

Mountain messenger

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



Mike Wolfe

American Pickers announce West Virginia visit this April

By Sarah Richardson

The popular TV show American Pickers has recently announced their plans to visit the Mountain State this April in search of vintage and antique treasures. Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz travel the country in search of “rusty gold,” and make new friends while they’re at it. This won’t be their first WV visit, but if you missed out on their earlier stops, now’s the chance to see if they will choose your collection to “pick.”

“American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique ‘picking’ on The History Channel,” reads a press release from Cineflix. “The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them. As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics.”

If you think you have a collection worth picking, send your name, phone number, location, and a description of your col-

lection with photos to americanpickers@cineflix.com, call 855-OLD-RUST, or visit Facebook at @GotAPick. Specifically, if you have, or know someone who has, “a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through,” you are encouraged to reach out. Please note that the Pickers only visit private collections and not businesses, antique malls, stores, flea markets, museums, or anything open to the public.

“They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America’s past along the way,” states their release. “The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they’ve never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.”

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, extra precautions are in place, and the crew “will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming as outlined by the state and CDC.”

Legislature session kicks off, bills sponsored by local reps out of committee

By Bobby Bordelon

With the recent opening of the 2021 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature, several newly-elected local lawmakers are going to Charleston to decide policy. With a Republican supermajority in both the House of Delegates and Senate, many are wondering what kind of new laws could be passed.

“Do you want to know what the priorities of those in charge are?” wrote state Senator Stephen Baldwin in the Feb. 16 edition of The Back Pew. “Watch the first bills they pass. ... Do these priorities reflect

your priorities for West Virginia?”

Bills sponsored by Greenbrier County representatives include:

House Bill 2536 takes aim at the pay of striking teachers - “when a concerted work stoppage or strike by the employees assigned to a school causes the county superintendent to close the school temporarily, the county board shall withhold the pay of the employees for each day that the school is closed for that cause. The county board shall apply the withheld pay to the employees who subsequently fulfill their assigned duties for the instructional term and the employment term as per §18-5-45 and their employment contract.” First reading passed on Feb. 17.

Sponsored by Delegate Todd Longanacre, the bill follows the 2018 and 2019 public school teacher strikes seeking to prevent invasive public insurance requirements and objections to public funding being diverted to charter schools, private schools, and educational savings accounts, each of which are being considered in bills this term. In addition, Senate Bill 11, mentioned below, would add language to the state code making any “collective bargaining, mediation, or arbitration, and any work stoppage or strike by pub-

lic employees” illegal in West Virginia.

House Bill 2582, also sponsored by Longanacre, creates more rules around issuing teaching licenses, including requirements for a bachelor’s degree, submission to a criminal check, “successfully completing pedagogical training,” and passing competency tests for the subject matter. First reading passed Feb. 17. Senate Bill 14 is a similar bill in the Senate, which also passed first reading on February 16.

Delegate Barry Bruce has sponsored two bills, including:

House Bill 2003, seeking to qualify the “authority and obligations” of the governor during a state of preparedness and emergency. In addition, the length of the state of emergency would be expanded from 30 to 60 days, and could be expanded by the legislature. First reading passed Feb. 17.

House Bill 2015 would require rules made by local health departments also be approved by the “appointing entity,” such as a county commission, with exceptions for governor declared states of emergency and more. First reading passed Feb. 13.

On the senate side, Stephen Baldwin has introduced sponsored 76 bills, including three that are out

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Byers named Chief of Alderson Police Department, budget hole sees three part-time officers let go

By Bobby Bordelon

Lieutenant J.R. Byer, Jr., previously the officer in charge of the Alderson Police Department, has been named chief of police while three part-time officer positions have been eliminated due to budget shortfalls, explained Alderson Mayor Travis Copenhaver during the Thursday, Feb. 11, Town Council meeting.

Copenhaver noted that former chief Jeremy Bennett would be able to return to his position after his three year deployment with the National Guard comes to a close.

“Effective today, Lieutenant Byer has been made Chief Byer,” said Copenhaver. “Jeremy Bennett will return to his former position of chief of police upon his return and proper notification. As of today, ... Chief Beyer has turned in his acceptance. As such, you have four full-time officers, one part-time.”

This comes as a budget shortfall has impacted the department’s staff.

“Three part time police officers have been let go,” Copenhaver said. “That will affect the numbers for workers comp as well. In an effort to replace them, Rusty has found another full time person that will be paid less.”

Copenhaver noted the town was currently operating in a deficit.

“Our general fund, current balance, is \$33,306.66. ... Our unpaid bills are \$112,430.51,” Copenhaver said. “That’s called a deficit. That’s general fund and operating, that’s not water, that’s not sewer. ... As I told employees this week, we’re not afraid things are drastically bad, but you’re not spending money unless it’s an emergency. There is no overtime, and we’re making other measures to cut.”

Copenhaver also cited a \$5,000 repair bill from the Alderson Fire Department, an increase of \$8,000 in workman’s compensation insurance, and the elimination of holding driver’s licenses until fines or

See “Byers” ___ Page 3

Davis Stuart sees claims dismissed in a number of Greenbrier County civil cases

By Bobby Bordelon

Former employees of Davis Stuart saw over a dozen claims dismissed in a number of Greenbrier County Circuit Court civil cases on Friday, Feb. 12, including alleged improper care of children, fraudulent medical government reimbursement forms, unpaid wages, and more.

Davis Stuart, a local “therapeutic residential treatment facility” which aims to be “committed to helping children and their families find the spiritual, emotional, and physical wholeness for which they have been created,” is the subject of these lawsuits. Over the past three years, many cases have been filed in the Greenbrier County Circuit Court against Davis Stuart, including two in 2018, 13 in 2019, and three in 2020.

Although some of these cases are already closed, many of the remaining cases were the subject of a longer-than-typical hearing under Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Robert Richardson on Friday. In these cases, many of the plaintiffs were former employees of Davis Stuart represented by Attorney Adrian Hoosier II.

Although these cases are not a class action lawsuit, a number of them share

language in the complaints, making it difficult to track which claims have been dismissed in which case.

Utilizing the complaint filed in the Tabatha Martin case, some of the allegations include:

- “Over-billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. Plaintiff was forced to fraudulent [sic] complete and/or process forms indicating that residents of Defendant (children) were receiving certain services, when in fact they were not receiving such services.”
- Failure to pay wages.
- “Defendant failed to have adequate food for patients ... failed to have the required number of staff working to properly care for the child patients, ... failed to have proper cleaning complete.”
- “Defendant retaliated against Plaintiff and or created a hostile work environment because of ... complaints about conditions/events.”

Davis Stuart defense attorney Bonnie Thomas with Steptoe and Johnson denied many of the allegations in Friday’s hearing. After negotiations with Hoosier, the dismissal of many claims was agreed on.

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City Council discusses PUD changes, Hollowell Park projects

By Sarah Richardson

The Lewisburg City Council met last Tuesday via ZOOM to discuss changes to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance, announced the Black History Month Proclamation for the month of February, and discussed possible upgrades to Hollowell Park.

The meeting opened with the continued discussion of PUD zoning changes in what was supposed to be a second first reading of the ordinance. Due to a number of changes applied after the first reading at last month’s council meeting, the council recommended hosting a secondary first reading with the variety of changes applied. However, after much discussion, it was decided to table the secondary first reading for next month’s council meeting.

Planned Unit Developments are when land uses can be mixed at the same site, rather than being separated into residential and commercial uses. Multi-use subdivisions take advantage of zoning such as this to increase walkability and provide greater housing variety and density.

In the proposed changes it specifies that residences can be mixed with a variety of retail spaces including banks, certain restaurants, childcare facilities, and more.

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Federal Attorney announces resignation

By Bobby Bordelon

United States Attorney Mike Stuart announced his resignation from the federal Southern District of West Virginia on Friday, Feb. 12, in a letter addressed to President Joe Biden.

“At your request, I hereby offer my resignation as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia,” wrote Stuart.

Stuart was nominated for the position by former President Donald Trump in September 2017. According to reporting by the Washington Post, the Biden administration plans to “ask U.S. attorneys who were appointed by former President Don-

ald Trump to resign from their posts, as the [administration] moves to transition to its own nominees, a senior Justice Department official said Monday.”

“It has been my distinct honor to serve as a United States Attorney particularly because it was in service to the people of West Virginia,” Stuart wrote in the letter to Biden. “I’ve had a love affair with the people of West Virginia from my very first breath. It is a love affair that will continue to my very last breath and until I rest within the brilliance of God’s creation of these ‘Country Roads.’ As the son and grandson of coal miners and as

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Hereford named WVSOM Center for Rural and Community Health executive director

In her new role, a native West Virginian hopes her passion for public health and partnership will address prevention, equity, diversity and justice across the continuum of care and community in efforts to improve holistic health and well-being across the state.

Courtney Hereford became the new executive director of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) in January.

