up to run as a write-in.

According to Bell, the race will be between:

Mayoral candidates John Wyatt, Robin Williams, and Mike Rogers;

Recorder candidates Bill Bell and Brian Day;

And Council candidates Ron Fleshman, Dave Spitzer and James Matheny.

This slate comes with a problem however - all five seats of the Town Council are up for election, while only three candidates have signed up to run. This potentially means that two of the council's five seats will be empty after the election.

What now?

According to West Virginia State Code 8-5-9, "All municipal officers, whether elected at the first election of officers or at regular municipal elections, or appointed, shall hold their offices until their successors are elected or appointed and qualified according to law, unless sooner removed from office according to law." This means that current councilmembers not signed up to run again would likely remain on council unless write-in candidates run or council appoints new members. Of note in this situation is mayoral candidate, and current Councilmember John Wyatt.

Despite this issue, anyone in the community looking to run for council can still sign up to run as a write-in candidate. Now-former mayor Jason Smith and Bell won the city's most recent election as write-in candidates, as mayor and recorder respectively.

"We did this in the last election," Bell recalled. "We went to city hall and had to sign up for a place on the write-in on the ballot. Then you have to campaign as a write-in - if someone wants you, they have to write your name."

If the seats are not filled, council could appoint members to fill the seats of the leaving councilmembers. Bell hoped to see more potential councilmembers in City Hall signing up soon.

"I found it a little frustrating," Bell said. "I invited and encouraged people to sign up and it seems as though ... everybody wants to fuss but nobody wants to do. I would just want people to come sign up. I wish they would. ... The way I was thinking, you would still have a quorum. ... My take away from it was if they don't have enough ambition to sign up and run, who would the town council reach out to appoint?"

## Artistic Director Continued from Front Page

Program. His professional work has been seen in New York, on national tours, and regionally with such companies as Goodspeed Opera House, Bay Street Theatre, Hartford Theatre Works, Peninsula Players, Vital Theatre Company, SurfFlight Theatre, Tent Theatre, North Carolina Theatre, The John Engeman Theatre, among many others. Campbell previously served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Missouri Shakespeare Festival and was cohort member of the ATHE Leadership Institute. He holds an MFA in directing from Illinois State University.

"We are thrilled for Matt to join as we transition out of the pandemic era and begin a new chapter in the history of GVT. We look forward to his leadership and vision for the theatre and Lewisburg arts community," said Kara Dense, president of the GVT Board of Trustees. "Matt stood out among the 120+ candidates who applied for the job. His experience in directing, acting, producing, and in administration is just what GVT needs. I am delighted to be turning over the reins of GVT to someone as experienced, as professional, and as warm and kind as Matt. He's perfect for this theatre and for this community," says outgoing AD Cathey Sawyer.

Now entering its 54th season, Greenbrier Valley Theatre is a main stay and theatre destination for the State of West Virginia. The arts organization has been further recognized as a "West Virginia Jewel of the Hills," awarded the Living the Dream Service Organization Honor Roll by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, and is a multi-year recipient of Non-Profit Business of the Year by GGCC. Beyond its seven-show main stage season, the company boasts a robust theatre education program, the Al Jeter Music series, and has produced a number of world-premiere productions including Bricktop: Legend of the Jazz Age, which was selected as a feature production at The National Black Theatre Festival.

For more information visit [gvtheatre.org](http://gvtheatre.org).

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## Public Meetings

### Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

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

### Rainelle Town Council

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

### Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. via Teleconference. For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. On the agenda:

- Visitors' reports: (10-min. limit per subject not on agenda)
- Approval of Minutes - regular session, Jan. 19, 2021
- Ordinances
  - Ordinance 290, amend the Zoning Ordinance by rewriting the Planned Unit Development portion of the zoning ordinance, among other things, changing allowed uses and densities, 1st reading
- Proclamations
  - Black History Month
- Communications from the Mayor
- Communications from the City Manager:
  - Lease agreement
  - Monthly report
- Communications from City Council Members
- Communications from Boards and Commissions
  - Planning Commission report from Feb. 4 meeting
  - Parks Commission report from Feb. 2 meeting
- Communications from the Police Department
  - Report from Chief Teubert
- Communications from the Fire Department
  - Report from Chief Thomas
- Communications from Council Committees
  - Finance Committee
    - Report from Feb. 9 meeting
    - Health insurance renewal
    - General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Revision No. 1
    - 219 N Sidewalk Grant pay request 1
    - Lafayette Street sidewalk grant
    - New Streets and Parks Facilities upgrade phase II
    - Hollowell Park upgrades
    - City Hall rental space renovations
    - Greenbrier Motors - Water Dept. dump truck lease or purchase
  - Public Works Committee
    - Report from Public Works Director
- Executive Session
  - Barnette Property

### Greenbrier Co. Planning Commission

will meet Thursday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m.

Attend in person (please follow all health and safety protocols) at Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg,

OR via Zoom at Internet Access: <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/92442116928> (Meeting ID: 924 4211 6928), OR Phone Access: 1-646-558-8656 or 877-853-5257 or 888-475-4499 (Meeting ID: 924 4211 6928). If you have trouble accessing the meeting or clearly hearing or seeing participants, please call 724-366-9076 immediately for assistance. Please be courteous and place your sound on mute while not speaking.

On the agenda:

- Meeting Minutes - Jan. 13, 2021
- Continue to review, consider and discuss changes to draft zoning ordinance and draft zoning map, including but not limited to:
  - a. Telecommunications
  - b. Use Table
  - c. Airport Overlay
- Review and Discuss amendments to Comprehensive Plan
- Review and discuss comprehensive plan amendment schedule
- Take action on amendments to Comprehensive Plan
- Review Study and Report on Zoning
- Review and Discuss Enactment Process & Schedule
- Public Comment
- Schedule meeting with WVU Land Use Clinic
- Discuss and take action on Subdivision request for Perrin / Triplett

## Arts and Rec. grant allocation applications available

Applications will be available starting Feb. 9 for the Greenbrier County Arts & Recreation Grant Allocations. Applications can be picked up at the County Commission office, Greenbrier County Courthouse, downloaded at [www.greenbriercounty.net](http://www.greenbriercounty.net) or by calling the Greenbrier County Commission office at 304-647-6689. The applications are due back at closing (4 p.m.) on Friday, Apr. 30.

Uses of Arts & Recreation Funds must be in compliance with WV State Code §7-18-14. Also under the guidance and recommendations of the County Commission. Funds may not be used for salaries/wages.

## Tax Tips

- Avoid the kiddie tax
- Check IRA distributions
- Watch your flexible spending accounts
- Decide if you need help
- File and pay on time
- File electronically



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Your Taxes?  
CONTACT OUR PROFESSIONALS  
**304-645-0006**  
in Lewisburg  
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**Federal & State Forms**  
Arbuckle Lane, Lewisburg, WV  
**304-645-6037**  
Office Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM

