

Mountain Messenger

February 27, 2021

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

Mountain Messenger launches app

All Mountain Media content now viewable in one convenient place

By Sarah Richardson

The Mountain Messenger has recently launched a new app to make catching up on your news easier than ever! With local, state, and national news categories, readers can also sort their content by state, by newspaper, or by county. With up-to-date content being posted throughout the week, it's simple to stay in-the-know and up-to-date with your community.

In West Virginia alone, Mountain Media owns and operates the Mountain Messenger, Pocahontas Times, Clay County Free Press, and Parsons Advocate. Mountain Media also publishes eight newspapers across Virginia: The Enterprise, Fincastle Herald, Henry County Enterprise, New Castle Record, the Vinton Messenger, Salem Times-Register, News Messenger, and Radford News Journal. All of these papers are now available through just one app.

"I believe it is important to be able to access regional news in a user-friendly way," said Publisher Michael Showell. "Our app makes it easy for everyone to know what is going on both in their community and across the state. Community news is important in every city, and to have it all accessible in one place is vital."

To download the app, simply visit www.mountain-messenger.com on your phone's browser. A pop-up will appear at the bottom of the screen with a link to instructions to download the free app. Follow our step-by-step guide for full installation information.



WVSOM predoctoral students assist at vaccination sites throughout state

When Bridgett Morrison, D.O., health officer for the Greenbrier County Health Department in Ronceverte, needed volunteers to assist with the department's weekly large-scale community COVID-19 vaccination clinics, she knew who to ask.

"We're at a pivotal point in history, and in order to end the pandemic we need a lot of manpower," Morrison said of her decision to request the support of students from her own alma mater, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM). "Who better to help us than the medical students who will be providing care for our communities moving forward? It was a perfect fit."

The Greenbrier County Health Department is one of many public health organizations throughout West Virginia where WVSOM predoctoral students, along with students from other health education institutions, are helping to ensure the vaccine makes it into the arms of those who need it. Aspiring physicians in the school's

See "WVSOM" Page 2



WVSOM students have been assisting in administering COVID-19 vaccines in the area. (Photo courtesy of WVSOM)

Rainelle Town Council notes no new chief of police, NPR covers flooding issues

By Bobby Bordelon

No new chief of police, national news coverage, lack of candidates to fill Town Council seats, and potential progress on ordinances were the subjects of the Monday, Feb. 22, Rainelle Town Council meeting.

Due to technical difficulties, the council meeting was not shared via video on the Town of Rainelle Facebook page. Instead, the meeting was streamed to Councilmember Ron Fleshman's personal social media account.

A new Rainelle chief of police has still not been recruited to the town.

"We have a couple of prospects, I spoke with some people, but nobody is willing to take the reins yet," said Acting Mayor Bill Bell. "... We've been leaning on the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department, they're doing a marvelous job."

After Greenbrier County 911 Director Mike Honaker approached Town Council for training in the county's new emergency response system, council agreed someone in the currently vacant department should be trained in the software. As a result, the police department's office manager was sent.

...

Rainelle received national press, noted Councilmember and mayoral candidate Jon Wyatt, as part of a segment on governmental response to flooding.

"A reporter from NPR was here Tuesday and did in-

terviews with a couple of people," Wyatt said. "We were on national news this morning ... and it was all positive, most of it was positive from what I heard."

The segment, featuring interviews with locals Aaron Trigg, Jon Wyatt, and Matthew Eby, can be found at npr.org under the headline "A Looming Disaster: New Data Reveal Where Flood Damage Is An Existential Threat."

...

Another project in the works is an ordinance allowing four-wheelers on the streets in town. Although previous talk around a four-wheeling trail would not be included here, this potential ordinance would be unrelated.

"It has come with a little concern from a few citizens," Bell said. "... One of those concerns is [that] we know all the legalities. They have to be legal, just like state law says. We're not putting anything in that isn't already there, but I would have to ... agree that there would be a time frame so you don't open Pandora's box and it's the middle of the night with four wheelers going down the streets."

...

No new progress has been made on the Rainelle Visitor's Center. Previously Bell noted increased production costs had the project paused. This month, Bell said "we've got to make a move right-quick-like. We're going to put that on hold for right now."

...

Two more write-in candidates are still needed for seats on the Town Council, with only three candidates signed up for the five total seats. Bell emphasized "it's not too late to sign up to run for office in this community. You can sign up as a write in. I'm encouraging someone - there's still two vacant spots that you can get signed up for. All spots are available through a write in campaign."

...

Potential revision to the distribution of town fees in order to better care for the street was discussed, with councilmembers noting they had the power to change the policy through ordinance due to the fees originally being enacted by ordinance.

Judge again denies Smith-Allen bond, April murder trial expected

By Bobby Bordelon

The murder trial of Edward Smith-Allen is "hopefully" moving forward in April, noted Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent during a Tuesday, Feb. 23, motions hearing denying Smith-Allen bond.

Smith-Allen was indicted by a grand jury in October 2019 for the murder of Alaisia M. Smith in Dorie Miller Park in Lewisburg.

Previously, Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent pushed the trial back from the original December 2020 date due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the county. The number of people required to come to the courthouse during jury selection seemed too high while the county was still in the red category of the Harvard COVID map.