"As a native West Virginian, leaving the state as a young adult brought out this passion in me," Hereford said. "My exposure to rural communities in other states and countries helped me see the disparity, complexity, strength and resiliency of West Virginia more clearly."

She began working at the school's CRCH in December 2017, focus-

ing primarily on research. Employees at the center have an important role that includes developing and implementing statewide programming, clinical and community-based research, education, training and professional development, and dynamic outreach and collaboration across the public health spectrum. The center primarily focuses on community engagement, education and clinical research.

When the CRCH was founded in 2010, its focus was largely health education, but now, more than a decade later, the center aims to drive engagement in rural health across the state and region.

"We accomplish that by partnering with communities on their health priorities and together building capacity, infrastructure and leadership to empower their highest level of health and

wellness," Hereford said. "Our mission, vision and reach have substantially expanded over time to encompass evidence-based health education and training, as well as research, professional development, capacity and infrastructure building, and targeted engagement, outreach and partnership spanning an array of stakeholder communities and objectives."

Hereford attributes the center's quick growth to her predecessor, Drema Mace, Ph.D., who is now WVSOM's vice president for community engagement and development. She said that since 2016, the center has expanded from a staff of five with an annual budget of about \$350,000 in 2016 to its current staff of more than 10 WVSOM employees, three AmeriCorps service workers and key faculty advisors bringing in more than \$7 million in grants, contracts and purchasing



Courtney Hereford

agreements in that time.

"We are like a family in that we have an especially diverse team with dynamic skills, experiences and perspectives. We are all dedicated to one another, our communities and our mission and are nurtured and driven every day to grow because we believe the work we do impacts community health and well-being for the better," Hereford said.

Those skills and areas of expertise have enabled the creation of varied pro-

gramming that falls under the CRCH umbrella, such as statewide health literacy programs, professional development and pipeline programming, the Community Health Education Resource Person (CHERP) program, opioid and substance use toolkits and workshops, clinical and translational science, COVID-19 response projects, and the Greenbrier County Health Alliance, a nonprofit partner of WVSOM's CRCH that works to strengthen systems, policies and environments to advance health equity through grants manage-

ment, partnerships and collaborations.

"I am a firm believer that we can have the brightest, most innovative medicine, science, technology and health silos there are, but if we aren't authentically learning and acting with our partners and communities we won't know the barriers, priorities and nuances that impact the ability of those advances to effect real and sustained change," Hereford said.

She said she understands that health issues in West Virginia are complex, and it is her goal

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Hereford

Continued from Page 2

as the center's executive director to forge engagement among those dynamic partnerships.

"Health in West Virginia is multidimensional and ever-evolving and requires us all on board and engaged together to share the passion, energy and expertise necessary to meet that complexity. We are only as strong and impacting as our partnerships, and the CRCH is privileged to partner across so many fronts," she said.

Even with the center's exponential growth, there are still unexplored ways in which a medical school can help improve the lives of West Virginians, and grassroots communities in turn enhance medical training and practice, Hereford said.

"I see us continuing to grow in presence and programming as the Center for Rural and Community Health here at WVSOM, where students, faculty, staff and stakeholders understand that they are our most valued communities, and whatever their passion and priority, we will be of service," she said. "We will continue to grow opportunities for WVSOM students and stakeholders to engage with rural communities in meaningful ways that positively impact their training, orientation and future practice."

She also hopes the center can become a resource hub recognized across the region, in which stakeholders across Appalachia and the rural U.S. can utilize the center's expertise and model to advance their own health programming and priorities.

Mace is confident those visions will become a reality under the guidance of Hereford. She said that Hereford is driven to make an impact.

"I am excited to welcome Courtney as the new executive director of the CRCH. She has a rare combination of intellect, practicality, vision and heart. She has a passion for partnering with rural communities to improve health," Mace said. "I expect that she will build on the center's solid infrastructure, working with the incredible CRCH staff, remain on the cutting edge of community engagement within the WVSOM campus, in our community, statewide and nationally."

Hereford is a returned Peace Corps volunteer with a master's degree in public health and a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Monroe Watchman: It's about knowing what a newspaper means to a community

By Lexi Browning, West Virginia Press Association

For nearly 150 years, The Monroe Watchman has served as the authoritative news source for Monroe County, West Virginia. The weekly newspaper, located on Main Street in Union, West Virginia, published its first edition in 1872.

Editor Craig Mohler is now at the helm of the publication. He's the second generation in his family to hold the title. Two decades ago, he took over editing responsibilities, following in the footsteps of his father, Harry "H.H." Mohler.

"My folks purchased the business in 1965. My dad actually worked here for a while when he was in high school and went away for school and eventually came back and started working here again," Mohler said. "The editor at the time had never married or had children, so he allowed my dad to start purchasing the business."

The business had been purchased from another family in the region, the Johnstons, who had run it for three generations before it was sold to the Mohlers, he explained. As the child of farm workers who worked his way up into the newspaper's leadership, Mohler said running the newspaper was a "great source of pride and accomplishment."

"It's been neat to be part of it," Mohler said of the family legacy.

With the exception of early owners' one-week break between each Christmas and New Year, Mohler said the publication has, to his knowledge, never missed a week of publishing.

For the weekly newspaper, production and mailing is a weeklong affair. Newspapers are printed on Monday evenings and mailed out on Tuesday. Each newspaper carries a Thursday date, carrying on Mohler's father's tradition of ensuring that recipients weren't receiving "old" news in the mail.

Altogether, the business employs four people: Mohler, his mother, and two employees, including a senior reporter, John Honaker, who joined the newspaper with Mohler's father in the 1960s. In 2018, Mohler's mother transitioned from full-time to part-time. His brother, Rod, who works as an attorney, covers Monroe High School football games for the Watchman in the fall and offers legal advice as necessary.

In recent years, many newspapers across the United States have faced economic stress, resulting in budget cuts, layoffs and closures. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has added an extra layer of uncertainty.

"Our circulation has gone up a bit during the pandemic. We reached a maximum in the early 2000s when I first came in here and had gotten up to 4,200 per week. Since then it's dropped to 3,200, and then over the last few months, it's crept up a bit. I think a lot of that is from losing papers in neighboring counties."

The newspaper hasn't been printed on-site since the 1960s, but the Babcock printer that was purchased in the early 1900s is still in the building. With presses closing and streamlining operations across the nation, the Watchman's printing has changed multiple times over the last several decades. They're currently printed in Lynchburg, Virginia, along with The Roanoke Times.

"People love seeing that when they come into the building with all the pulleys on the ceiling," Mohler said. "Of course, that used the old lead letters, and they were handset letters and with linotype after that. They stopped using that in 1965 and went to offset. We never purchased an offset printer because they were expensive

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Harry Mohler, Craig Mohler's son, and senior reporter John Honaker in the newsroom in 2005. Honaker came to The Monroe Watchman in the 1960s part-time as a high school student and he never left, the elder Mohler said. John works part-time, handling ad designs, page layouts and commercial printing.



The newspaper's original Babcock press that was purchased in the 1900s.

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

The Greenbrier Humane Society is located at 151 Holiday Lane off Rt. 60 West in Lewisburg. They are closed Sunday and Monday, and are open from 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 304-645-4775 to make an appointment or 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 1-800-431-1754 for free addiction screenings or referrals. 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 meeting. (Contact 304-647-0677 for Zoom details.) Find listings for other meetings in West Virginia at aawv.org.

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.

Byers

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fees have been paid have compounded to make the budget worse.

“The state of West Virginia’s Legislature, in the last session, hurt us bad, to the tune of \$37,000,” Copenhaver said. “Fines, fees, and costs make up 13 percent of our general fund. By the auditor, it’s supposed to be a less than substantial portion of the general fund. ... Here today we have collected \$4,000, year to date. ... We are still \$30,000 in the hole.”

One legislative push, aided by Governor Jim Justice, could see the elimination of income taxes in West Virginia. This could also affect next year’s budget in Alderson.

“We’ve been tighter, but going into the budget for next year, we’re looking at not having the revenue [from the eliminated fees],” Copenhaver said. “This is the worst budget I’ve ever penciled. In eight years, this is the worst, and it’s only going to get worse. ... I don’t know the specifics on cutting the income tax or anything the governor is talking about, but if someone could enlighten me on where the offset revenue is going to come from, please do.”

In other business:

Unaccounted for water loss in the Alderson water system has been reduced to 22 percent. Ongoing work hopes to reduce the percentage further, with Copenhaver estimating 15 percent.

David Altizer, project manager for Thrasher Group, noted the water project is progressing, saying “I believe my last report to you, we were at 60 percent done with design. I’m gonna change that number to 75 percent. We’re coming along pretty well.”

Davis Stuart

Continued from Front Page

According to Thomas, motions for summary judgment are currently being prepared or have been submitted, which would ask the judge to end the cases before they could go to trial when no facts are in dispute. This would include cases brought by Florence Ide, Brittany Powell, Delores Dempsey, Ressie Windon, Rachel Biesmeyer, Tabatha Martin, Debra Ballard, Samantha Carman-Lidel, and Brooke Phillips.