## For the Record

### Deeds

Jesse J. Copen III to Gregory Clyde Belcher, Lots 58 and 59 of the Meadow River Farms Company Addition to the Town of Rainelle, Meadow Bluff District  
Harry E. Boothe and Christianna M. Boothe to Joyce Shoemate, Lot 18, Town of Ronceverte  
Rodney Grimmitt and Gina L. Mitchell to John Garcia and Christy Garcia, Lot 100 and 101 of Rolling Hills Subdivision, Lewisburg Municipality  
Charles Lester Clay and Tammy Lynn Clay to Vernon Duwayne Pollard and Diane Flynn Pollard, 131.2 acres, Blue Sulphur District  
Charles R. Johnson and Kimberly Johnson to Charles Lester Clay and Tammy Lynn Clay, 0.517 acre, Blue Sulphur District  
Jay P. Sullivan to Timothy Warren Hoy and Elizabeth Embury Hoy, 4.73 acres, Williamsburg District  
Daniel Lee Smith and Theresa Smith to Robert J. Hanna III and Lauren Hanna, 32 acres, Fort Spring Dist.  
Alene M. Hedrick to Mary E. Crotzer and Cassandra Crotzer, 16,965 square feet, Lewisburg District  
John M. Surber to Nuncia D. Henneman, Lot 6 Block 4 in the Huddleston Hills Addition, Town of White Sulphur Springs  
Keith Filzen and Theresa M. Filzen to Timothy Weir and Timothy Weir Jr., Lot No. 91, Phase 4, Overlook at Greenbrier, Irish Corner District  
Matthew E. Ford to Ronald L. Baker and Sharon A. Baker, 0.474 acre, City of Ronceverte  
Thomas S. Kirby II and Sarah Renee Kirby to Jacob S. McCutcheon, 1.004 acres, Lewisburg District  
Cassandra S. Cole to Courtney J. Vance, a parcel, Ronceverte Corporate District  
Julie Mae Garner-Parker and Linda Sue Garner to Benjamin S. Mullins, 0.521 acre, Lewisburg District  
Johnson and Johnson Investments LLC to Brandon Vanmeter and Autumn Vanmeter, 2.011 acres, Meadow Bluff District  
John R. Wilson and Virginia I. Wilson to Forrest R. Allen and Jill A. Allen, a parcel, Lewisburg District  
John M. Surber to Nuncia D. Henneman, Lot 6 Block 4 in the Huddleston Hills Addition, Town of White Sulphur Springs  
Keith Filzen and Theresa M. Filzen to Timothy Weir and Timothy Weir Jr., Lot No. 91, Phase 4, Overlook at Greenbrier, Irish Corner District

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Tammy McIntyre, Lewisburg, destruction of property, NCP, jail 10 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, restitution \$450  
David Allen Owens, Rainelle, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, fine \$250  
Brandon Edward Pistore, Charleston, speeding, fine \$5  
Ashley Dawn Bennett, Frankford, possession of marijuana, fine \$100  
Derek Michael Snead, Meadow Bridge, 1) no insurance, NCP, fine \$200; 2) driving suspended, fine \$100

## GCC

Continued from Front Page

Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion."

Minor updates to the Local Government Purchasing Card Policies and Procedures with Rose noting "the county uses the card purchasing system, same as the state agencies do, and these are just some definitions and little corrections they've put into the state policy. It's just bringing us in line with what they've done."

A new hire in the building and zoning office was approved.

## Mountain Messenger

*The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley*

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

*Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley*

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| • FARM NEWS             | • PRESS RELEASES   |
| • GUEST EDITORIALS      | • SPORTS NEWS      |
| • GUEST COMMENTARY      | • STORY IDEAS      |
| • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | • YOUTH ACTIVITIES |

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# OPINION

## Commentary

### Governor announces WV to receive increase in weekly allocation of vaccine doses

Gov. Jim Justice joined West Virginia health leaders and other officials on a recent daily press briefing regarding the State's COVID-19 response.

After participating in a national COVID-19 leadership call the day before with members of President Joe Biden's administration, other governors across America, United States COVID-19 Czar Jeff Zients, and others, Gov. Justice reported during his latest briefing Wednesday that West Virginia will soon be receiving an increase in its allocation of vaccine doses from the federal government.

"There's going to be about a million vaccines that are going to be given to pharmacies all across our land, and it's going to be appropriated by population," Gov. Justice said. "It's going to give West Virginia between an additional 2,500 and 3,000 vaccines per week."

The Governor went on to say that in the weeks ahead, he anticipates West Virginia's total weekly vaccine allocation will approach 30,000 doses.

"It's nowhere close to what we want it to be, but it's better," Gov. Justice said. "We're going to continue to hope and pray that there's more vaccines coming in so we can really get moving on getting vaccinations to everyone who wants them. That's the whole goal."

Also on Wednesday, Gov. Justice announced that the West Virginia's percentages of long-term care facility residents and employees who have chosen to be vaccinated are significantly outpacing the national averages in these categories.

Last Tuesday, the CDC released a report which said only 77.8 percent of long-term care facility residents and 37.5 percent of staff members were choosing to get the vaccine nationwide.

Meanwhile, in West Virginia, approximately 81 percent of long-term care facility residents and 61 percent of staff members have chosen to be vaccinated to date.

"West Virginia, you're doing a lot better than the nation, but those numbers still need to come up even higher," Gov. Justice said. "Our resident number should probably be higher than 81 percent, but God only knows that our staff ought to be better than 61 percent. But it's still dramatically better than what's going on across our nation."

Additionally Wednesday, Gov. Justice offered a reminder that free COVID-19 vaccination clinics are being held this week in all 55 counties across West Virginia through operation "Save Our Wisdom."

However, the Governor warned that clinic schedules in some locations have been adjusted due to the severe winter weather experienced in some regions of the state this week.

Visit [vaccinate.wv.gov](http://vaccinate.wv.gov) to view all current clinic locations and schedules.

The clinics are available for West Virginians who are 65 years of age and older. Residents from any county in West Virginia may access an appointment at any of the



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vaccination clinics listed, regardless of their county of residence.

Many clinics are listed as full as they are utilizing existing waitlists. However, West Virginians can now pre-register for a COVID-19 vaccine through the West Virginia COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration system at [vaccinate.wv.gov](http://vaccinate.wv.gov). All clinics require appointments and walk-ins will not be accepted.

West Virginia became the first state in the nation to put a statewide vaccination pre-registration system in place. The new digital tool allows West Virginians to add themselves to a list of people who are interested in being vaccinated, and will notify those who sign up about the availability of vaccine doses to help streamline vaccination efforts.

To date, more than 177,000 West Virginians have signed up to be added to the pre-registration list.

West Virginians age 16 and older can pre-register online or call the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line (1-833-734-0965) to get help pre-registering.

Pre-registering in the system does not automatically grant users access to a vaccine appointment. Rather, users will receive a message from the system when there is a vaccine available. When that occurs, users will be notified by text, email, or phone call to set up an appointment.

## Commentary

### Capito to serve as top Republican on Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) issued the below statement after her colleagues voted in favor of her to serve as the Senate Committee of Environment and Public Works (EPW) Ranking Member for the 117th Congress. Ranking Member Capito was also ratified by the Senate Republican Conference.

"I am incredibly honored to have been elected by my colleagues on the EPW Committee to serve as the next Ranking Member. I look forward to continuing working together with Chairman Carper, as well as our other colleagues on the committee to develop commonsense solutions that positively impact the lives of Americans from all parts of the country.

"The EPW Committee also welcomes several new members this Congress, including, Senators Graham and Lummis on the Republican side and Senators Padilla, Stabenow, and Kelly on the Democrat side. I look forward to working together with all of the committee members to reach bipartisan agreement on the important issues that will come before us here on the committee.

"As the top Republican on the committee, I remain

committed to working alongside Chairman Carper to pass a long-term highway bill, improve our water and wastewater infrastructure, continue efforts to address climate change, provide assistance to our rural communities across the country, provide regulatory certainty, and more. Importantly, my colleagues and I will provide oversight and demand accountability of the Biden administration. Together, I am confident that we can come to legislative solutions that promote our energy industry instead of compromising jobs. I look forward to getting to work."

EPW committee members in the 117th Congress include Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE), Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Ed Markey (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Richard Shelby (R-AL), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

## Commentary

### Deferred payment plans for overdue utility bills

By Charlotte Lane  
Chairman, WV Public Service Commission

Many of our fellow West Virginians continue to suffer from the effects of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. One of the most unfortunate lasting impacts is the devastation the pandemic has caused to our economy. Far too many people continue to be unemployed or underemployed and continue to struggle to pay their bills.

For those who find themselves in the unusual situation of falling behind on utility bills, there is a tool at your disposal of which you should take advantage.

The Public Service Commission requires that customers who have been notified their service is scheduled to be terminated for non-payment be given an opportunity to enter into a deferred payment agreement. Customers who have accrued an uncontested outstanding balance they are unable to pay, may request the utility put them on a deferred payment plan and allow them up to 12 months to get caught up on their bill. This request must be made before the utility company discontinues their service. Once service has been disconnected the company is not required to honor the request for a 12-month

payment plan and may require a substantial portion of the balance due be paid in order to restore service.