"This is a case I'm going to prioritize for purposes of the trial docket," said Dent. "I do believe that we are going to be, hopefully, unless something would drastically change regarding the pandemic, ... in a posture where we could go forward with a trial in April. That may be with some restrictions as far as social distancing, masks, etc, which we can talk about closer to that date, but this is a case that ... needs to remain on the trial docket."

Pre-trial hearings set to reconfirm jury instructions and make preparations for a COVID-19 jury selection before the new April trial.

Before the Tuesday hearing, defense attorney Christopher Faerber filed a second motion for consideration of bond and home incarceration for Smith-Allen. The first motion for bond was denied in June 2020, where Faerber asked he be placed on a \$10,000 bond, released to the custody of his father, and placed in the Fayette County Home Incarceration program, citing his lack of previous criminal history.

"We filed the motion to reconsider primarily based on the fact that Mr. Smith-Allen has multiple places in Greenbrier County where he can now serve home confinement," said Faerber. "Over the past year we did not have that possibility for the court."

In presenting the motion in Tuesday's hearing, Faerber also noted his circumstances had changed recently.

"Mr. Smith-Allen's father just passed away as well

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Legislature round up sees many bills passed through WV House and Senate

By Bobby Bordelon

Over the past week, the West Virginia Legislature has sent two bills to Governor Jim Justice to consider over the past week, as well as a countless number of bills passing from the Senate to the House of Delegates or vice versa.

House Bill 2358, "updating meaning of federal adjusted gross income and certain other terms used in West Virginia Personal Income Tax Act," and House Bill 2359, "updating the meaning of federal taxable income and certain other terms used in the West Virginia Corporation Net Income Tax Act," were passed by both the House and Senate, and are waiting to be signed by Governor Jim Justice. Local representatives, including Senators Stephen Baldwin and Jack Woodrum, as well as Delegates Todd Longanacre and Barry Bruce all voted yea.

House Bill 2264, sponsored by Longanacre, would create hospital exemptions from certificate of need, and was passed 61 yeas to 37 nays, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

Delegate Barry Bruce has sponsored several bills, including:

- House Bill 2003, seeking to qualify the "authority and obligations" of the governor during a state of preparedness and emergency. Passed House, with Bruce and Longanacre voting yea.

- Senate Bill 11 would add language to the state code making any "collective bargaining, mediation, or arbitration, and any work stoppage or strike by public

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Parts failure temporarily shuts down power in Greenbrier County

By Bobby Bordelon

Ice storms in West Virginia caused concern for residents after power outages occurred across the Mountain State that were similar to those seen in Texas on Sunday, Feb. 21. However, most of the lines have been repaired as of Monday, Feb. 22.

Greenbrier County Emergency Management Assistant Director Paula Brown explained the outages:

"The [Sunday outage] was just a parts/system failure at a Mon Power substation that cascaded into numerous failures from Pocahontas County to Lewisburg to Clintonville," she said. "All of the 'grey-outs' we had that appeared to be Mon Power, but were actually due to a feeder line from APCO/Dominion are now resolved. The major issue was primarily APCO with so many transmission lines down statewide. Those are still being repaired in other counties to get the whole grid back up to full capacity."

The Greenbrier County 911 Center took a number of calls as the power was out, but no serious injuries have been reported. Many of the calls were for those in need of mobile oxygen whose supply ran out.

"Outage at 7 a.m. and full recovery by 12:30 p.m.," wrote Brown. "The only issues that we are aware of are some trailers on the western end (APCO) that were down earlier and just getting the pipes unfrozen."

Across the state, outages are still being reported as crews deal with the damage.

"Power has been restored to 75% of customers who lost service in back-to-back ice storms that hit the state Feb. 11 and 15," announced Appalachian Power in a Feb. 22 press release. "Outages peaked at 97,000 customers and now have dropped to approximately 24,000, with even more customers expected to see power restored before the end of today."

According to Mon Power's outage map (www.firstenergycorp.com/outages_help/current_outages), less than 20 of their roughly 18,000 customers should still be without power in Greenbrier County.

West Virginia Emergency Management (WVEM) asked for anyone without power to call to make a report:

Appalachian Power - 800-956-4237

Potomac Edison or Mon Power - 888-544-4877

In addition, WVEM issued guidance on what to do when a line goes down:

- Immediately report downed wires to your utility company or your local police or fire department.
- Never go near a down power line, even if you think it's no longer carrying electricity.
- Stay more than 30 feet away from down power lines, don't walk or drive

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WVSOM

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Statewide Campus system, where third- and fourth-year students fulfill their clinical rotations in seven regions across the state, are volunteering at clinics to perform tasks ranging from registering patients and preparing doses to administering the vaccine itself and monitoring for side effects immediately after the injection.

Morrison said the school's students have shown an eagerness to help at vaccination clinics.

"They want to be a part of it," Morrison said. "It's interesting to watch them really get into it as the day progresses and they start to understand the gravity of what they're doing. It's exciting for them to see the gratitude of the people getting the vaccines. Students have witnessed patients' family members break down in tears of joy that they're being vaccinated."

Art Rubin, D.O., FACOP, WVSOM's associate dean for predoctoral clinical education, said medical students are in an excellent position to assist local organizations in distributing the vaccine on the scale required to curb the pandemic.