However, the possibility of a trial dealing with these issues might be on the horizon in several cases. For example, Richardson noted “with regard to the Tabatha Martin case, it appears that the parties have agreed to the dismissal of all of the claims in the case except for count three, which related to the claims under the patient safety act [dealing with retaliation]. I understand that this is a matter [where] there are factual disputes that will require a trial.”

A similar situation was found for the Ide case, with Thomas explaining “the parties have agreed to the dismissal of the bulk of the claims here, with the exception of the claim involving alleged unsafe working conditions and unsafe discharge, in violation of public policy, to those working conditions.”

An issue with a bat infestation is at the center of the unsafe work conditions claim in the Ide case, with Hoosier emphasizing Ide, “had a lot of issues with the bat infestation. She was up in years and she was required to clean bat waste, which she complained about on multiple occasions. ... She complained that children were having to clean up the bat waste as well, and that was what she alleged in her complaint.”

However, Hoosier also noted “she testified that it was substantially taken care of prior to her leaving.” According to Richardson, Ide’s sworn testimony disagreed with the complaint Hoosier filed on her behalf.

“In fact, I’m quite concerned there appears to be a severe discrepancy between the allegations contained in the complaint, which counsel signed, and in doing so, asserting that there was a good faith basis in [these] claims and allegations,” Richardson said. “On the other hand, [in] Ms. Ide’s sworn testimony, ... she indicated that many of the things alleged in the complaint never took place.”

Thomas and Davis Stuart denied any medical reimbursement fraud while discussing the Dempsey case.

“She claims to have been forced to fraudulently complete these notes, and that she complained to her supervisor that she was forced to fraudulently complete these notes,” Thomas said. “However, Ms. Dempsey did not complete the supportive counseling notes in the first place - what she completed [was] a daily summary of notes. ... Furthermore, Davis Stuart did not knowingly submit any fraudulent reports. Davis Stuart trained its employees on how to complete these notes so they were properly completed. Additionally, Davis Stuart does not submit its supported counseling notes to Medicaid for

Legislature

of committee:

Senate Bill 272 seeks to address the “gig” economy of workers, “distinguishing independent contractors from employees; applying classification provisions to workers’ compensation, unemployment compensation, wage payment and collection, and Human Rights Act matters; establishing classification criteria; setting forth limitations to applicability of the act; and providing for severability.”

Senate Bill 277 is the COVID-19 Jobs Protection Act, which would “eliminate the liability of the citizens of West Virginia and all persons including individuals, health care providers, health care facilities, institutions of higher education, businesses, manufacturers, and all persons whomsoever, and to preclude all suits and claims against any persons for loss, damages, personal injuries, or death arising from COVID-19.” This is meant to “provide assurances to businesses that reopening will not expose them to liability for a person’s exposure to COVID-19.” First reading passed on Feb. 17.

Senate Bill 295 deals with broadband investment loans made through the Broadband Loan Insurance Program, including a limit on the amount of loan insurance that can be awarded in a single year to a single broadband provider to \$20 million. First reading passed on Feb. 17.

Senator Jack Woodrum sponsored Senate Bill 69 creating a special “choose life” license plate to support adoption, the first reading of which is expected February 18. In addition, the Woodrum sponsored Senate Bill 66 would create a special revenue fund for the West Virginia University Rifle Team, with money coming from “granted by charitable foundations, allocated by the Legislature, allocated from federal agencies, all income from the investment of money held in the fund, and all other money designated for deposit to the fund from any source, public or private.”

Suits

Cierra F. Mason vs. John C. Mason
Justin M. Hayes vs. Kortney L. Hayes
Sierra J. Rutherford vs. Timolty A. Rutherford
Larry W. Dunbar va. Terri L. Dunbar

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Craig Christian Hoye, Carmel, IN, speeding, fine \$40
Jessica Lynn Roberts, Renick, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100

Christopher Harold White, Williamsburg, WV, 1) driving suspended, NCP, fine \$100; 2) expired MVI, fine \$10

Roy Warning, Lewisburg, obstructing officer, NCP, fine \$100, jail 45 days to be served on Home Confinement with condition of Day Report

Anthony G. Loudermilk, Frankford, driving revoked DUI, NCP, fine \$100, jail 30 days

Austin M. Bostic, White Sulphur Springs, illegal possession of wildlife - deer, fine \$75

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reimbursement purposes ... Plaintiff’s testimony that these notes were fraudulently submitted or violated federal billing practices is untrue.”

In addition, one common complaint in the cases is an alleged requirement that employees of Davis Stuart work without pay for approximately 15 minutes before their shift began.

“There was no company policy that required her to work 15 minutes early and ... she was never asked by a supervisor to come in early and not get paid for that 15 minutes of work,” Thomas explained. “Three, she was never permitted or allowed to suffer by coming in 15 minutes early because she never put that time on her time sheet, never giving Davis Stuart the ability to pay her.”

This complaint was common enough for a class action certification request, one which was denied.

“This court already, in an order denying plaintiff’s motion for class certification ... already determined that there was no written policy and this policy was not in any handbook, not posted on a bulletin board, or was not discussed at any staff meeting,” Thomas said. “Furthermore, this policy ... was communicated only among staff members.”

Of the many suits filed in the past three years, those brought by Connie Hamilton, Gary Walkup, Lilly Flores, Mary Massey, Samantha Brown, and Teresa Adkins have already been closed.

Motions for summary judgment are expected to be considered in another hearing later in this term of court. Trials could be considered after the motions for summary judgment are heard.

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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Arbuckle Lane, Lewisburg, WV
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Office Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM

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Bills by local reps are not the only ones being considered - as of Wednesday, Feb. 17, the Legislature, either in the House or Senate, has passed readings or is preparing to vote on the first readings of the following bills:

House Bill 2007 provides for occupational licenses, allowing a person that is “or intends to be a West Virginia resident” and “holds a valid occupational license” and more requirements be issued a similar license through the relevant West Virginia board. Second reading passed Feb. 17.

House Bill 2013 establishes the Hope Scholarship Program, which would provide funds to “public elementary or secondary” schools in order to enter a “participating school,” meaning “any private school that provides education to elementary and/or secondary students” that is participating in the program. In order to fund this, “an appropriation to the Department of Education for the greater of an amount not less than two percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes or the total number of eligible Hope Scholarship applications received by the Treasurer, if available, multiplied by the prior year’s statewide average net state aid allotted per pupil.” Second reading passed Feb. 17.

Senate Bill 15 would require a “the salary increase” for teachers with masters degrees in their subject area to be “contingent upon a classroom teacher’s assignment.” Second reading passed Feb. 17.

House Bill 2004 lists “permitting healthcare practitioners licensed in other states to practice in West Virginia using telehealth services and providing rulemaking authority.” First reading passed Feb. 13.

House Bill 2014 looks to restrict the governor’s control over federal funds, specifying “the Governor is not authorized to expend any amount of any unanticipated

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For the Record

Deeds

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 of the Huddleston Hills Addition, Town of White Sulphur Springs

Keith S. Filzen and Theresa M. Filzen to Timothy Weir and Timothy Weir Jr., Lot 91, Phase 4, Overlook at The Greenbrier, Irish Corner District

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 Mullins, 0.521 acre, Lewisburg District
John R. Wilson and Virginia I. Wilson to Forrest R. Allen and Jill A. Allen, Lots 7, 8, and 9, Addition 4 of Echols Acres Subdivision, City of Lewisburg

Forrest R. Allen and Jill A. Allen to John R. Wilson and Virginia I. Wilson, Lots 3 and 4, Addition Four of Echols Acres Subdivision, City of Lewisburg

Robert T. Shaffer to Charles T. Ferrell, 0.596 acre, Irish Corner District

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The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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Mountain Messenger

OPINION

Commentary

Warner announces county clerks have removed 253,263 abandoned voter files in last four years

Secretary of State Mac Warner made voter list maintenance a cornerstone of his first term of office as West Virginia's chief elections officer. When he took office as West Virginia's 30th Secretary of State in January of 2017, he immediately went to work with West Virginia's 55 county clerks to identify ways to keep voter registration lists accurate and complete.

Over the last four years, Warner has worked closely with all 55 county clerks to uniformly identify and remove abandoned registrations from deceased voters, felons, duplicate records, and people who had moved out of state. They also began a campaign to register new voters. To date, the clerks have removed 253,263 voter files statewide.

"West Virginia's voting rolls have never been cleaner and more accurate than they are today," Warner said. "The dedication to accuracy from our county clerks while applying multi-agency list comparisons to track abandoned registrations has resulted in the most accurate voting rolls in our state's history."