A deferred payment plan allows customers to pay off a large balance over time, as long as the customer makes the agreed upon payments as due each month. Utilities are encouraged to work with customers in developing a reasonable payment plan. Once a deferred payment plan has been negotiated and agreed to, if the customer's financial condition changes significantly or the existing agreement results in hardship, then the utility is required to renegotiate it.

Customers should contact the Public Service Commission prior to their scheduled termination if they need assistance in establishing a deferred payment agreement with their utility company. Our staff will work with the utility and the customer in an attempt to resolve the situation.

e-mail

news stories and letters to the editor to  
[news@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:news@mountainmessenger.com)

## The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



It's that time of year! The WV Legislature convened this week in Charleston. For the next 60 days, we will be in session.

**STAY IN TOUCH** Due to COVID, access to the capitol is limited. I welcome you to make virtual office appointments with me. Please call my office at 304-357-7959 to schedule. You can also reach me via email to share your opinion or ask a question: [stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov](mailto:stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov). Or reach me via social media: @baldwinforwv. I'll do my best to stay in touch!

**COLUMNS** Speaking of communications, I will continue writing these weekly columns in the local papers as a way of keeping you updated. It's always been called "The Back Pew." Even though I now sit on the front row as Minority Leader, the title will continue...because I'm still a back pew kind-of-guy. And I will continue to give you the straightforward truth about what's going on in Charleston!

**LEADERSHIP ROLE** As I mentioned, this year I've been chosen by my colleagues as the "Minority Leader" of the WV Senate. It's a true honor, as more experienced and talented members of the group could have easily done the job. But they've placed their confidence in me to lead the Senate Democrats for the next two years. A two-party system has challenges and frustrations. But it works best when both parties work together and hold each other accountable to our common values as West Virginians and Americans.

**BROADBAND** Folks ask me what my top priority is this session, and the answer is easy. Broadband. It's #1, #2, and #3. We've talked about it for years, but it's time for action. We need to take the bull by the horns and get the fiber in the ground or on the poles to every hill and holler in West Virginia. Even if we have to build the system ourselves and then allow companies to provide the service.

**TAX REFORM** One of the proposals you'll hear about often is tax reform. WV Republicans want to eliminate the income tax and the manufacturing machinery tax. Both are easier said than done. Because they make up a huge part of the state budget. Would you be willing to pay no income tax but pay a significantly higher sales tax, cut higher education in WV, pay taxes on personal services like haircuts, and raise taxes on items like property or soda? Expect to hear a lot about this. Proponents say it will keep young people here and encourage business development. I'm concerned about gambling our future away by giving up half the state budget. Always ask: Who does this help? Who does it hurt? What's the full story?

**LOBBYISTS** With access to the capitol restricted, lobbyists in Charleston will assume a larger role than ever before. They will wine & dine legislators each night at fancy events in Charleston in hopes of getting their agenda passed. Our Senate Democrats, therefore, proposed a bill to ban lobbyists from buying meals/entertainment for legislators during session.

**VACCINES** For the past few weeks, my top goal has been getting more doses of COVID vaccine in West Virginia. It's paying off. We're seeing increased shipments from the federal government, allowing more local residents to be vaccinated.

That's the view from the back pew, where it is my privilege to serve you!

(Senator Stephen Baldwin is a local Presbyterian pastor representing Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Summers. Reach him at 304-357-7959 or [stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov](mailto:stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov). Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)

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# Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

I use an inhaler that comes sealed in an aluminum pouch, placed in an aluminum tray and then in cardboard box. I know the cardboard box and aluminum tray will recycle, but I am not sure about the aluminum pouch. It is definitely aluminum as I tested it with a magnet, but it has a slick paper label glued on it. Fortunately, the paper label can be removed. Must the paper label be removed before the aluminum cover is recycled?

*Asthmatic*

**Dear Asthmatic,**

Yes, the paper label must be removed from the aluminum cover before it can be recycled. Once the label is removed, label can be recycled with slicks/magazines. Kudos to the company that uses totally recyclable packaging. Hopefully, more companies will do the same for the sake of our environment.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

During my voluntary stay-at-home this winter, I have worked jigsaw puzzles. Unfortunately, sometimes a piece of a puzzle is lost, and the puzzle is no longer perfect. Since the puzzles are made of cardboard, can they be recycled with cardboard, or are the small pieces a problem?

*Puzzler*

**Dear Puzzler,**

Putting together jigsaw puzzles is great fun and no one wants to lose a piece, but it happens. Although they are made of cardboard, puzzle pieces are too small to be recycled. They will fall out during baling and fall out of a bale when being transported. Thus, stray pieces end up littering the highways. Perhaps some jigsaw puzzle fans don't mind doing a neat puzzle even though they know a piece is missing. If the missing piece were circled on the picture on the box, it would be helpful the new puzzler.

Any ideas, readers, as to what to do with jigsaw puzzles that have a piece or two missing?

More good news: On Jan. 1, 2021, Mexico City's environmental secretary said via Twitter that "from today on, Mexico City is without single-use plastics." This ban includes single-use containers, forks, straws, bags, and more. This is great news for the environment! According to CBS News (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/over-60-countries-introduced-bans-fees-single-use-plastic-waste>) over 60 countries have introduced bans and/or fees to cut single-use plastic waste. Erik Solheim, head of U.N. Environment, an agency of the United Nations, said that "Rwanda, a pioneer in banning single-use plastic bags, is now one of the cleanest nations on earth." Why can't Greenbrier County institute a single-use plastic ban?

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



## Richlands Ruritans install new officers

The Richlands Ruritans met at 7 p.m. on Jan. 13 at the Calvary Methodist Church in Richlands. The meeting was a business meeting and was highlighted by the installation of the new officers for 2021. The installation ceremony was conducted by Frank Tuckwiller, the Lieutenant Governor of the Lower West Virginia Ruritans District. The new officers were Steve Harris, President, Cliff Gillilan, Vice President, Jack Tuckwiller, Secretary, and

Lucy Refsland, Treasurer. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic the members wore face masks and practiced social distancing.

Further business was conducted to prepare speakers for future meetings, to approve the treasurer's report for the year 2020, and outline future activities.

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

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

## OBITUARIES

**Sarafina Lee Blake**

**Ronceverte**-Sarafina Lee Blake, 70, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center of an unexpected illness.

Born June 13, 1950, at Montgomery, WV, she was a daughter of the late Kelva T. and Rose M. DeFranco White.

Sarafina was a retired nurse.

She is survived by one son, Jayson Blake of Mt. Carbon, WV; and a sister, Regina Walls of Georgia.

Per her wishes she has been cremated and a memorial service is being planned for a later date.

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

**Tommy Jeray Linthicum**

**White Sulphur Springs**-Tommy Jeray Linthicum, 46, passed away Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021, at home.

Born in Union on Mar. 24, 1974, Tommy was the son of Benda Lou Vance Linthicum of Ronceverte and the late Stacy Nelson Linthicum.

Tommy was of the Baptist Faith and was a handyman for his landlord.

Survivors include his companion and the mother of his children, Jessica Clark of White Sulphur Springs; sons, Cody and Joseph Linthicum of White Sulphur Springs; one grandchild; mother, Brenda Linthicum of Lewisburg; sister, Tangela Vance and life partner John Rodoussakis; and brother, Jay T. Linthicum and wife Christine of Tampa, FL.

Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the White Sulphur Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church, where Pastor Gene Sizemore officiated. Burial followed at the Greenbrier Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Lewisburg.

Friends called before the service at the church.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.

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

## Boys Home hosts annual Quilt Raffle

The Boys Home of Virginia is hosting its 2021 Quilt Raffle. Don't miss this opportunity to win an expertly crafted Around the World patterned quilt! The quilt this year contains multiple shades of blue and various floral patterns that blend perfectly to accent any queen-sized bed.

As in years past, this quilt was created by Phyllis Gibson, sister of Boys Home's executive director Donnie Wheatley. Boys Home truly appreciates her generosity in supporting the students and helping them along their path to success.

Tickets are \$5 each or 10 tickets for \$45. The drawing will take place on Wednesday, May 5. All proceeds benefit Boys Home of Virginia. To purchase tickets please visit [www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org) or call Melinda at 540-965-7707.