"The development of safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines has been unprecedented compared to previous development timelines, but getting them out to the population is a challenge. The process for delivering the vaccine across a rural state requires a lot of volunteer manpower," Rubin said. "WVSOM's third- and fourth-year students are well located in their Statewide Campus regions to provide this service to local health departments and other clinic sites. Our students have stepped up to the plate and made major contributions to the effort."

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is preparing to launch a system for the state's health sciences professional schools to provide volunteers as West Virginia's vaccine supply increases, Rubin said. Through the Vaccine Administration Collaboration and Support (VACS) program, students will complete online training and be given the opportunity to sign up to help vaccinate the public at sites throughout the state. But even without a formalized process, WVSOM's student

body has shown a willingness to help.

WVSOM's South Central Statewide Campus Region serves the portion of West Virginia spanning from Kanawha County to Mingo County as well as surrounding counties. Since the start of February, 26 students have volunteered at a Charleston, WV, clinic operated by the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. They transported patients, served as registration clerks, screened for COVID-19, assisted with injections and were responsible for sanitization. Additionally, students from the school's Rural Health Initiative - designed to produce graduates who are uniquely qualified to practice medicine in rural and underserved communities - are assisting in a program titled "Wild Wonderful Healthy Logan County" that is working to vaccinate area residents as well as providing community services unrelated to the pandemic.

One student who has devoted time to helping with COVID-19 vaccinations is Nick Yost, a third-year student in the South East Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus, which serves 11 counties and the cities of Beckley, Lewisburg, Summersville, Princeton and Bluefield. By the end of February, Yost will have spent at least 32 hours in 2021 volunteering at the Greenbrier County Health Department's clinics, held on the grounds of the State Fair of West Virginia.

Yost, who has prepared hundreds of doses and administered more than a hundred injections at the site, agreed that vaccination clinics offer students in health care professions a valuable learning experience.

"Before this, I'd only done about a dozen injections, so this has been a chance to get hands-on experience and a great opportunity to learn new things," said Yost, who is one of 12 WVSOM students assisting at the Greenbrier County clinic. "It's also a good way to learn about public health by seeing how professionals from different disciplines collaborate to determine the best way to get the vaccine to the community. We've had nurses, pharmacists, nursing students and medical students working together, critiquing the process at the end of each week

so that we could streamline it the next time."

Yost, a native of Mercer County, WV, also said he found value in giving back to the community in which he lives.

"A lot of the people getting vaccinations are coming to us from where I grew up and from other nearby counties so this is a chance to give back to the part of the state I'm from," he said. "That's important to me, because I want to someday practice in southern West Virginia. These are the people I'll be helping during my career."

As the COVID-19 pandemic passes the milestone of one year since the World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency, WVSOM students are dedicated to playing a role in trying to bring the crisis to an end. Rubin said he expects students to continue to offer assistance as long as it is needed.

"West Virginia's plan has been one of the best in the country, but the timeline for complete coverage of our state is still measured in months," he said. "I'm very proud of our students, who always show West Virginia that they can be counted on to help."

Legislature

Continued from Front Page

employees" illegal in West Virginia. Similar to a bill sponsored by Delegate Todd Longanacre, House Bill 2536, SB 11 has passed the Senate (yea Woodrum, nay Baldwin) and passed first reading in the House.

On the senate side, Baldwin, who serves as the Democratic minority leader, has sponsored over 80 bills. Several of the bills sponsored by Baldwin and the Senate President have been introduced to the legislature on behalf of Governor Jim Justice.

Senate Bill 277 is the COVID-19 Jobs Protection Act, which would "eliminate the liability of the citizens of West Virginia [from] all suits and claims against any persons for loss, damages, personal injuries, or death arising from COVID-19." The bill passed through the Senate (yea Baldwin, yea Woodrum) and is in the House Judiciary.

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. The bill passed through the Senate (yea Baldwin and Woodrum) and is in House Finance.

Senate Bill 272, addressing the "gig" economy of workers, passed the Senate's third reading (yea Baldwin, yea Woodrum), and has been introduced into the House of Delegates.

Bills sponsored by Senator Jack Woodrum have passed the Senate (yea Woodrum and Baldwin) and have been sent to the House. Senate Bill 69 creates a special "choose life" license plate to support adoption, and Senate Bill 66 creates a special revenue fund for the West Virginia University Rifle Team.

Woodrum also sponsored Senate Bill 270, allowing taxation of hotel rooms booked through a "marketplace facilitator," passed the Senate with Baldwin and Woodrum voting yea.

Although not sponsored by local reps, a number of other bills have passed though one house of the legislature, including:

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

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White House moves ahead with PFAS regulatory determination following Capito request

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, applauded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s announcement that it will move forward with publishing the regulatory determination for PFOA and PFOS in the Federal Register. The announcement comes days after Ranking Member Capito sent a letter to White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain regarding this very issue.

"While not uncommon when an administration changes, the rules freeze issued was impeding urgent action in working towards the regulation of forever chemicals in drinking water. I greatly appreciate Mr. Klain's prompt attention, and I'm encouraged by the administration's response to this environmental and public health matter. I'm hopeful we can continue to work together in this way on other issues," Ranking Member Capito said.