At the same time, Warner said that his office and the county clerks implemented a public education effort that emphasized voter registration, especially for young people and newcomers to the state. Warner said county clerks have registered 242,044 new voters over the last four years, including more than 65,000 eligible high school students.

As of Feb. 11, 2021, West Virginia has 1,219,542 registered voters.

"Eligible West Virginia citizens can now register to vote or update their current registration online anytime," Warner said. "Our website allows voters 24-hour-a-day access to voter registration in all 55 counties."

To register to vote or to find more information on elections in West Virginia, visit GoVoteWV.com.

Commentary

Manchin calls on Postmaster General to restore on-time delivery and stop harmful changes

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) led 34 Senators in calling on Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to address persistent mail delays and clarify what actions he is taking to restore on-time mail delivery. While Congressional oversight efforts and public pressure have helped address these damaging delays and improve on-time mail delivery, many West Virginians and Americans across the country continue to face unacceptable delays and other performance issues.

The Senators said in part, "Our constituents have experienced missed paychecks and court notices, delayed critical prescriptions, an inability to reach small business customers and suppliers, lost rent payments and delayed credit card payments resulting in late fees, breakdowns in service to their communities, late personal mail such as holiday packages, and more. Reportedly, mail delivery has not yet recovered after the peak season, with constituents continuing to experience delays despite the tireless efforts of postal workers...It is your duty, first and foremost, to protect service and ensure timely mail delivery for every person in this nation. We demand that you not make additional changes that will harm service for the American people. In addition, we urge you to be fully transparent with the public about Postal Service operations and the reasons they are still facing delays."

US Attorney

Continued from Front Page


a West Virginian whose family has inhabited these hills and hollers long before the founding of the state, I have been blessed to stand on the shoulders of giants-dedicated hard working West Virginians-who made it possible for this "son of a coal miner" to become a United States Attorney. My family is my inspiration to the greatness of this remarkable country-family members like my grandmas Opal and Virginia and my personal heroes, my mom and dad. I am profoundly thankful to generations of my family on whose ' blood, toil, tears, and sweat' made my achievement possible.

During his tenure, in addition to prosecuting a number of drug-related offenses, Stuart and his office were critical in investigating members of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. This came shortly after the West Virginia legislature voted to impeach all five judges on the Supreme Court for corruption and inappropriate spending.

"Although necessary on behalf of the people of West Virginia and in defense of the rule of law, the indictment and conviction of former Chief Justice Allen Loughry and the Information and conviction of former Justice Menis Ketchum brought me no personal pleasure," Stuart wrote in a 2019 press release. "Rather, my satisfaction is that my office was able to play a significant role in restoring the confidence of the people of West Virginia in the West Virginia Supreme Court. I have great sympathy for the families involved in this matter, but I have said many times, this office takes the issue of public corruption and abuse of the public trust incredibly seriously. There is no such thing as a little bit of public corruption."

This included the convictions of two justices.

"Former West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Allen Loughry II was convicted by a federal jury in October 2018 of one count of mail fraud, seven counts of wire fraud, and two counts of lying to the FBI. He was sen-



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Commentary

Manchin encourages West Virginians to take advantage of ACA open enrollment period

West Virginians interested in applying can learn more at acanavigator.com/wv/home or call at 1-844-WV-CARES.

Earlier this week, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) urged West Virginians to apply for health insurance coverage during the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Special Enrollment Period, which ends May 15, 2021.

"Every West Virginian deserves to have access to affordable, reliable healthcare - especially during the COVID-19 pandemic that has taken the lives of more than 2,200 West Virginians and 470,000 Americans," said Senator Manchin. "Over 180,000 West Virginians currently rely on the ACA for healthcare coverage and many more West Virginians lost their coverage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased the Biden Administration has opened a Special Enrollment Period to allow uninsured Americans and West Virginians to apply for healthcare coverage until May 15, 2021. To apply and enroll, please visit healthcare.gov to find a plan that works for you and your family."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Manchin urged the Trump Administration to reopen ACA enrollment to help West Virginians impacted by the pandemic apply for health insurance. In August of 2020, Senator Manchin called on the Trump Administration to create a special enrollment period, but the Administration did not take action. At the end of January, Senator Manchin applauded President Biden's executive order to open the ACA for a special enrollment period to allow Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic apply for healthcare coverage.

West Virginia offers free enrollment assistance to all in-state residents through the WV Navigator. You can learn more at acanavigator.com/wv/home or call at 1-844-WV-CARES.

The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



Each year, thousands of bills are introduced in the legislature. Do you want to know what the priorities of those in charge are? Watch the first bills they pass. Here's a rundown of the priority bills from the current legislative supermajority.

COVID LIABILITY. SB 3 provides blanket immunity to businesses from liability relating to COVID. (The AARP strongly opposes this bill because, for example, it precludes nursing home residents from holding nursing homes liable for mistreatment.)

INTERMEDIATE COURT. SB275 creates a new layer of courts in WV, an intermediate court of appeals. The cost is between \$13-\$20 million.

CHARTER SCHOOLS. HB2012 allows an expansion of charter schools across the state. Currently, up to three charter schools are allowed (though none currently exist). The county board of education must approve the charter. This bill allows up to 10 new charter schools which would be approved by the local board or by a new entity called the Professional Charter School Board.

ANTI-STRIKE BILL. SB11 criminalizes public workers going on strike. (Striking is already illegal under the law.)

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. SB12 removes authority from health departments to enact local health ordinances. Instead, such local health ordinances must be approved by the state or the county. It also allows politicians to remove members of the local public health board, which currently cannot happen.

FOSTER CARE LIMITATIONS. SB13 allows child placement agencies to discriminate against potential foster parents if they disagree with their religious or moral beliefs. For example, they could choose not to place a foster child in a home with a gay couple, even if they are fully qualified.

PRIORITIES. Like I said to begin the column, you can see the priorities of those in charge by looking at the first bills they advance. Do these priorities reflect your priorities for West Virginia? They don't reflect my priorities.

We ought to be expanding broadband, not expanding government through a new, expensive, unnecessary court system. We ought to be protecting public health and supporting our county health departments, not taking away their authority to keep us safe. We ought to be supporting our essential workers, not retaliating against them over differences of opinion. We ought to be finding loving homes for every foster child in this state, not legalizing discrimination against certain foster parents.

Do you think we're on the right track? What should our priorities be? I want to hear from you. Feel free to write, call, email, or join a virtual meeting this legislative session. If we're going to rebuild West Virginia, we need to do it together. Not behind closed doors at the capitol, out of touch with the citizens of our state.

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. Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)

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City Council

Continued from Front Page

Mayor Beverly White read the 2021 Black History Month Proclamation to the council, which states February 2021 is to be recognized as Black History Month by the City of Lewisburg by encouraging all residents to honor Black history and culture. The proclamation states, "We commend the heroes, pioneers, and common Americans who tirelessly fought for and firmly believed in the promise of racial equality, enshrined in our Constitution, and enacted into our laws. We pledge to continue to stand against the evils of bigotry, intolerance, and hatred."

Councilmember Sarah Elkins reported that at the latest Parks Commission meeting the group discussed the comprehensive plan and overall vision for the future of Hollowell Park. At last month's council meeting, John Lynch and Brian Griffith approached the council on behalf of the Central Greenbrier Little League to ask if upgrades can be made to the ball fields at the park. Specifically, the League proposed that the senior league field be updated to artificial turf in the center, instead of sand as it is currently, to reduce long-term maintenance costs and to make it playable in rainy weather.

It was determined that Arts & Recreation funds could not be used on this category of project, and it must go out for public bid to any interested contractors. The City also recommended the solicitation of an engineer to further examine the schematics of such an upgrade.

The Census Bureau also recognized the City of Lewisburg for their participation efforts in the 2020 Census count.

Public Works Director Roger Pence noted the Public Works crews continue to prepare for inclement weather and the subsequent clearing of city roadways and intersections. Progress is continuing on the move to the new Public Works building on Feamster Road with administrative employees hopefully transferring over within the next week or two.

OPED piece submission guidelines:

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Amaryllis Irene Ray Walkup

Lewisburg-Just past midnight on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, Amaryllis Irene Ray Walkup, 87, died surrounded by family at the Peyton Hospice House, Fairlea.

Amaryllis was born to William H. and Mamie Casebolt Ray on Mar. 8, 1933.

She was preceded in death by her dear devoted husband, Homer Lucian Walkup, Jr., after 65 years of marriage.

They were the parents of four children, Margaret Grace (Cecil) Tucker, Robert Dale (Dolly) Walkup, Brenda Gay (Edward) Pagán, and Mary Elizabeth (David) Richmond. They were, also, the proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She is survived by one brother, Guy (Jean) Ray of Hinton; and a sister-in-law, Virginia Talbott Walkup of Rock Hill, SC; along with many beloved nieces and nephews.