Best of luck winning this beautiful quilt!

## A Look Back



Photo courtesy of Greenbrier Sewell Mining Co.

**By William "Skip" Deegans**

This week's photo from the 1950s is an aerial shot of Imperial Smokeless Coal Company's tipple in Quinwood. A tipple is where coal is brought from a mine by rail, truck or conveyor and loaded onto railroad cars. Imperial made the first shipment of coal on the newly-built Eastern Greenbrier Railroad on June 17, 1921. From Quinwood, coal was transported to the C&O (now CSX) main rail line along New River. In 1928, Imperial shipped 373,728 tons of

coal (worth about \$56 million in today's dollars).

In 1959, Eliza O. Reynolds of Quinwood, while asleep, was shot dead in the head with a shotgun by one of his boarders, Billy Moore, following a quarrel. Moore, with help from his brother, James, and Reynolds' daughter, Patricia, dumped the body in a loaded rail car at the Imperial tipple. They covered the body with coal. The car was hauled to Newport News, Virginia, where the body was discovered as the coal was being

loaded onto the Italian ship, Albatross. Greenbrier County Sheriff David Tuckwiller ran the local investigation, and Billy Moore admitted to the slaying.

The Imperial tipple was razed in the 1970s, and land around it was reclaimed under the federal government's Abandoned Mine Lands program.

*Sources: The Raleigh Register, Beckley Post-Herald, The Greenbrier Independent, West Virginia Geological Survey 1939.*

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## HELP WANTED

dards of quality are met. Additional duties include preparing work schedules, providing outstanding customer service and troubleshooting issues as they arise. Apply by contacting Cindy at 540-897-6000 or cindy@thelemonhotel.com.

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You will take notice that DANIEL HARPER, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2019-S-0000067, LOT 55 GYPSY HTS ADD THOMPSON AVE FAIRLEA 150X50, located in FORT SPRING, which was returned delinquent in the name of QUINN THELMA, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 20th day of November, 2019, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2021, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2021, will be as follows:

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## LEGAL

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC have proposed a settlement of Administrative Consent Order No. 9925 which resolves violation(s) of the WV Water Pollution Control Act which occurred in Greenbrier County, WV.

In accordance with the proposed Consent Order, Mountain Valley Pipeline has agreed to pay administrative penalties and to comply with the Act. Final settlement is subject to comments received during the thirty (30) day period following this publication. Further information about this Administrative Consent Order is available by contacting the Chief Inspector, WVDEP/Environmental Enforcement, 601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304, (304) 926-0470 or by accessing WV Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.dep.wv.gov/pio/Pages/Settlements,Ordersoutpublicnotice.aspx>

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## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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# bc al pharmacy administers COVID-19 vaccines with last-minute clinic

**Submitted by Fritz's Pharmacy & Wellness, Fritz Glasser**

For most of 2020 and all of 2021 so far, things have been somewhat "boring" or "noneventful" at Fritz's Pharmacy and Wellness while the pharmacy lobby has been closed - until Friday morning when Pharmacist-in-charge Sherri Camp was startled by a phone call before dawn with news that Fritz's Pharmacy would receive 100 doses of the COVID vaccine in a few hours. Although Friday was her regular day off, Sherri and Store Manager Norman Glasser organized a COVID-vaccine clinic with the help of Pharmacy Technician Jennifer Holliday, who was

also scheduled off, and Pharmacist Jake Glasser who just moved back from Asheville, NC.

The 108th dose (not a misprint... the pharmacists were able to milk the 10 vials dry and gain another eight full doses) was injected at 8 p.m. that evening. It was a long day, but a rewarding one for everyone involved. I just want to publicly thank them, along with Pharmacist Nikki McMillion, who also administered her share of injections, and Pharmacist Erin Lemine who kept the regular business flowing, along with the technicians and the business office staff from upstairs for their extra efforts to make it all happen

with very short notice. I am proud and appreciative of each of our staff members!

Fritz's Pharmacy and Wellness signed up with WV DHHR late last year to be a provider of the COVID vaccines when they became available. We are on the official WV list as a vaccine provider. Norman is passionate about protecting our staff from the COVID virus. He has also organized and created a staff of four pharmacists and a process that can inject 1,000 vaccines weekly when more vaccines become available.

As of today, our staff has administered almost 1,000 vaccines at six separate clinics. We need more vaccines! Governor Justice has done an outstanding job in getting the vaccines out into the state. West Virginia is leading the way in vaccines given per capita. Go online to [www.vaccinate.WV.gov](http://www.vaccinate.WV.gov) or call 833-734-0965 to get registered for your vaccination.

As an independent pharmacist owning a few pharmacies for more than 35 years, I value and appreciate the support the Greenbrier Valley community has given us. Each and every customer helps pay our bills and write our paychecks, and for that support I am and will always be forever grateful! Independent pharmacies are closing every day because of unfair and discriminatory actions being directed against us by Big Pharma, Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) companies like Express Scripts, Caremark, Highmark, other national insurance companies, and even big corporations. It is not a level playing field, and what is even worse, we cannot even get in the game some of the time. It is very frustrating! Independent pharmacies are an important part of our communities in many ways other than filling prescriptions. So sad that it takes a national pandemic for independent pharmacies to prove their worth!

## LEGAL

(2019-S-00000071 - Greenbrier County - HOLLY CLARK)

To: OCCUPANT, C.E. (CLARENCE EVERETT) MCCARTHY, DESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY AKA BESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY, JANET COLLEEN MCCARTHY HUDNALL, JOYCE W. MCCARTHY AMICK OSORIO, BESSIE MCCARTHY SMITH, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, DALE R. MCCARTHY SR., MARY BERTHA MCCARTHY, KERMIT LEON MCCARTHY, MERLE HOMER MCCARTHY, WAYNE JULIAN MCCARTHY, CLARENCE EVERETT MCCARTHY JR., LOIS FAYE MCCARTHY MORRIS, ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS OWNING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY, KAY GALLION, GLENNA CORDER, JOYCE AMICK OSORIO, RUTH G. NICHOLS, KERMIT L. MCCARTHY, PAM LAKIN, WENDELL MCCARTHY, DONNA RAMSEY, MICHAEL MORRIS, DEBORAH BRYANT, DALE MCCARTHY SR., GLORIA MCCARTHY, EVELYN JOHNS, CLARENCE E. MCCARTHY III, TERRY LEE MCCARTHY, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, VERNON MCCARTHY, REBECCA MAYE ESTEP, 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.

You will take notice that HOLLY CLARK, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2019-S-00000071, ACREAGE 2.00 (D) TR 3, WATERS OF ANGLING CK N., located in MEADOW BLUFF, which was returned delinquent in the name of MCCARTHY C E & DESSIE MAYE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 20th day of November, 2019, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2021, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2021, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2021.	\$ 155.99
Amount of subsequent years' taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2021.	\$ 58.59
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2020, following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 1,124.00
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 929.50
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.</b>	\$ 2,268.08
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.</b>	\$ 35.00

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2021, by paying the above total 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

(2019-S-00000070 - Greenbrier County - HOLLY CLARK)

To: C.E. (CLARENCE EVERETT) MCCARTHY, DESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY AKA BESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY, JANET COLLEEN MCCARTHY HUDNALL, JOYCE W. MCCARTHY AMICK OSORIO, BESSIE MCCARTHY SMITH, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, DALE R. MCCARTHY SR., MARY BERTHA MCCARTHY, KERMIT LEON MCCARTHY, MERLE HOMER MCCARTHY, WAYNE JULIAN MCCARTHY, CLARENCE EVERETT MCCARTHY JR., LOIS FAYE MCCARTHY MORRIS, ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS OWNING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY, KAY GALLION, GLENNA CORDER, JOYCE AMICK OSORIO, RUTH G. NICHOLS, KERMIT L. MCCARTHY, PAM LAKIN, WENDELL MCCARTHY, DONNA RAMSEY, MICHAEL MORRIS, DEBORAH BRYANT, DALE MCCARTHY SR., GLORIA MCCARTHY, EVELYN JOHNS, CLARENCE E. MCCARTHY II, TERRY LEE MCCARTHY, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, VERNON MCCARTHY, REBECCA MAYE ESTEP, 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.