Senator Capito has long advocated for EPA to set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, introducing several pieces of bipartisan legislation directing EPA to take such an action. EPA finalized their determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS in drinking wa-

ter in January of this year. The memo sent by Chief of Staff Klain froze publication of EPA's determination and stopped the agency's development of a drinking water regulation. This week's announcement confirms that EPA will move forward with their work.

WVDMV announces expiration extensions for CDL holders

The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (WVDMV) announced this week that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has extended the expiration dates on some Commercial Driver's Licenses and Commercial Learner's Permits. On Feb. 16, the FMCSA issued additional extensions for the following in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- CDLs or CLPs that expired on or after Mar. 1, 2020, are extended until May 31, 2021.
- Waives until May 31, 2021, the 14-day holding period of CLP holders to take the skills test.
- Medical Examiner's Certificates (MECs) issued for a period of 90 days or longer and expired on or after Dec. 1, 2020, are extended until May 31, 2021 (if a CDL or CLP holder is renewing or requesting a duplicate license, a current valid MEC with at least 30 days of validity remaining must be provided).
- Waives until May 31, 2021, the medical downgrade upon the expiration of MECs of CDL or CLP holders whose MECs expired on or after Dec. 1, 2020.

The DMV will continue to offer and honor these federal extensions but encourages WV CDL holders to renew on their regular schedules.

Power Failure

Continued from Front Page

near or over a downed line, and watch out for anything touching the line. If a wire falls on a vehicle, passengers should stay inside until help arrives.

In the Monday COVID-19 press briefing, Governor Jim Justice also thanked all the emergency responders and workers who have been working to restore power.

"I want to send a big thank you to all of the workers that are responding to the damage from the winter storms last week," said Justice. "We in West Virginia, ... we have responded to so much, yet we continue to step up. Our police and our fire and our EMS and our DOH, National Guard, power companies, emergency management, utility companies, and ... it just goes on and on. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

Murder Trial

Continued from Front Page

and we're hoping the court will consider home confinement in Greenbrier County," Faerber said.

Despite this, Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney Patrick Via pushed back.

"The state opposes the motion," said Via. "While it may be true that a condition of now having a suitable place for home confinement maybe true, the fact remains that this case was never suitable for home confinement ever. This is indicted as a murder, we are now right at [two months until] trial. There is no crime in our statutes more serious."

He pointed to Smith-Allen as a public safety threat. "It is alleged and the state expects to show that it was a murder committed with a firearm, which demonstrates the extraordinary community safety issue. ... The allegation here is [that he] shot and killed a teenage girl with a firearm."

Ultimately, Dent sided with the prosecution. "I am going to deny bond in this case," Dent said. "I'll note that we are very close to the trial date, it will remain on the docket."

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.

Legislature

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more requirements be issued a similar license through the relevant West Virginia board. Passed by the House, yeas from Bruce and Longanacre, and is currently in a senate committee.

House Bill 2013, establishing the Hope Scholarship Program, passed the House, with Bruce and Longanacre voting yea, but was sent back to committee after a vote for reconsideration.

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.” Passed Senate, Baldwin and Woodrum voting yea.

Senate Bill 372 sets criteria for graduating a clinical training residency program when accreditation. Passed the Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 67 requires the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council to provide a recommendation to legislative rule making review committees regarding new rules. Passed by the Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 79 creates a new mechanism for adjudication of requests for relocation of parents with children. Passed by the Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 182, authorizing miscellaneous agencies and boards to promulgate legislative rules, was passed by the Senate. Baldwin and Woodrum voted yea.

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 federal funds received for an existing program, for a significant alteration of an existing program, or for the creation of a new program.” Passed by House, with all voting members voting yea.

Senate Bill 296, which repeals legislative and procedural rules which are “no longer authorized or are obsolete,” was passed by the Senate (yea Baldwin, Woodrum)

House Bill 2009 takes aim at funding organizations that operate around politics, prohibiting the withholding of wages for use in “political activities” without the express, written request of the employee. Passed by the House. (yea Bruce, Longanacre)

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. Passed House, all voting members voting yea.

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.” Passed House (Yea Bruce and Longanacre).

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.” Passed House, yea Bruce and Longanacre.

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.” Passed Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 12 creates new rules for county health departments, including allowing a County Commission to remove appointed members. Passed by the Senate - nay Baldwin and yea Woodrum.

House Bill 2253 sets the penalty for lottery ticket forgery and related crimes to a determinate period between one and five years. Passed House, Bruce and Longanacre voting yea.

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.” Passed Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

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.” Passed Senate, yea Baldwin and Woodrum.

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.

Senate Bill 275 relates to the WV Appellate Reorganization Act of 2021, creating an intermediate court in West Virginia. Passed by the Senate, nay Baldwin and yea Woodrum.

Senate Bill 89 would exempt certain kindergarten and preschool programs offered by private schools from registration requirements. Passed by the Senate, with Baldwin and Woodrum voting yea.

Senate Bill 78, correcting erroneous cross-references within this section regarding factors considered in awarding spousal support and separate maintenance, was passed by the Senate with yeas from all voting members.