Amaryllis was raised on a farm on Germany Road in Frankfort, WV, until the age of 12 when the family moved to a beautiful old home on Church Street in Lewisburg. She graduated from Lewisburg High School in 1951 and married Homer Lucian Walkup, Jr. in December of

that same year. Lucian, Amaryllis and their four children lived in Wolf Creek, WV, for 10 years until Lucian was transferred to Pennsylvania with his job. They lived in Muncy, PA, until 1974 when Lucian retired and they returned to the home place on Church Street in Lewisburg. While living in Pennsylvania, Amaryllis became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked at the Greenbrier Valley Hospital in Ronceverte until retiring as an Obstetrics Nurse. She loved her profession, but mostly loved cuddling and caring for the newborn babies. She was a devoted daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and aunt who spent much of her free time visiting and caring for the family.

Amaryllis was a devout Christian and active, lifelong member of The Lewisburg Church of Christ.

She was a Girl Scout & Boy Scout Leader, Band Mother, and member of the General Andrew Lewis DAR Chapter. Her many hobbies included sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving, baking, cooking, canning, and freezing.

Amaryllis will be honored at a private family service and laid to rest at Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

In lieu of flowers, please, send donations to the Lewisburg Church

of Christ, P.O. Box 1531, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Judy C. Blankenship Simmons

Lewisburg-Judy C. Blankenship Simmons, 75, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center due to complications of Covid-19.

She was born May 18, 1945, in Pocahontas County, to the late Joseph and Biddie May McMillion Blankenship.

Other than her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, James A. Simmons, Sr.; grandson, Shane Bocephus Hinkle; and 10 siblings.

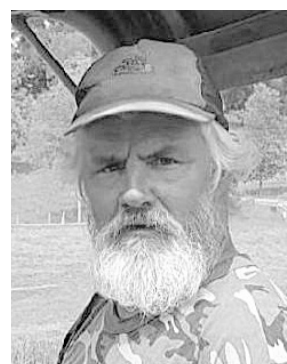
Survivors include her daughter, Diane Hinkle of Covington, VA; sons, James A. Simmons, Jr., and Joseph Harry Simmons both of Lewisburg; sisters, Nellie Bragg of Lewisburg, and Pearl McCoy of Frankfort; grandchildren, Heather Nichole Markham, Brittany Simmons, and Kelsey Simmons; six great-grandchildren and one on the way; as well as many other family members.

Per her wishes, Judy will be cremated.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Bryant Keith McCarty



Frankford-Bryant Keith McCarty, 61, passed away Wednesday morning Feb. 17, 2021, at his home in Frankford as a result of Cardiovascular Disease.

He was born May 12, 1959, in Princeton, WV, the son of the late Robert F. and Avis Lillian Hazelwood McCarty.

Bryant was a kind, caring and loving brother who has taken a part of our hearts with him. In his lifetime he made many friends and was always willing to help anyone in need. He was a simple man who never wanted the "rich material things" in life. He was always generous in many ways; he would literally "give the shirt off his back" to anyone in need.

Today, tomorrow and always you will be loved and remain in our hearts.

Rest in Peace, until we meet again.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, Ricky Neal McCarty.

Surviving are his siblings, Drema Young (Marty) of Lexington, NC, Edith Scott (Craig) of Lexington, NC, Roger Dale McCarty (Tammy) of Hays, NC, Billy McCarty (Tracey) of White Sulphur Springs, and Vickie Lawrence (Don) of Princeton, WV; several nieces and nephews; and his special friend, Patrick Roberts.

The family will receive friends and family Sunday, Feb. 21, from 1 until 2 p.m. at which time the service will begin at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor Mark Gillenwater officiating. Interment will follow in Woodland Cemetery in Auto.

Pallbearers for Bryant will be: Patrick Roberts, Stewart Roberts, Steve Lewis, Dale Morrison, Jim Bob Pritt, Shorty Clevenger and Dominique Gardner.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest contributions be made to Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, 884 Jefferson Street North, Lewisburg, WV 24901, to help with his funeral expenses.

Please be mindful of Covid-19 regulations, masks and distancing will be required.

Please send condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

John Harold Jackson, Jr.

White Sulphur Springs-John Harold Jackson, Jr., 78, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Ronceverte.

John was born Aug. 6, 1942, in Cass, WV. He was a son of the late John H. and Rosanna Dobson Jackson, Sr.

He was a retired train operator with the New York Transit Authority, U.S. Army veteran, and member of the New Vision Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs. John loved to fish and hunt.

Surviving are his daughters, Alyse Jackson of N. Charleston, SC, Cassandra Jackson of Philadelphia, PA; son, John H. Jackson III of Manhattan, NY; step-daughter, Nyashia Jackson of Houston, TX; stepson, Kodi Johnson of Augusta, GA; sister, Rosanna of New York, NY; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

John wishes were to be cremated with a memorial service to be held at a later date.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Joan Elizabeth Ann Schwartz Norman

Ronceverte-Joan Elizabeth Ann Schwartz Norman, 75, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, at VCU Medical Center in Richmond, VA.

Born Mar. 27, 1945, at White Marsh, MD, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Veronica Agnes Marinchock Schwartz.

Joan worked for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Labs Administration as a Professional Public Health Scientist until her retirement. She cared deeply for others and volunteered in various ways for several food pantries and the great pleasure in recent years were the many hours of volunteer work she put in at the library at Greenbrier East Middle School. She was anxiously waiting for the day volunteers were once again allowed in the schools.

She always stayed in touch and involved in spite of distances involved. She was very close to her family. She never forgot a birthday and took great care to select fun and funny cards to everyone's delight.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Robert John Schwartz.

She is survived by her husband of over 43 years, Edwin Linn Norman; sister, Marilyn Jean Schwartz Boschert (Peggy) of Odessa, TX; although she had no children of her own, she was very close to her nieces and nephews, Linda Langley and husband David of Meriden, CT, Donna Corich and husband Al of Buda, TX, Matt Boschert and wife Liz of Meriden, CT, Phil Boschert of Broomfield, CO; grand-nieces and nephews, Melissa, Rebecca and Jessica Langley, Andrea Maldonado, Nicole Waldman, Jacob Boschert, Madeline Boschert; and great-nephews, Jackson and Dylan Maldonado.

Per Joan's wishes, her body will be cremated and no services will be held.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

A Look Back



Photo: Courtesy of Greenbrier Historical Society.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Long-time residents of the Greenbrier Valley will probably remember the brightly painted C. J. Stores that dotted our area. Carrenna Jehu Casdorff, known to everyone as C.J., began his mercantile business in 1921 with a small cash and carry grocery store on Edgar Avenue in Ronceverte. In 1924, Casdorff moved his grocery to a larger space at the corner

of Edgar Avenue and Frankford Road. Casdorff's son, just out of high school, joined the business in 1928, and the Casdorffs opened a second store in Frankford. The third store was in Union. C.J. Casdorff and Son grew to 20 stores in Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas and Summers counties and one in Paint Bank, Virginia. This week's undated photo shows the warehouse in Ronceverte. Ac-

tive in his community, C. J. was a founder and past president of the Ronceverte Rotary Club, elder in the Ronceverte Christian Church, a Mason, a director of Ronceverte National Bank, and past president of the West Virginia Grocers Association. He died in 1974.

Sources: *The Covington Virginian*, *The Independent Herald (Hinton)*, *Beckley Post-Herald*.

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SCHOOL

Veterans Upward Bound

Preparing veterans for postsecondary education

Many West Virginia military veterans are benefiting from an educational program called Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), which is a federal TRIO Program dedicated to helping veterans of the U.S. military prepare for an education at the college, community college, trade school, or technical school level.

Veterans Upward Bound staff are located throughout West Virginia, ready to assist veterans by simplifying the process of preparing for postsecondary education, including: applying to school, comparing and applying for GI Bill benefits, obtaining copies of DD214 forms and military transcripts, applying for

federal financial aid, and providing timesaving links to other veterans agencies such as VA Medical Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation, among others.

Academic assistance is another service that is provided by the program. Refresher classes are offered to veterans that need to brush up on academic skills or simply want to learn a new skill. Classes are small, veteran-only, and are generally offered one evening per week for 6 to 12 weeks at a time. VUB is currently offering a virtual class on financial planning. However, the in-person classes typically offered are currently on hold due to the COVID-19

pandemic. An announcement will be made when in-person classes resume. Class participants are eligible for a small stipend.

The program provides services throughout West Virginia. All services and materials are free of charge to program participants and most veterans are eligible for the program. VUB also acts as a resource and referral service for any questions veterans may have.

The Academic Advisor for this area is Curtis Pauley. To find out if you are eligible, or for more information about the program, call Curtis at 304-646-0684.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

When I was at the Recycling Center putting #1 and #2 plastics in the proper bins, I saw several #3-#7 plastics in the same bins. What happens to these #3- #7 plastics that are put in with #1- #2 plastics items? Are they recycled with the #1 and #2 plastics?