You will take notice that HOLLY CLARK, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2019-S-00000070, ACREAGE 2.27 (D) TR 2, WATERS OF ANGLING CK N., located in MEADOW BLUFF, which was returned delinquent in the name of MCCARTHY C E & DESSIE MAYE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 20th day of November, 2019, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2021, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2021, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2021.	\$ 109.55
Amount of subsequent years' taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2021.	\$ 15.35
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2020, following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 1,028.58
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 758.50
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.</b>	\$ 1,911.98
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.</b>	\$ 35.00

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2021, by paying the above total 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

(2019-S-00000069 - Greenbrier County - HOLLY CLARK)

To: C.E. (CLARENCE EVERETT) MCCARTHY, DESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY AKA BESSIE MAYE MCCARTHY, JANET COLLEEN MCCARTHY HUDNALL, JOYCE W. MCCARTHY AMICK OSORIO, BESSIE MCCARTHY SMITH, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, DALE R. MCCARTHY SR., MARY BERTHA MCCARTHY, KERMIT LEON MCCARTHY, MERLE HOMER MCCARTHY, WAYNE JULIAN MCCARTHY, CLARENCE EVERETT MCCARTHY JR., LOIS FAYE MCCARTHY MORRIS, ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS OWNING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY, KAY GALLION, GLENNA CORDER, JOYCE AMICK OSORIO, RUTH G. NICHOLS, KERMIT L. MCCARTHY, PAM LAKIN, WENDELL MCCARTHY, DONNA RAMSEY, MICHAEL MORRIS, DEBORAH BRYANT, DALE MCCARTHY SR., GLORIA MCCARTHY, EVELYN JOHNS, CLARENCE E. MCCARTHY III, TERRY LEE MCCARTHY, LINDA G. MCCARTHY, VERNON MCCARTHY, REBECCA MAYE ESTEP, 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.

You will take notice that HOLLY CLARK, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2019-S-00000069, ACREAGE 14.07 (D) TR 1, ON WATERS OF ANGLING CK, located in MEADOW BLUFF, which was returned delinquent in the name of MCCARTHY C E & DESSIE MAYE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 20th day of November, 2019, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after April 1, 2021, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 31, 2021, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 31, 2021.	\$ 193.28
Amount of subsequent years' taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 31, 2021.	\$ 96.27
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2020, following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 1,087.86
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 31, 2021.	\$ 929.50
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.</b>	\$ 2,306.91
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.</b>	\$ 35.00

**You may redeem at any time before March 31, 2021, by paying the above total 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**

# Affordable solar panel program to benefit area residents

Bethlehem Farm's Green Neighbors program is helping local homeowners, nonprofits, and churches get affordable solar panels! Residents of Greenbrier, Summers, and Monroe counties who are at or below the US median income of \$68,703 are eligible to apply for an interest-free loan of up to \$12,000 for the cost of materials and installation.

Sunshine is plentiful - Bethlehem Farm can help you to use the sun's energy to power your home. But, if the sun isn't shining, you will still have power through your existing grid connection. Solar panels will meet all or part of a household's electricity demand and reduce monthly power bills. As you pay back your loan each month, based on your electricity bill savings,

each repayment will go toward funding solar panels for another local.

If you install solar panels in 2021, you may be eligible for a 26% tax credit for the next two years. Lower taxes, smaller electricity bills - what's not to love? Once you install solar panels, you can continue to produce your own electricity for years to come.

Solar panels also empower a household to care for the environment by using less energy from fossil fuels. Solar, a clean energy source, doesn't release harmful emissions. Help protect the beauty of West Virginia by installing solar today!

For more information or to request an application, please contact Gemma or Will at 304-445-7143 or visit [bethlehemfarm.net/solar-panels](http://bethlehemfarm.net/solar-panels).

## LEGAL

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

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until March 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
017	2020000515	S313-64-177.68 00	NHPP-0644(227)DTC ASPHALT PAVING HART'S RUN - TUCKAHOE Begin: 0.89 mile West of CR 60/34 End: Bridge #13-64-179.27 COUNTY: GREENBRIER

**DBE GOAL:** 6% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

#### REMARKS:

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

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

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Highways  
Ryland W. Musick, Jr., P.E., Ph.D.  
Deputy State Highway Engineer  
Chief Engineer of Programs

## NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:

# Greenbrier Greeters

If you have recently moved to this area, please contact us for a free welcome visit. We would be glad to share gifts and information about the area, provided free by local businesses and professional services.

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

**Heather Blake, Owner 304-646-2624**  
Alice Hollingsworth 304-645-3788  
[greenbriergreeters@gmail.com](mailto:greenbriergreeters@gmail.com)

## Rexall

sidewalk. However, water has already opened a hole directly into the shared Rudy's and Rexall basement, with a layer of mud, water, and slime coating the floor. Chris Rodriguez-Stanley noted foundational and wall repairs, as well as mold removal, were within their renovation budget, but worried repairs would only be temporary.

The building next door is owned by Tammy Dotson Rhodes, director of the Ronceverte Development Corporation, and James C. Maddox, Jr. According to the deed, the property was transferred for the "total consideration" of "less than one hundred dollars" in August 2019.

In November 2019, Historic Preservation Consultant Michael Gioulis visited the building, writing "this wall is in seriously bad condition. The roof slopes back to this wall. ... The roof should be replaced and downspouts added. ... The contractor said that is what he thinks happened - he said there was downspout on this building and it is gone. That is what caused the whole problem."

Gioulis emphasized the wall needed more work, adding photos to the report.

"If you can get emergency money to fix the back wall and then apply for Culture and History money to do something else because there is a lot more than the back wall," Gioulis wrote in 2019. "The timing would work. You need something quicker for the back wall. The back wall needs to be stabilized so you can buy some time."

According to the Rodriguez-Stanley's, corroborated by emails exchanged be-

tween the parties, the couple expected the Rexall wall to be fixed around the end of November 2020, allowing them to begin removing mold and making foundational repairs.

"Just following up again about the water issue," reads an email from Jorge on Nov. 26. "There was some rain last night so more water got into our basement from your building. We need to know your plans to stop the damage. We have sent multiple emails and you keep disregarding the issue. We need know how you will keep the water from entering our basement and ensure that it is your top priority as it's a liability to our property."

According to the couple, there has been no further communication since November. In addition to wanting to deal with issues with the deeds for the two buildings, they emphasized that saving the buildings was a priority, but worried about both being condemned if inspected by the city.

In an email exchange with the Mountain Messenger last week, Dotson-Rhodes noted she "had to get an attorney" about the situation and was not able to comment.

"They have not been honest and forthcoming with many details," wrote Rhodes.

Chris Rodriguez-Stanley is critical of lack of communication between the parties, saying "while we know that the city and the RDC want our project to be here and for it to succeed, the RDC has a conflict of interest with someone who works against the goals of the RDC while working as an employee and board member of the RDC."

## Aquatic Center

cont. from Page 1

lent to about an \$800,000 increase in what we expect this facility to cost."

Of this needed \$800,000, about \$220,000 has already been raised as a result of calls to private investors. The newly announced Enhancer program is a potential solution to raising the rest.

"We are introducing our Enhancer program," Hamilton explained. "We had Founder, Closer, and now Enhancer. ... Essentially, our founders and naming partners contributed the first \$3 million to get this off the ground, our closers represented the last \$3 million, and we believe the enhancers will now tackle the last \$800,000 to make sure that we get this across the finish line and do this exactly the right way."

Gaylean also noted the increased costs are a direct result of the pandemic. "Quality was not reduced in order to contain costs," Gaylean said. "We were only looking for redundancy and efficiency and contribution. What we're building is state of the art - water quality, air quality will be as good as anyone knows how to do it."

The COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the project not only included the increasing costs of construction materials, but also delayed the start of the project.