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Public Meetings

Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

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

Rainelle Town Council

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

Lewisburg Audit Procurement Cmte.

will meet in special meeting Monday, Mar. 1, at 5 p.m. via teleconference. To participate contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25. On the agenda:

- Review of Proposal for Audit for audits of Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021
- Scoring of proposal received
- Recommendation to City Council for auditor

Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Mar. 1, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda items include:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes and Financial Report
- Committee reports
- Old business
- Other business

Greenbrier Co. Planning Commission

will meet Thursday, Mar. 4, at 1 p.m. at the Courthouse. Attend in person (please follow all health and safety protocols) OR *Virtual Meeting Option* *Meeting will be hosted on Zoom. Public can access meeting via: Internet Access: <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/94734260441> (Meeting ID: 947 3426 0441) OR Phone Access: (dial) 1 (646) 558 8656 or 877-853-5257 or 888-475-4499 (Meeting ID: 947 3426 0441). The public may participate in the meeting in person, by phone or Internet. If you have trouble accessing the meeting or clearly hearing or seeing participants, please call 724-366-9076 immediately for assistance. Please be courteous and place your sound on mute while not speaking. On the agenda:

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

Lewisburg Planning Commission

will meet in a working session Thursday, Mar. 4, at 5:30 p.m. via Teleconference. A regular monthly meeting will follow at 7 p.m. to discuss the following. For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4 p.m. Mar. 4. On the agenda:

Working Session:

- Approval of Minutes - Feb. 4, 2021
- Comments from the public
- Review and discuss sign regulations
- Review and discuss Planned Unit Development
- Determine next LUSD Clinic
- Adjournment

Regular Session:

- **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
- Comments from Commission Members
- Comments from Zoning Officer

The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Planning Commission will be held Thursday, Apr. 1, at 7 p.m., with a deadline of Friday, Mar. 12.

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.

Tax Tips

- *Earned Income Tax Credit*
- *Taxable unemployment compensation*
- *Interest is taxable income*
- *Home office deduction*
- *Charitable donation deduction for people who don't itemize*
- *Disasters such as wildfires, flooding or hurricanes*



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For the Record

Deeds

Barbara Jo Nickell to Timothy K. Nickell and Barbara Jo Nickell, Lots C-9, C-10, and C-11, County Club Addition, City of Lewisburg

James Ray Clark and Jesse Allen Clark to Glenn Valcarcel, 1.08 acres, 0.5 acre, 2.25 acres, a parcel, Meadow Bluff District

Harvey J. Whanger and Barbara Meadow to Cody A. Morgan, .38 acre, 4.810 acres, Irish Corner District
Jason Groves and Amanda Groves to Kevin W. Morgan and Jessica A. Morgan, 29,700 square feet, Ronceverte Corporation

DNA Holdings to Robert L. Waugh, 2.64 acres, City of Lewisburg

James R. Booth and Karen L. Booth to Andrew Allemong Payne IV, Lot 16A, The Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur District

Patrick Parker to AP Properties LLC, Lot 13 and the remaining part of Lot 14, Ghent Addition, Town of White Sulphur Springs

Barry S. Legg and Carol J. Legg to Dollie M. Suttle, a parcel, Meadow Bluff District

Patrick R. Hanes and Elizabeth W. Hanes to Appalachian Headwaters Inc., 0.073 acre, City of Lewisburg

Deborah McClintic to Thuy Thinquyen, Lot 18 of Crowfields Circle, Lewisburg Municipal Tax District

Lawrence J. Ickes and Katherine C. Ickes to Brennan Matthew Wood, Lot 11, Block 3 of the Garner-Detch Addition to Lewisburg, Lewisburg Corporate District

Thomas Brooks and Bambi Brooks to Brent Miller, two tracts, Anthony Creek District

Darryl Wayne Austin and Melanie S. L. Austin to Laura Mais and Mark Mais, two tracts, Ronceverte Corporation

Adam Alderman and Kathryn Alderson to Joshua McMillion and Brittany McMillion, Lots 15 and 16, Block 4, Huddleston Hills Addition, Town of White Sulphur Springs

Clyde Judy and Mary Sue Judy, et al, to Gerald Dolan and Carolyn Dolan, 10 acres, Williamsburg District
Bed Properties LLC to Kahsyne LLC, a parcel formerly known as McElhenney Lodge, City of Lewisburg

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Jeremy A. Angle, Shady Spring, 1) failure to electronically register deer, fine \$20; 2) conspiracy to violate chapter withholding information

Tanner E. Farnack, White Sulphur Springs, 1) driving suspended 2nd, fine \$250; 2) no proof of insurance, fine \$200

Isaiah O. Childress, Leslie, domestic battery, fine 0, jail 6 months - suspended and placed on 1 year unsupervised probation

Nichole S. Davis, Rupert, driving suspended, fine \$100

Nichole S. Davis, Rupert, driving suspended, fine \$100

Vernon D. Berkley, White Sulphur Springs. 1) DUI, fine \$100, jail 1 day - time served 1 day; 2) obstructing officer, fine \$50, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation

Bruce Wayne Bryne, Ronceverte, failure to yield, NC, fine \$20

Coleman Andrew McClung, Williamsburg, 1) obstructing an officer, jail 6 months - credit 51 days - remainder suspended when defendant admitted to Rehab Program - placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Justin T. Brown, Lewisburg, improper disposal, NCP, fine \$100

Samuel Lee Green, Prociou, no operators, fine \$25
John D. Neathawk, Quinwood, speeding, NCP, fine \$18

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OPINION

Commentary

Commissioner Leonhardt calls on farmers to utilize Farm-to-Food Bank Tax Credit

West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt is encouraging farmers to consider donating agricultural products under the West Virginia's Farm-to-Food Bank Tax Credit. Passed in 2017, producers who wish to donate fresh, healthy agricultural products to local food banks can earn a tax credit up to \$2,500. The credit can be used against personal income tax or corporation net income tax, but not both.