Plastic Recycler

Dear Plastic Recycler,

Unfortunately, the Center is unable to recycle #3- #7 plastics. If anyone brings #3- #7 plastics to the Center, they will end up in the landfill because our buyer does not accept them. The big problem with putting the #3- #7 plastics in the #1 and #2 plastics bins is that some of them are missed when sorted and end up being baled with the #1 and #2 plastics. They then become a contaminant for the entire bale, which may be sent to the landfill. Whoever put the #3-#7 plastics in the #1 and #2 plastics bins is doing something called wish-cycling. Wish-cycling is defined as putting something in a recycling bin, hoping that it will be recycled.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I just read that disposable diapers are made with plastic. Can this be true?

New Mom

Dear New Mom,

Yes, this is true. According to <https://goodbabydiapers.com/what-are-disposable-diapers-made-of-common-stuff>, the top layer of disposable diapers are made of specially modified plastic known as nonwoven fabric. You probably know this as polyester, which is basically a form of plastic. The diaper top sheets are not made of polyester, but are usually made of another form of nonwoven fabric, a plastic known as polypropylene. A concern with polypropylene is that it may contain some toxic chemicals. Each year, an estimated 20 billion (20,000,000,000) disposable diapers are used, which results in 2.5 million tons (5,000,000,000 pounds!) of waste ending up in landfills and taking hundreds of years to break down. As with many of today's products there are now plenty of eco-friendly, plant-based, disposable diapers on the market, many of which are made of bamboo. See <https://www.treehugger.com/best-biodegradable-diapers-5097916> for more information.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Several weeks ago you discussed



plant-based cleaners and plant-based products. Today I heard there is also a plant-based diet. What kind of a diet is plant-based?

Likes to Eat

Dear Likes to Eat,

Plant-based diets, according to <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/plant-based-diet-guide>, are diets composed of fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds with few or no animal products, such as meat, eggs and dairy. It is similar to a vegan diet, but doesn't eliminate the use of animal products, such as leather shoes or wool coats.

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

Legislature

cont. from Page 3

federal funds received for an existing program, for a significant alteration of an existing program, or for the creation of a new program." First reading passed Feb. 13.

House Bill 2009 takes aim at funding organizations that operate around politics, stating "an employer ... may not withhold or divert any portion of an employee's wages or salaries for use as contributions to any candidate or political committee, or for any other political activities which tend to influence the voting at any election, except upon the express, written request of the employee on an annual basis." This would include many unions, which it also would affect with a new rule - "an unfair labor practice for any labor organization to use agency shop fees paid by an individual who is not a member of the organization." First reading passed Feb. 17.

House Bill 2366 would require agencies that have approved a rule that affects fees or special revenues to provide a legislative committee a fiscal note stating the relevant funds and the past five years of the fund's revenues and expenses. First reading passed Feb. 17.

House Bill 2325 would remove requirements for continuing education for barbers and cosmetologists and prevents board regulations around cosmetic products "generally available through retail sale." First reading passed Feb. 17.

Senate Bill 11 would enshrine into West Virginia code that "public employees" have "no right, statutory or otherwise, to engage in collective bargaining, mediation, or arbitration, and any work stoppage or strike by public employees is hereby declared to be unlawful. Furthermore, any work stoppage or strike by employees of a county board of education poses a serious disruption to the thorough and efficient system of free schools, guaranteed to the children of West Virginia." First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

House Bill 2008 touches on HVAC technicians, plumbers, crane operators, electricians, and more. The bill also adds language to the state code prohibiting "a political subdivision of this state" from requiring "any other license or other evidence of competence to engage in the business of erecting, constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing, or maintaining elevators or related conveyance covered by this article." First reading is scheduled for Feb. 18.

Senate Bill 244 would prevent "public water and sewer utilities from prohibiting a customer from constructing, installing, or maintaining a connection or other infrastructure necessary for the customer to connect to the public utility to receive service." First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

Senate Bill 12 is similar to House Bill 15 spon-

sored by Bruce in creating new rules for county health departments. First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

House Bill 2253 sets the penalty for lottery ticket forgery and related crimes to a determinate period between one and five years. First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

Senate Bill 280 would allow state and local governmental entities to accept electronic payments, with "the costs associated with the acceptance of credit [cards] ... may be invoiced in a commercially reasonable manner." First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

Senate Bill 293 would prevent the West Virginia Economic Development Authority from entering "into contracts or agreements with financial institutions for banking goods or services without the approval of the State Treasurer." First reading scheduled for Feb. 18.

The next reading for each of the bills in this list is scheduled for Feb. 18.

The full text of the bills, and most current status of each, can be found on the West Virginia Legislature website. Clickable links to each of the bills mentioned here are also available on mountainmessenger.com.

WEST VIRGINIA Press FOUNDATION

College scholarships available for 2021

Interested in being a journalist or working in the media industry?

The West Virginia Press Association Foundation is accepting student applications for 2021 West Virginia Press Association Scholarships.

If awarded, the WVPAF provides scholarships to West Virginia residents to a West Virginia college or university for up to \$1,000. Programs are open to journalism majors and students in related fields such as business management, human resources, advertising, social media and marketing, with preference given to students in at least their sophomore year of college.

Application deadline is Feb. 28, 2021.

Applications may be downloaded from wvpress.org

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director Don Smith at donsmith@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

Beginner's photography class planned at New River CTC

Learn how to take great photos with your digital camera in New River Community and Technical College's Digital Photography for Beginners community education class. The four-week class will be offered on Thursdays, starting Mar. 4, from 6 to 7 p.m. online through Zoom videoconferencing.

Students will learn camera functions and controls, understanding exposure, using aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings, about depth of field and focal length, using different composition techniques and capturing motion in a photograph.

Pre-registration is required by Feb. 25 for the class, and tuition is \$60. Participants will be emailed the Zoom link and log-in information after registering for the class.

Visit 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 or Andrea Vest at 304-929-3318, avest@newriver.edu.

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

Attorney General Morrisey launches 5th Kids Kick Opioids Contest

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced this week rollout of the office's fifth Kids Kick Opioids contest, a public service announcement partnership with elementary and middle schools that encourages students to raise awareness of prescription painkiller abuse.

Kids Kick Opioids has drawn more than 12,800 entries since its inception. The fifth contest launched this month with the mailing of entry forms and details to schools and superintendents across West Virginia.

"Each year, our Kids Kick Opioids contest showcases the boundless talent and creativity of our elementary and middle school students," Attorney General Morrisey said. "Their entries, some with an especially poignant view of opioid abuse, have been a driving force in raising awareness about the dangers opioid painkillers present."

The contest provides an opportunity for students to learn the dangers of prescription painkiller abuse. It has also given many an outlet to express the personal impact of opioid abuse upon their lives and that of their loved ones.

Students can work individually or in groups. Potential submissions may include drawings, poems, letters or anything that would promote awareness.

The winning entry will appear as a statewide newspaper PSA. Regional winners will be displayed in the State Capitol.

Last year, Kids Kick Opioids generated 3,366 entries from 3,521 students at 91 schools across West Virginia. Since its inception, schools from 52 of the state's 55 counties have participated.

Thousands of West Virginians have lost their lives to a drug overdose, many of which were opioid related.

Reversing this trend has been a top priority for the Attorney General. He has fought the epidemic on multiple fronts, including a lawsuit against the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration that achieved sweeping reforms to the nation's drug quota system.

The Attorney General also has combated the opioid crisis with civil litigation, multistate initiatives, funding to target opioid abuse, criminal prosecutions, new technology, engagement with the faith-based community and education.

Contest entries must be postmarked by Apr. 16 by mail to the Attorney General's Office at 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., State Capitol Building 1, Room 26-E, Charleston, WV 25305, or sent by email to AG-PSA.contest@wvago.gov.



WANTED: DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA AT WVU

The Division of Student Life at West Virginia University is seeking applications for a **Director of Student Media**. This position reports to the executive director of Student Enrichment and is responsible for the management, budgeting, staffing and successful operation of the Daily Athenaeum, U92 The Moose and Prospect and Price Creative. The Director of Student Media is responsible for all aspects of Student Media and for implementing innovative practices that result in respected and appreciated news organizations and profitable business operations; ensuring a welcoming community; and providing students valuable experiences and opportunities that prepare them for success upon graduation.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in Journalism and/or Communications or related field, or equivalent combination of education and related experience.
- A minimum of six (6) years of experience involving:
 - Print or broadcast journalism
 - Design and development of a communications plan
 - Budgeting and supervising a staff
- Experience working in the higher education setting preferred
- Editing, budgeting, excellent interpersonal and social skills.
- Ability to perform assessments to determine program effectiveness.
- Experience leading a news organization through change, creating innovative and experimental coverage.

REQUIREMENTS

- Valid driver's license
- Resume
- Letter of Interest

Apply at careers.wvu.edu (16139)

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HELP WANTED

rant and/or the Lemon Hotel in Paint Bank, VA. Outgoing personality and strong work ethic required. Full or Part Time. Paid vacation. Prior applicants need not apply. To apply, send resume to melissa@paintbankgeneralstore.com or shanna@paintbankgeneralstore.com.