"This process, of course, started in March [2020] and we were as surprised as everyone else with the environment we were dealt to work in with COVID," Gaylean said. "What happened is we have engineers coordinating structural and civil engineering issues and they're working from home. We had construction workers that just were uncomfortable working for the first 60 days [of the pandemic]. That delayed the start of site work. ... We had a delay to starting. We are moving at a slower pace than you would in a normal environment, and you are experiencing delays in receiving materials and increased costs of certain materials."

Despite the setbacks, the steel structure is currently coming together and each of the contractors are preparing to jump in.

"Since our last meeting, we've completed all of the construction documents, all the required permits, and we've committed to building the aquatic center," Galyean said. "There are five prime contractors, it's a very experienced and first class team. ... The architectural and engineering side is being handled by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates'. ... The site and civil engineering work by Terradon, ... Site construction by Lynch Construction, ... foundations and general construction by Radford and Radford. ... Steel erection is by Sons and Seebert. They're running the job at this particular moment. ... Once the building is contained, Greenbrier Electric and Southern Air will begin their work inside of the building."

According to Galyean, "with the pace that we're on," the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center will open sometime in early September. This would also include interviewing for staff positions sometime in July of this year.

Hamilton and Galyean both thanked the community for its ongoing efforts in creating the recreational, therapeutic, and competitive swimming center.

"As much as we were excited to have you for a drive-in event, we're excited to have you," Hamilton said. "... A big part of today is to celebrate everyone who has been so instrumental in making this happen. Many of you have been supporters and followers way back to the folks that got naming opportunities in the Founder program. ... It is amazing to me that people were willing to support what was essentially an idea."

To keep up with the latest from the Aquatic Center, follow the Mountain Messenger and the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center on Facebook.

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Although Rhodes is the director of the RDC, RDC President and Ronceverte City Councilmember Kathy King noted the nonprofit organization does not have power to intervene between private parties and hoped both buildings could be saved.

"They're both historic, I call them good bones buildings," King said. "They've got good internal structure. "We can refer, contact WVU for engineering grants, the historic grant people in Charleston. We're a nonprofit organization, we don't really have any powers as board except to do what we do - promote and encourage businesses downtown."

King encouraged the continuing renovations to both the Rexall and Rudy's buildings.

"Right now RDC is working on this greenspace where we brought down two condemned properties that were uninhabitable to live in," King said. "We're all about renovating and restoration and when the opportunity comes to us to get a USDA grant, we go after it. But when it's two private properties, we don't have any powers. ... Those have been two buildings in dire need for a number of years. Hopefully the two parties can move on with what the issue is and move on with their projects."

She also spoke of another, high-profile example of a Ronceverte building that is in need of saving.

"We've seen what happened to the old theater," King explained. "It was in private hands, ... and we attempted for several years to obtain it. We could get grants

for old theaters, but the private owner just held on to it. He passed away and it gets left to his estate and from it estate it was purchased by an out of state person and there it sits. And [the RDC] can't do anything about it. ... The city was attempting for the same purpose, but that particular private owner wouldn't let it go. ... That's what we don't want to happen, a private party to get ahold of it and not do anything with it."

Regardless as to if the issue is resolved in or outside of court, the hold could keep the project from moving forward. Because of the nature of Chris Rodriguez-Stanley's work, the couple might have to pause the project to return to Los Angeles as vaccines begin the curtailing of the COVID-19 pandemic. The now-months long delay in dealing with the foundational and basement issues could have entirely set back the renovations.

"Our goal was and still is to revitalize a piece of this town with our project and it's been frustrating to be held up because of a neighboring building," Jorge Rodriguez-Stanley said. "We love this community and want to help bring it back to its former glory but leadership here needs to clean house and have a reckoning. There is a conflict of interest here that is preventing development and it's sad that the town is paying the consequences. We still believe in Ronceverte and many of the people working for the city and who live here have been our biggest cheerleaders. They want to see change and we want to help make that happen."

## COVID Rent Relief

cont. from Page 1

their tenants in six or seven months, a lot of them are in a bad way. The stimulus bill [provides] \$25 billion in rental assistance for the country, West Virginia will be getting \$200 million of that. It's designed to recognize those issues."

West Virginia Housing Development Fund (HDF) will receive the state's portion of the Congressionally allocated funds. Disbursal of the funds will focus on the renter's financial situations, but landlords can also apply on their renter's behalf.

"If there's a landlord that thinks their tenant would qualify under this program, but for whatever reason the renter is not willing to do it, the landlord can apply on their behalf," Sills said. "When the money is dispersed, it's supposed to go directly to the landlord."

According to the HDF website, rent, rental ar-

rears, utilities, and home energy arrears are eligible for potential relief. This only includes rental payments after Apr. 1, 2020.

"Once approved, MRAP payments for rent must be made directly to the landlord," reads the website. "Only in instances where the landlord refuses to accept payment on behalf of the renter may assistance be paid directly to the renter."

For a "renter household" to be eligible, the household would have to have an income with "no more than 80 percent of the area median income" where:

- "One or more individuals in the household has qualified for unemployment benefits or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak."
- "One or more indi-

viduals in the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability which may include a past due utility or rent notice or an eviction notice or any other evidence of such risk as determined by the program guidance and the Fund."

Although applications are not currently available, anyone interested in applying can sign up to be notified at <https://www.wvhdf.com/programs/mountaineer-rental-assistance-program>.

"There are a lot of unknowns still because everyone is figuring it out right now, but if you go to the West Virginia Housing and Development Fund website, ... people can start signing up to get updates, how they can qualify, and what kind of documentation they can start gathering if they think they're going to apply," Sills said.

# WANTED: DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA AT WVU

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# “I Do” A Bridal Guide

## Savings strategies for weddings



**The question was popped; the engagement ring presented. What's the next step on the road to the wedding? Saving should definitely be on couples' minds.**

A wedding is likely the most costly party couples will ever throw. According to The Knot's 2019 Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding in 2019 was \$33,900.

Investopedia says the vast majority of couples budget too little for their weddings and also end up spending more than they had planned. Various strategies can make it easier to save for a wedding and avoid a post-wedding financial hangover.

### Get informed

It's impossible to budget for a wedding and ultimately save without knowledge of what services and items cost in the region where you live. A wedding in New York City will be expensive, while a wedding in Mississippi will cost a lot less, indicates SuperMoney's guide to wed-

ding costs. Conduct some research and find out what photographers, florists, transportation providers, reception halls, and wedding wardrobe vendors charge for common services. This will paint a vivid picture of what a wedding may cost in your area.

### Flesh out the budget

Once you have gathered estimates, you can then figure out a financial goal. This also is when you can determine where to rein in spending and where you might want to splurge. If having a video memory of the wedding is not a top priority, you can skip videography services. If you have a special flower that you like, you may want to budget more for that bloom even if it isn't in season.

### Set up a dedicated savings account

One of the easiest ways to save for big-ticket items like a wedding, home purchase or other financial goals is to use an automatic savings account that may be available through your bank or employer. An automatic savings plan will pull a set amount from a personal checking account into a savings account through auto-draft. The bride and groom can link individual checking accounts to one savings account to contribute jointly.

### Avoid overspending

An analysis of your spending habits will likely reveal areas where you can scale back so you can devote more funds

to wedding savings. Do you need a takeout coffee in the morning or can you brew a pot at home? Might you be able to scale back on streaming services? Do you feel comfortable buying less expensive store brand groceries over name brands? Small cost savings can quickly add up.

### Add up gifts

Factor in deduction of expenses that other people will commit to covering for wedding expenses, but only if you have concrete confirmation. A parent may host the rehearsal dinner. One's relative may offer to pass down an antique wedding gown to wear. But rather than simply removing these gifts from your savings calculations, keep them as a safety net to put toward unforeseen expenses.

## Virtual vendors an option for couples planning unique weddings

Normal took on an entirely new connotation in 2020. As the world reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the globe had to adjust how they live their lives. The way people work, attend school and eat their meals changed seemingly overnight, as did the way couples tie the knot.