"Each year, the state allocates \$200,000 for the Farm-to-Food Bank Tax Credit, but only a handful of producers take advantage of the program. We need more farmers to step up to the challenge by donating to West Virginia food banks," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Especially during a pandemic, we all need to do our part to help our neighbors."

The credit is equal to 30% of the value of the donated edible agricultural products to one or more nonprofit food programs in the state. To apply for the credit, a farmer must submit a donation form to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture for verification. That form must be included in taxpayer's tax return to receive the credit.

An application for the tax credit can be found: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Farm-to-Food-Bank-Application.pdf>

For more information, contact Susan Baxter at 304-558-2221 or sbaxter@wvda.us.

Commentary

Why do we have Black History Month?

By Nan Issenberg, Lewisburg

I grew up in the Deep South. Confederate flags and White Only signs were common. I guess we were lucky because our parents taught us that all people are God's children. But still, it was a one color world in our Texas town. White. The only Black person I knew was the church janitor.

When I was about 4, my Daddy drove the janitor home one Sunday. I peeked out over the car window and saw the "colored" section of town. Even at that young age, I was appalled at the poor state of the homes, all rickety and worn out looking.

When I was 17, our Florida high school admitted 10 Black students as a pilot program. This was 14 years after the US Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs. the Board of Education that racial segregation in public schools was illegal.

The "Jim Crow" segregation of my childhood continued on through my teen years. But the 1960s brought an awakening through peaceful Black marches and televised violent attacks on the marchers. In 1964 the Civil Rights Act ended segregation in public places, and banned job discrimination based on color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Voting Rights Act passed in 1965.

I learned later that during my growing years thousands of Black men were lynched for "non-crimes" like allegedly looking at a white woman. Violent attacks on Blacks continue today in the killing of Blacks who are jogging or carrying a cellphone, and countless such "crimes" that a white person would not be stopped for under any circumstances. In some states, Black people still struggle to vote because of a variety of legal and illegal blocks by state governments.

All of this is what I tell folks when someone asks me why we have Black History Month. And so much more: we are remembering the 12 million Africans who were brutally enslaved in America between 1619 and 1865. The Blacks who were lynched for living in a white world. Those who died while fighting for our country. And all those who added to our culture in ways we never knew. One example is Greenbrier County native, Katherine Johnson, who was the main mathematician who figured out how to put men on the Moon in the 1960s. I lived near the Cape when she was working there, but didn't know about the Black women "computers" until the Hidden Figures movie came out.

Black History Month is coming to an end, but there are wonderful and tragic stories to read all year online, and in books at the library and the local book store. Currently the Greenbrier Historical Society has an excellent virtual museum exhibit of slavery in our county. It is time for all of us to learn the lessons of my childhood. All men are created equal.

The *Mountain Messenger* is rerouting the focus of our OPED page back into a more community-oriented publication.

We encourage positive communication between different viewpoints and wish to reject divisiveness and encourage letter writing, and we want that focus to revolve around community encouragement and growth.

When submitting an OPED, please refer to the following guidelines:

- 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 in-



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Commentary

Manchin questions Veterans Affairs official on vaccination distribution

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC), questioned a panel of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials on working with rural states to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and ensuring doses are not wasted, how the recent weather conditions affected the supply and distribution of the vaccine and how the VA is communicating and providing information to Veterans, especially in rural communities.

"I come from the beautiful state of West Virginia, very patriotic with a lot of Veterans and I imagine when the vaccines are approved, some of them will need specific storage temperatures and I would hope you all will take into consideration that in some of the smaller, rural areas don't have the ability to handle that. So when you're deciding what vaccine is going to go to what area, will you make sure that it's matched up with the capabilities of the provider handling the vaccine so it doesn't spoil and is not wasted?" said Senator Manchin in part.

Senator Manchin has been working with the Biden Administration, as well as local and state governments to quickly procure COVID-19 vaccines and ensure that every West Virginian that wants a vaccine can receive one, especially Veterans.

Commentary

West Virginia to receive fifth increase in weekly COVID-19 vaccine allocation

On Wednesday, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) received notification that West Virginia will be receiving a fifth increase in the weekly vaccine allocation.

"As national COVID-19 vaccine production increases, West Virginia continues to see increases in our dose allocation. I was notified this morning that West Virginia will receive another weekly increase of 3,510 Pfizer vaccine doses. This is the fifth consecutive dose increase West Virginia has received since the Biden Administration began pushing for production increases, and I am pleased West Virginia is continuing to benefit from these efforts," Senator Manchin said. "West Virginia continues to lead the nation and the world in safe, effective vaccine distribution and administration. While we work to provide vaccines to every West Virginian who wants one, additional doses are essential. As vaccine production continues to increase and other vaccines are approved by the FDA, I will keep working with the Biden Administration to quickly procure more doses for the Mountain State."

clude 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.