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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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6	7	8	9	4	1	2	3	5
4	1	5	2	3	7	6	9	8
3	2	6	8	5	9	7	4	1
8	9	7	1	6	4	5	2	3
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Contact your legislator today and tell them you want your legal ads and public notices in the Mountain Messenger:

- Stephen Baldwin** (304) 357-7959 stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov
- Jack Woodrum** (304) 357-7849 jack.woodrum@wvsenate.gov
- Barry Bruce** (304) 340-3131 barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov
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- Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy
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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEB. 20 - 27, 2021

Teaching Agriculture During a Pandemic

By Beth Massey

In March 2020, our agriculture classes were in the middle of planning for their banquet, applying for state and national awards, and gearing up for the upcoming state fair. Enter COVID-19, and like everyone else our plans changed dramatically, but our students and teachers persisted and have continued "Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve" (the FFA motto).

The first challenge we faced was how to handle our Ham, Bacon and Egg Sale. Along with Ag. Teachers and Extension Agents from Greenbrier and Monroe Counties, we decided a virtual sale was the best option and our communities came through in a big way for our students who had worked so hard all year long with their Supervised Experience programs.

Next to consider was that we couldn't have an in person banquet for the first time since 1968. Solution—a virtual awards banquet that was held outside, and a new YouTube channel (Greenbrier East FFA) so that our member's efforts could be recognized and seniors officers could feel some sense of closure to their FFA careers.

A virtual state FFA convention followed in which members were able to log on and participate. All of us were still praying to have a State Fair at this point, but that was not to be, so enter our Greenbrier and Monroe Youth Livestock organization and volunteers who did a momentous job organizing a virtual sale for member's market animal projects. We cannot thank them enough for all their efforts for our students.

Agriculture teachers now had to create a plan to accomplish our goals both inside and out of the classroom for our students. We started with Supervised Ag. Experience (SAE) Program visits. These began as normal in person visits, but as the pandemic numbers climbed we decided it was safer for everyone to change to virtual meetings. Advisors made Microsoft Teams appointments

with FFA members, who used their Chromebooks or phones to take us on a virtual tour of their SAE projects. No it's wasn't the same, but it helped us make and maintain connections with our students and helped them continue to expand their knowledge and skills.

As the beginning of the school year neared, we were asked to develop lessons which could be downloaded to student's computers. None of us knew how often we would see our students in person and we wanted to ensure they had the same lessons and information we would have covered in any normal school year. The Agriculture teachers in Greenbrier County worked together creating units which would not only deliver the material to students, but which would engage them in learning- including hands on activities which could be done in the classroom or at home.

A good example is the Floriculture class. Beth Massey teaches this course at Greenbrier East. Students learn the art of floral production and design and the business concepts of managing a floral business. The majority of this class is hands on, so she had to completely rethink how to accomplish it. She created videos of each skill and loaded those to the Google classroom. The second step was working with a local florist to arrange for students to pick up floral materials for each lesson. Students watched the video, asked questions and discussed the tasks on Google meetings and then video themselves completing the task, sending it to the assignment site on their Google classroom. Since about 80% of the students in this class are remote learners this has worked great, and students are learning so much. Others who are in person learners also watched the videos prior to class so



Beth Massey teaches floriculture virtually.

that they had time during the shortened class period to complete their hands on tasks. Learning by doing is such an important part of what our program does that finding these innovative ways of delivering lessons is so important.

We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to having all our students back together soon. We have been able to bring our small animals back to campus, since teachers can now come to the school to care for them even if we are in the red, and the livestock class is preparing our barn for pigs, goats, and calves. The agricultural mechanics students have been in the shop the entire year learning and perfecting welding, electrical, engine and plumbing techniques, and natural resources is great at social distancing in the woods behind the school learning tree ID and timber cruising skills.

As we move towards what we consider normal, it's amazing to look back and think about the new skills teachers and students have learned and will be able to utilize in the long run. We are better prepared for our global online world, communication skills using multiple media platforms has improved dramatically and we have realized in the face of great challenges we are all capable of overcoming these obstacles. Most importantly learning has continued and students are preparing for their futures.

Hurley, Hanna awarded 2020 American FFA Degree



Jack Hanna



Mary Hurley

GEHS FFA members Mary Hurley and Jack Hanna have reached for the stars for the last six years by investing time, labor, and money into their businesses and jobs.

For their efforts, they have joined the 1% of over 600,000 FFA members nationwide by earning the

golden key of the American FFA Degree. These members have worked for 5 years to accomplish this goal in the classroom, in FFA Leadership activities and in their Supervised Experience Programs.

We know the future is bright for these Greenbrier East FFA members!



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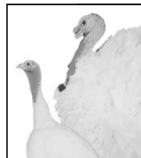
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2020-2021 FFA Officers Named

The 2020-2021 Greenbrier East FFA Officers have been named for the 2020-2021 school year.

Senior Officer Team:



President – Zach Ellis



Secretary – Carmen Fogus



Sentinel – Morgan Wade



Chaplain – Autumn Eskins

Assistant Officers:

- Assistant Vice President – Devan Sacra
- Assistant Secretary – Mason Kincaid & Savannah Tincer
- Assistant Reporter – Lindsey Whitt
- Assistant Treasurer – Anthony Wylie
- Assistant Sentinel – Bryce McCallister
- Assistant Parliamentarian – Destiny Ballard
- Assistant Historian – Dana Mason
- Assistant Chaplain – Emma Kesterson

This group of amazing young people has taken on a huge task, and they are doing an amazing job. Officers have not been able to have a club meeting for the entire chapter, the first one is planned for FFA week as a virtual meeting, but they have had several officer meetings with some of them in person and others on virtual meetings. They have also worked to design online activities students can participate in, including a YouTube channel and Google classroom club room, along with online participation in the state and national FFA conventions and FFA week activities during in person classes and in virtual Google classroom meetings. They are to be congratulated on their efforts and stepping up to serve their fellow members during this challenging time.



Vice Presidents – Autumn Radford & Brianna Wykle



Reporter – Allison Wickline



Parliamentarian – Hanna Brown



Vice Presidents – Autumn Radford & Brianna Wykle



Treasurer – Mikayla Brown



Historian – Olivia Simms

2020 FFA Awardees Named

Eight members earned the State FFA Degree – Zach Ellis, Grace Morgan, Autumn Radford, Autumn Eskins, Hannah Brown, Mikayla Brown, Skye Holley and Allison Wickline. Members also excelled in Proficiency awards at the state and National Level.

- Zach Ellis won the state first place in Diversified Ag. Production and placed at the Bronze Level nationally, chapter first and state second place in Ag. mechanics design and fabrication, chapter first and state second place in poultry production, and chapter first and state first in vegetable production.
- Allison Wickline took first in chapter and second at state level for small animal care and production.
- Kiah Hill won chapter first place and second place in state div. livestock.
- Hannah Brown won chapter first place and fourth place in state for swine production.
- Jaycee Taylor won first place in the chapter and second place in the state for goat production.
- Jarrett Bennett won chapter first place for beef production.
- Destiny Ballard won chapter first place for specialty animal production.
- Cassidy Kellison won chapter first place in sheep production.
- Anthony Wylie won chapter first place in Beef Prof. Placement.
- Nick Thomas won chapter first place in Ag. Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Placement.
- Tyler Massie won first place in the chapter for Goat Production.
- Skye Holley won first place for Chapter Ag. Sales Placement.
- Star First Year Members: Jagger McNeely and Karys Jones
- Star Greenhands: Carmen Fogus and Tyler Workman
- Star Chapter Farmer: Zach Ellis
- Star Leadership Award: Kiah Hill, Tyler Massie
- Star in Agricultural Placement: Skye Holley and Nick Thomas
- Star Entrepreneurship Award: Jarrett Bennett
- Honorary Chapter Degree Recipients: Martina Nutter, Joe Massey, Jacob Massey, and Lewis and Kathy Kincaid. This degree is awarded to community members who have provided outstanding service to the FFA Chapter.

Ag students make their own butter



The Introduction to Agriculture students began learning about food processing. They discussed the scientific principles and then practiced them as they processed their own butter.

LEGAL

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

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until 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 deferment, delay or postponement and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened.