Engaged couples planning to get married in 2020 and 2021 faced and continue to face unique challenges. According to the online wedding resource WeddingWire, in 2020 roughly 450,000 weddings were scheduled to take place between March and May in the United States. Social distancing guidelines and fluctuating virus rates led many couples to get married in small ceremonies with only a handful of people on hand to witness them say "I do" in person. Virtual ceremonies shared through conferencing apps like Zoom soon became the new "normal," but planning such events can be just as difficult as planning more traditional affairs. Thankfully, couples can work with an assortment of virtual vendors as they confront the challenges of planning weddings during the pandemic.

The online resource SimplyEloped was initially created to provide couples with an alternative to traditional weddings and all the stress and difficulty that comes with planning such affairs. The service offers advice on everything to planning small ceremonies featuring 20 guests or less to coordinating photography, videography and floral arrangements. Similarly, the online resource Wedfully assists couples with the planning of virtual weddings, helping to coordinate guests on as many as 1,000 devices.

Couples tying the knot during the pandemic may need to confront some unique challenges en route to saying "I do." Relying on the services of virtual vendors can help such couples overcome these challenges and create memories that will last a lifetime.

## How to host a socially distant wedding



**Socially distant weddings may require couples to take some unusual steps as they try to tie the knot while keeping themselves and their loved ones safe.**

It's likely that few people heard of "social distancing" prior to 2020. That changed as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 spread rapidly across the globe and the world found itself in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines social distancing as keeping a safe distance of at least six feet between yourself and other people who are not from your household. Public health officials continue to champion social distancing while acknowledging the fatigue that many people have experienced as the pandemic stretched on for months. Though much of the world hit the proverbial pause button, life went on during the pandemic. Perhaps nowhere was that more evident than at the altar, where many couples still tied the knot, albeit in scaled back ceremonies that adhered to social distancing guidelines in their communities.

Engaged couples who have yet to tie the knot no doubt recognize that planning a socially distant wedding will not be the same as organizing more traditional ceremonies and receptions. While planning a socially distant wedding presents some unique challenges, couples can take certain steps to ensure their big day is memorable and safe.

• Spread the socially distant word. Let guests know what they're in for should they decide to take part in the festivities. Many people have strictly followed social distancing guidelines, while others have been reluctant to do so. Couples intent on keeping themselves and their guests safe from COVID-19 should emphasize that their weddings will be socially distant affairs so there's no confusion

come the big day.

• Stream the wedding online. Stream the wedding online for those guests who won't be in attendance. By the end of 2020, millions of people had already "attended" weddings via platforms like Zoom, so loved ones may be experienced virtual guests by the time couples walk down the aisle in 2021. Couples who may need some help planning virtual affairs can visit the virtual wedding coordinators at Wedfully.com, who recently partnered with Zoom to help couples bring their ceremonies online.

• Pare down the in-person guest list. Couples who planned

large weddings prior to the pandemic can still invite all of their loved ones to witness the festivities online, but pare down the in-person guest list to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Limit in-person guests to immediate family and those people who are part of your social distancing bubble.

• Plan a party for down the road. Couples can still celebrate their nuptials with family and friends down the road. Plan a post-pandemic reception and let guests know you will fill them in on the details once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.



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# How to find your wedding florist



Couples can take certain steps as they choose floral arrangements for their weddings. Cost should not be the only factor in the decision, even though it is an important one.

Weddings join the lives of two loving individuals so they can share their future with one another. Various elements help make weddings both momentous and magical.

Some weddings adhere to themes that are designed to make an impression and showcase couples' personalities. Floral arrangements are key components of wedding themes, as

they help to establish ambiance at both the ceremony and reception.

Flowers can easily help couples achieve a desired vibe, whether that's rustic, romantic, modern, or even whimsical. Skilled florists may use a variety of flowers and foliage, as well as dramatic displays to help create the couple's wedding day vision. According to an inter-

nal study from the wedding advice and planning resource The Knot, which surveyed more than 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, the average cost of wedding flowers was \$2,000 in 2019. However, the cost of floral arrangements can vary depending on the scope of the arrangements and choice of flowers, including whether they're in season or not.

It is essential for couples to spend time vetting potential florists to find one who will produce their desired vision at a price that fits their budget. These guidelines can make the process go more smoothly.

- Establish your theme early on. Floral arrangements will complement and enhance other elements of the wedding, including color scheme and the wedding theme. If your wedding theme ties into a specific season, you will work with the florist to find blooms and other pieces that coordinate. For example, winter weddings with white, ice

blue and silver color schemes may coordinate with white ranunculus flowers, dahlias, dusty miller foliage, and viburnum berries.

- Bring swatches and photographs to consultations. It is easier to explain color palettes to a florist with examples in hand. Show the florist the types of arrangements you prefer and have actual fabric swatches from bridesmaid gowns or groomsmen vests so that colors can be complemented.

- Create a list of desired items. Florists may sell items a la carte or have packages of common floral pieces for wedding celebrations. Types of floral arrangements include bridal bouquet, bridesmaids' bouquets, maid of honor bouquet, corsages for mothers/grandmothers, boutonnieres for groomsmen and

fathers/grandfathers, flower girl headpiece, petals to sprinkle, table centerpieces, altar arrangements, pew or chair decorations, and cake decorations.

- Go easy on aroma. Tread lightly when selecting blooms that have strong aromas. They may be beautiful, but many people are sensitive to smells. Allergies also may be exacerbated by flowers with strong aromas. Discuss options with the florist before proceeding.

- Explain your budget. Research the average cost of floral arrangements and let the florist know what you can afford. This can help the florist narrow down options or make substitutions that fit your theme and your budget.

## Wedding good luck charms

Perhaps due to superstition or tradition, many couples employ some wedding day strategies to increase their good luck. The following are some of the symbols that couples may want to keep an eye out for on the day they walk down the aisle.

- It's good luck for the bride to see a dove on the way to the wedding because doves symbolize peace and prosperity. Because doves mate for life, this symbol is doubly beneficial on a couple's wedding day, as it can be a harbinger of a long, happy marriage and home.
- Some brides believe sugar cubes tucked into their wedding gloves leads to a sweet union.
- Hindu tradition states that rain on a wedding day is good luck. Rain is believed to be a symbol of fortune and abundance, especially after times of drought. What's more, rain can foretell a strong marriage. That's because a wet knot is more difficult to untie.
- Ancient Romans were so concerned with ensuring good luck that they actually studied pig entrails to determine the luckiest time to marry. If they consulted with the English, they might determine that a wedding shouldn't take place on a Saturday, which is unlucky. English tradition states Wednesday is the best day to get married.
- In Holland, well-wishers would plant pine trees outside of newlyweds' homes as a symbol of fertility and luck.
- Grooms may want to give a coin to the first person they see on the way to their weddings. This is another symbol of good luck.
- Some couples plan to marry during a full moon, because that can symbolize good luck and good fortune.
- On a couple's wedding day, tears from a bride or a child during the ceremony is considered lucky. English folklore suggests that brides who discover spiders in their gowns are in for some good luck.
- The Chinese believe that lighting fireworks at their wedding ceremonies chases away evil spirits. A red umbrella also might be held over a Chinese bride to keep bad spirits at bay.
- Many grooms do not see their brides in their wedding gowns before their wedding ceremonies, feeling it is bad luck if they do. Many brides also do not wear their complete wedding outfits prior to their big day.

## Make a statement with your wedding cake

Brides and grooms may pour over every detail of their weddings, but few components of the festivities may be as fun, especially for foodies, as deciding what the wedding cake will look like. Couples who want to deliver show-stopping visuals often express some measure of their creativity and personalities through statement wedding cakes.

Many couples now eschew the classic three-tiered white cake in favor of a dessert that garners instant attention. Whether the cake is brightly colored or hand-painted, a towering architectural marvel or shimmering in metallics, couples are opting to make a statement with their confections. Apart from clever cake-toppers, here are ways to stand apart when dessert is served.

- According to the Perfect Wedding Guide, a rising trend in cakes is to cover a white or naked cake with translucent glaze tinted in the couple's wedding colors. This artistic expression can be especially stunning in boho-chic weddings.