We look forward to harboring a hyper-local forum that highlights ongoing situations in and around our county and home state.

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The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



After a look at several statewide issues in last week's column, this week I will focus closer to home on several local issues.

VETERAN'S NURSING HOME. Good news! We are finally moving forward on building a new veteran's nursing home in southern West Virginia! The money is in the governor's budget, for which I am eternally grateful after several years of hard work, and it will allow us to move forward with construction in Beckley. Now our elderly veterans can stay closer to family and still receive the care they need.

ANTHONY CORRECTIONAL CENTER. Last week, I asked the Department of Homeland Security for an update on construction of Anthony Correctional Center in northern Greenbrier County. It has been closed for several years due to a mold problem. To my chagrin, they have no timetable for construction. Previously, they'd promised to be finished by 2022.

SLUM & BLIGHT PROGRAM. I received several calls from flood survivors accepted into the Slum & Blight program. They were supposed to have their homes/buildings demolished in the program. However, many of them report being suddenly denied. I am digging into the situation to find out why these families are being told something different nearly five years later.

BRIDGES & HOMES. Each week, I continue to work with local citizens on bridge and home rebuilds related to the 2016 flood. For example, a new bridge project is beginning construction in the Meadow River Valley this week. If your project runs into any obstacles, be in touch. I'll help troubleshoot.

COVID. The COVID situation across our region is markedly improved. Our active cases have plummeted! This is wonderful news. Because we're following guidelines and getting folks vaccinated, the virus is being starved of a means to spread. Please do your part to keep that trend moving in the right direction by staying vigilant.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS. I'm hosting several virtual town halls in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to my social media accounts for details. It's very important to me that I be in touch with folks from back home. You send me to Charleston to do what is right, and I rely on your wisdom to discern what the right thing for our communities is.

BILL UPDATE. I mentioned several worrisome bills last week. Unfortunately, they all continue to advance - SB 3 immunity from COVID liability, SB275 formation of a new intermediate court, SB12 removing authority from health departments, and SB13 foster care discrimination.

TRANSPARENCY. An alarming trend has developed this year. In just over two weeks, we've seen half a dozen bills which remove all requirements for public disclosure of meetings/information or make agency information private and not subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). That's not how government is supposed to work; government should be transparent for everyone to see.

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

(Senator Stephen Baldwin is the Minority Leader and a local pastor. Reach him at 304-357-7959 or stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov. Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)

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OBITUARIES

Alma Perry Faulkner



Renick-Alma Perry Faulkner, 95, passed away Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at her home.

Born Jan. 10, 1926, at Auto, she was the daughter of the late Alex and Lucy Fuell Perry.

Alma retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Bruce Faulkner; and by brothers, Dennis and Harold Perry.

Survivors include her daughter, Bonnie Brown of Renick; grandchildren, Tonya R. Brown and husband Roscoe Johnson of Richmond, VA, and Jason P. Brown and wife Vanessa; great-granddaughter, Isabella "Bella" of Churchville, VA; sisters, Irene Snyder of Lewis-

burg, Vera Legg and husband Eddie of Asbury, and Wanda Williams of Renick; brother, Lowell Perry and wife Joanne of Huddleston, VA; numerous nieces, nephews, and special friends and neighbors of Renick.

Graveside rites were held on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in Morningside Cemetery at Renick, where Rev. Jesse Pope officiated. There was no public visitation.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Dianne Elizabeth Linkous



White Sulphur Springs-Dianne Elizabeth Linkous was born to Samuel David and Betty Gra-

ham Sarver on Christmas Eve of 1947 in Bluefield, WV.

Dianne passed from this life at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, WV on Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, John Roger Sarver.

Left to cherish her memory are husband, Bob Linkous; daughter, Lanie Wood (Tony) and grandson, Landen Wood; brothers, Michael Sarver (Jill) and Kevin Sarver; nieces, nephews and special friends, Carolyn Lefler and Teri Veneable.

Nothing gave Dianne more joy than her family, her friends and Christmas. Dianne was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for 46 years and a member of the White Sulphur Springs Junior Women's Club. She loved her "Sisters" in the Sorority and those she worked with. Dianne was a hair stylist in her own beauty salon for 23 years and was employed by The Greenbrier for 20 years.

Her family would like to extend their appreciation and thanks to everyone who has shown concern.

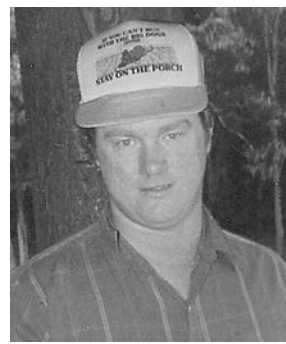
In lieu of flowers the family would like memorial contributions be made on Dianne's behalf to: Dream Tree, c/o Greenbrier Hotel, 101 Main Street West, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986.

Due to Covid 19 regulations and concerns the family will have private graveside services.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Jody A. Campbell



Ronceverte-Jody A. Campbell, 61, passed away Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

He was born Mar. 17, 1959, at Ronceverte, a son of the late Anna Alberta Campbell Mabe and the late Margie Furry, an aunt

who raised him.