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

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

LEGAL

THE GREENBRIER COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE HAS AN OPENING FOR AN OFFICE DATA ENTRY/DESK CLERK. APPLICANTS MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER-RELATED TASKS AND CAPABLE OF ASSISTING TAXPAYERS AND THE PUBLIC. DUTIES WILL BE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO TAX MAP DIGITIZING WITH COMPUTER-RELATED TECHNOLOGY. ANY PREVIOUS REAL ESTATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARY. APPLICANTS MUST BE ABLE TO PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK. APPLICATIONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR TWO WEEKS AND CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE OR MAILED TO:
JOE DARNELL, ASSESSOR OR JOE DARNELL, ASSESSOR
P.O. BOX 881 912 COURT ST. NORTH
LEWISBURG, WV 24901 LEWISBURG, WV 24901
**JOE DARNELL
GREENBRIER COUNTY ASSESSOR**

LEGAL

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TUCKER COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE MATTER OF CHANGE OF NAME FROM
Megan Alexander Lindsey
TO Megan Alexandra Lindsey**

Civil Action No. 21-D-27
**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDING**
Family Court of Greenbrier County, West Virginia
Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of March, 2021, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., or on said day, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Megan Alexander Lindsey will apply by Petition to the Family Court of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, for the entry of an order by said Court changing his name from Megan Alexander Lindsey to Megan Alexandra Lindsey, at which time and place any interested party may appear and be heard, if they so desire.
You are hereby notified that this matter may be rescheduled without further notice or publication.
A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerks' office at: 200 North Court Street, Lewisburg, WV.
Entered by the Clerk of said Court this 16th day of February, 2021.
Louvonne Ar buckle
Greenbrier County Circuit Clerk
By: *Melinda McCay*
Deputy Circuit Clerk

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 4, 2021
Via Teleconference due to Covid-19 Pandemic
For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall 304-645-2080 by 4:00 March 4, 2021
The City of Lewisburg Planning Commission will hold a working session on Thursday March 4, 2021 at 5:30 followed by a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 to discuss the following.
Agenda:
1. Call to Order:
2. Approval of the Minutes: February 4, 2021.
3. Comments from the Public:
4. Review and discuss sign regulations:
5. Determine next LUSD Clinic.
6. Adjournment:
7. Call to Order: March Regular Session Meeting
8. Public Hearing: Conditional Use Permit Civitas Hospitality Group, 121 Stratton Alley Suite #9. Application for outdoor dining and beverages served with alcohol on the outside patio.
9. Comments from the Commission Members.
10. Comments from the Zoning Officer.
11. Adjournment:
The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Planning Commission will be held Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00, with a deadline of Friday March 12, 2021.

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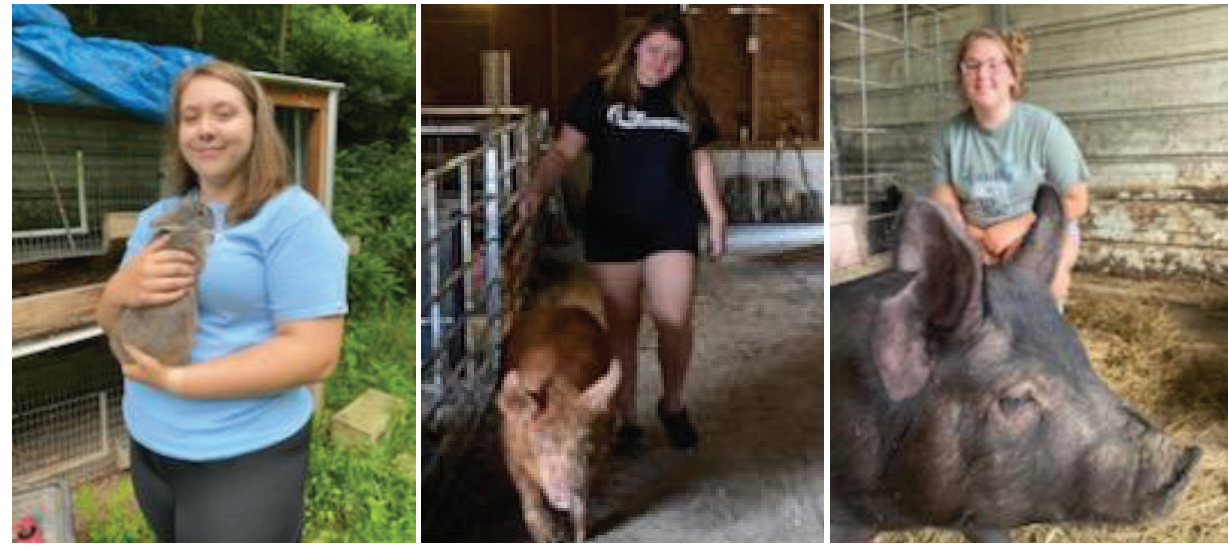
344 Court St., Lewisburg, WV 24901



HAPPY NATIONAL FFA WEEK!

FEB. 20-27, 2021 | #FFAWEEK

Supervised Agricultural Experience helps FFA students gain skills



In agricultural sciences and FFA we believe in learning by doing. We put this to work literally as students select one or more Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs. Out of class students continue to learn skills in production agriculture, agricultural business, community service, and so much more. Livestock and small animal science projects make up about 80% of the SAE's for students at Greenbrier East. Others include vegetable and flower production, lawn care, wood lot management, placement jobs and service projects. These students work hundreds of hours each year to continue growing the knowledge and skills.

Members also keep detailed records of their finances, skills and experiences so that we can utilize that information to help them learn

to evaluate outcomes and adjust or change goals to accomplish a better end product or experience.



Dana Mason focuses on 'Learning to Serve' by helping community

In the FFA and Agriculture Science Program we hold three principles high in priority— Learning and Doing, Earning to Live and Living to Serve. It's in our motto. We learn information and practice those skills by doing them, learn how to be a productive citizen and earn what we get and how to serve others with the talents and skills we possess.

Dana Mason, a junior and 3rd year member, is a great example of our living to serve goal. As the pandemic hit, Dana realized there were people in need. He worked with his family and helped organize volunteers, find donations and use those to purchase and deliver food to hundreds of people in the Greenbrier Valley. The Feeding Seniors Saving Businesses program was a huge success, and Dana personally spent more than 500 hours over several months helping make sure those who needed to stay home to be safe, didn't go hungry.



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Questions to ask before booking a photographer



Wedding photography is one of the essential elements of a wedding and helps tell the story of couples' special day. Asking key questions can help couples find a photographer who will produce the desired results.

Various components combine to make weddings beautiful and memorable. Couples rely on photographers to capture the smiles and moments that helped make their events unique and to ensure the big day is remembered for years to come.

The trusted wedding resource The Knot notes that an internal study found that, among 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, an average of \$2,400 was spent on a wedding photographer to document their big day.

Couples who want to find the best photogra-

pher for their wedding day can ask several questions before making their final decision.

What style do you specialize in?

Photographers may be able to shoot various styles of photos, but may specialize in a specific type. For example, some photographers specialize in photojournalism, while others may excel at portraiture. Going with a photographer who has the most expertise shooting the style you prefer will help produce the desired results.

Who will be shooting my wedding?

Certain photography studios have several photographers working under one roof. Just because you meet with one does not necessarily mean that photographer will be on site, unless it is specified in the contract.

Have you ever worked at my venue before?

Photographers may be familiar with several local wedding venues and houses of worship. A photographer who has experience working in the locations where couples

will tie the knot and subsequently celebrate might produce the best results, but lack of experience with particular venues need not exclude other professionals.

Can we see a full gallery of a recent wedding?

According to Brides magazine, unlike an album or a highlight gallery, a full gallery provides a better sense of a photographer's style and attention to detail.

Will photos be color balanced and retouched?

Skilled photographers are capable of capturing winning photos. But photos can be enhanced further in the studio with retouching software to bring out specific effects. Some photographers will polish all proofs, while others only will work on the images ultimately ordered. Confirm retouching details before signing the contract.

What's included in the photo packages?

A detailed price list helps you compare one photographer to another and decide which elements are covered. Additional prints, having a photographer's assistant, ordering albums for the parents, or ordering a large framed print can alter costs significantly. Explore all prices to en-

sure you're getting the best value. In addition, consider how many hours of event coverage are included in the price.

What is the payment timeline?

Photographers may ac-

cept deposits for their services but expect a different timeline of payment. Some may require payment in full before the wedding, while others may offer a payment plan that includes a final payment when picking up proofs or albums.



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Honeymoon REGISTRY

Many couples who are planning to get married have lived together during the engagement period or even longer. A Pew Research Center study found that about two-thirds of married adults who lived with their spouses before they were married say they saw cohabitation as a step toward marriage. According to Brandon Gaille Small Business & Marketing Advice, 65 percent of couples who get married live together at some point before their weddings. Individuals who live together must outfit their homes with furniture and other essentials, including kitchen supplies. That means that couples may already own traditional wedding registry gifts like kitchen and bath items and accessories. Brides- and grooms-to-be can think creatively when registering for gifts if they already have many of the items found on traditional registries. Target has partnered with HoneyFund, a free honeymoon registry and cash wedding gift registry, to allow couples to register for honeymoon travel and other experiences. Honeymoon registries can be great ways for couples who already own household items to simplify the process of gift-giving for their wedding guests.

*Yours...
Mine...
Ours?*

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COVID-19 guidelines will be followed in each venue.