- Statement tiers also are popular. The cake may be traditional in nearly every way, but couples then set the cake apart by featuring an elaborate design or a different hue in one tier.

- Martha Stewart Weddings advises that more than just color can be used to make a statement. Lifelike sugar flowers can really set cakes apart. Guests may not be sure if they can consume all aspects of some cakes. But delicate sugar flowers taste as good as they look.

- Hand-painted tiles on a cake are another way to add panache. A bride and groom may be inspired by a European vacation or the stained-glass effects of religious windows and want to add that feel to the tiers of the cake.

- Sometimes a statement comes by way of texture. Even an all-white cake can be dressed up with interesting textural effects. Ruffles, lace, embossing, and 3-D



Statement cakes can really say something about the couple getting married. Much like other wedding elements, cakes provide a window into the minds of happy couples.

rosettes are different textural components that can be incorporated in cake designs.

- Couples also may want to tell their unique stories with cake. Individual tiers designed to reflect various milestone moments from the couple's relationship can be quite engaging.

- Capitalizing on the trend of edgier weddings, couples may opt for darker hues on their cakes - even a black tier - or nontraditional geometric shapes to the



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# EGMS holds Covid-safe music performance



Students in the Eastern Greenbrier Marching Band have been missing being able to perform and share their music. Meanwhile, so many of our community's elders are missing human contact as they work to remain safe. So, the marching band kicked

off the holiday season last year by performing for residents of the Brier Rehabilitation Center.

Socially distanced well away from their windows, students played music from the grounds toward the open windows of residents. Kids were re-

mindful of the joy of sharing music, and in the words of Katie Windon, an employee at the Brier, "these past seven months have been such an emotional roller coaster... but today was one of those days where we got to see them be happy again!"

# MRVA announces new team member, RES gym update



On behalf of the Meadow River Valley Association (MRVA) and the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, we are excited to announce the hiring of Dara Vance, who will fill the West Virginia Hub sponsored VISTA position. Dara has extensive experience in education, development and recruiting.

She is a graduate of the University of South Florida with three master's degrees relating to education. We're looking forward to having her join the Meadow River Valley team and use her expertise to drive community and economic development. Vance's anticipated start

date is Monday, Feb. 16. If you have an opportunity to meet her, please welcome her on board.

In other news, the former Rupert Elementary School gym is now under the direction of the West End Youth Sports League. This is a new nonprofit organization committed to our Meadow River Valley youth and making indoor fitness space available for all ages.

According to Jeremy Tincher, one of the organization's board members, it started as a way to give the Western Greenbrier Wrestling team a reliable place to practice. It has grown into a home for the team as well as other youth wrestlers. There is also a

batting cage in the gym for local baseball teams. And the LZ Rainelle Line Dance group uses it to practice their moves.

Grant money was secured to upgrade the heating system and separate the water lines from the main building of the former school. The gym floor will be refinished following wrestling season. Future upgrades include a drop ceiling and new lighting, a wellness room with weights and exercise equipment, and supplemental heat for the restrooms.

While grants are currently being written to fund the planned projects, anyone wishing to contribute, volunteer or

use the space, can contact Jeremy Tincher by email - jrtwrestle@yahoo.com. Although the organization is focused on youth, the gym is open to any age group that wants a place for physical activity.

# Beckley VAMC Whole Health Program expands Telehealth classes for 2021

The Beckley VAMC's Whole Health Program has expanded options for telehealth classes for 2021. The additional classes are hosted on the VA Video Connect app and taught by a live instructor.

"Beckley VA Medical Center is honored to expand the virtual classes, offering more days, times, and activities for our Veterans," said Whole Health Program Manager Olivia Honaker.

"Our Whole Health team has worked to identify and implement services to assist Veterans in accessing support through Whole Health Coaching, during this time of isolation, and expanding our wellness programs to support physical wellbeing from the comforts of the Veteran's own home.

Beckley VA and Whole Health are committed to excellence and look forward to continuing to support our veterans in this difficult time."

The new classes and times are:

- Yoga Flow - Monday, 11 a.m.
- Yoga Gentle - Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- Yoga Power - Friday, 12 noon
- Tai Chi/Qigong - Monday, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
- Meditation - Monday, 12 noon; Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.
- Guided Imagery - Thursday, 1 p.m.
- Acupressure - every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 2 p.m.
- Whole Health Coaching - Individual appointment slots available, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to

4 p.m.

To schedule, call 304-255-2121, ext. 4668. Veterans do not need a consultation to participate in classes. More information about the VA Video Connect app can be found here: VA Video Connect - YouTube.

# 2021-2022 Online Preschool registration

Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) is hosting online preschool registration for children who will be four years old before July 1, 2021. Families may complete the online registration form by going to the Quick Links or Enrollment section at [www.greenbriercountyschools.org](http://www.greenbriercountyschools.org). Once the form is complete and submitted, enrollees will receive additional registration information from the preschool office.

What families will need to gather: Official State issued birth certificate (not a copy); immunization record; copy of health check exam (4-year physical from physician); copy of most recent dental exam; two proofs of residency; Social Security card of child; 2019-2020 income; relevant custody order, if applicable.

Questions and/or requests for additional assistance should be directed to the GCS Preschool Office at 304-647-7105.

# 2021-2022 Kindergarten registrations dates announced for Greenbrier County

Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) will host kindergarten registration on two dates and locations for children who will be five years old before July 1, 2021. Students currently enrolled in a GCS Pre-K program will be automatically enrolled in kindergarten in their home school district; therefore, parents of GCS Pre-K students will not need to attend a registration session.

Kindergarten registration will take place at the following locations:

- Mar. 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the 197 Chestnut Street Board Office location in Lewisburg
- Mar. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Rupert Elementary School, Crawley

What to bring: (children do not need to be present to register) Official State issued birth certificate (not a copy); immunization record; copy of health check exam (5-year physical from physician); copy of most recent dental exam; two proofs of residency; Social Security card of the child; and relevant custody order, if applicable.

Kindergarten early-entrance testing will be conducted in the month of June 2021. To be eligible for this early-entrance evaluation process, a child must be five (5) years old between July 1 and Sept. 15, 2021. Results of the tests and evaluations must provide evidence that the child not only has sufficient intellectual maturity but must also show social, emotional, and physical maturity to function within the academic setting.

Parents may contact Nancy Hanna, associate superintendent, at 304-647-6470 by May 31, to request an appointment for kindergarten early-entrance testing.

# Anderson to offer March Madness writing workshop through New River CTC

Just as Alice jumped into a hole to chase that intriguing rabbit, you can learn how to entice readers to follow your characters with author Belinda Anderson at New River Community and Technical College. The title of this brand-new class is "March Madness: Down the Rabbit Hole in Pursuit of Elusive Characters." The conference call workshop begins Mar. 9.

"Giving people dimension is the key to successful prose," Anderson said. "How well you portray the actors in your fiction is crucial. It's also important in describing people in nonfiction, whether you're writing memoir or magazine articles. The process can be both fun and touching for the writer."

The three-week writing class meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays through conference call. The class can be accessed either through an internet conference call connection or by landline telephone - high-speed internet is not required. The hour-long conference calls will include lecture, with time for questions and participant sharing, and group e-mail follow-up as needed. Participants can create new work or apply the concepts to existing projects.

The workshop is open both to new and experienced writers.

Reviewers have commented on Anderson's memorable characters in her own writing. "Belinda Anderson offers an attractive panoply of characters rich with nuance and diversity," wrote Marc Hashman, West Virginia's poet laureate.

"Her characters aren't afraid to take residence in the reader's mind and stay there," said Gretchen Moran Laskas, author of "The Midwife's Tale."

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to share my experience with other writers," Anderson added.

Tuition for the class is \$75, and the registration deadline is Feb. 23. Participants will be emailed the conference call number and access codes after registering for the class.

Visit [www.newriver.edu/community](http://www.newriver.edu/community) for information on upcoming classes or register for the course or contact Gloria Kincaid at 304-793-6101, [gkincaid@newriver.edu](mailto:gkincaid@newriver.edu) or Andrea Vest at 304-929-3318, [avest@newriver.edu](mailto:avest@newriver.edu).

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

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