Jody was a self-employed carpenter and a fire fighter. He attended Ronceverte Baptist Church when able to do so and was a longtime fire fighter and former Chief of the Ronceverte Volunteer Fire Department. He was an avid coon hunter and loved training dogs for hunting.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his aunt, Margie and uncles, Terry and Delbert Campbell.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Karen Campbell; his children, Christine "Chrissy" Campbell-Butler (Matthew) of Frankford, Sara Campbell (Cody Tucker), Matt Campbell (Lana) and Mike Campbell (Misty) all of Ronceverte; he also had other special children he loved as his own; grandchildren, Brandon, Brittany, Ceara, Ryan, Jakob, David, Ethan and Adam; other special grandchildren he loved; great-grandchildren, Aubree, McKinlee, Jayce and Riley; sisters, Christie Szakacs (Ernie) of Bluefield, VA, Maria Tabor (Cecil) of East Bend, NC, Jennifer Collins (Tommy)

of Pembroke, VA, Jackie Defibaugh (Wayne) and Janet Campbell, all of Ronceverte; brothers, Wayne Mabe (Chris) of Rock, WV, Mark Campbell of Ronceverte and Dale Campbell (Teresa) of Virginia Beach, VA. He is also survived by aunts and uncles, Velma Walton, Drema Mills (Johnny), Buford Campbell (Regina), Rita Campbell and Drea Campbell.

His funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Ronceverte Baptist Church with his uncle, Pastor Buford Campbell and Speaker Craig Terry officiating. Burial will follow in Riverview Cemetery, Ronceverte.

Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Ronceverte Baptist Church in Ronceverte.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Ronceverte Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 35 Ronceverte WV 24970 in his memory.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Honoring women's 'firsts' in Black History Month

Four African American women who were first in their fields are being celebrated by the Greenbrier Democratic Women's Club. There is a public display at Democratic Headquarters in Lewisburg to honor Harriett Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and Misty Copeland. These women, among thousands of others, have changed and enriched American culture from the early 1800s to our time through their courage and leadership.

Harriett Tubman, known as "Mo-

ses" for guiding slaves to freedom, was the first Black woman to serve in the US Army as a spy during the Civil War. Rosa Parks, known for sitting in the "Whites Only" section on a city bus in 1955, was a leader in the Montgomery Bus Boycott which brought about the integration of public transportation in Montgomery, Alabama. Maya Angelou, known for her poetry and many other accomplishments, was the first Black female to work as a San Francisco streetcar con-

ductor during World War II. Misty Copeland, who started ballet lessons at the late age of 13, became the first Black Principal Dancer in the American Ballet Theater's 75-year history.

The display will remain throughout Black History Month. Everyone is invited to view the exhibit and read more about these women's amazing lives. Books are available at the library, Lewisburg bookstore, and through history websites online.

Dear Recycle Lady,



Dear Recycle Lady,

When I receive my prescriptions in the store or delivered, they are packaged in a white paper bag. Are these bags recyclable with office paper?

Shopper

Dear Shopper,

I am happy to say that today most every kind of single-use bag is recyclable. Your white paper bags are recyclable with office paper, a brown paper bags are recyclable with cardboard and single-use plastic bags are recyclable at Kroger or Wal-Mart. Have you considered taking your own bags when shopping, especially at the grocery store? Many sizes and shapes are available that are environmentally friendly. It takes a while to get into the habit of taking your own bags, but it is worth the effort.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have purchased a new washing machine and must find a home for my old one. It still works well, but sometimes it leaves rust spots on sheets or clothing. Do you know of someone who could use this machine (free)? If not, are there any recyclable parts in it that the Recycling Center accepts?

Washer Woman

Dear Washer Woman,

The Recycling Center will take your washer and recycle as much as possible. I don't know of anyone who can use the older washer, but if anyone would like to have it, they can email me, and I will let you know.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Are masks becoming a problem for the environment?

Concerned Environmentalist

Dear Concerned Environmentalist,

Yes, masks are definitely becoming a problem as they are being tossed out and often find their way into our forests, streams, rivers and oceans. Plus, according to Charlotte Green from waste company TradeWaste.co.uk, 53 million masks are sent to landfills every day. Plus, wildlife and marine life are getting tangled up in the ear loops, which can be fatal. Everyone can help by simply cutting the ear loops, then disposing of the mask properly. Reusable, washable masks can help reduce the number of disposal masks.

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.

A Look Back

By William "Skip" Deegans

Pictured in this week's undated photo is White Sulphur Springs native and acclaimed short-sto-



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Photo courtesy of West Virginia University Regional History Center.

ry writer and novelist Margaret Prescott Montague. Montague was born in 1878 in White Sulphur Springs and grew up on

the Oakhurst estate on Big Draft Road. As an adult, she lived in Boston, New York, and Richmond, but returned to Greenbrier County during the summers.

By the time she was 25, Montague was a published author. In 1919, she received the O'Henry memorial award for the best short story, England to America. Several of her stories were about West Virginia. Her awareness of the early logging boom in the Greenbrier River watershed may have led to her novel, Up Eel River.

For many years, she suffered from vision impairments that gave her an understanding of children with physical challenges. She wrote Closed Doors, Studies of Deaf and Blind Children that was supplemental reading at leading universities. Her novel The Lucky Lady served as an inspiration to persons handicapped by poor vision and hearing. Opposed to war, she wrote Uncle Sam of Freedom Ridge in which she advocated for the formation of the League of Nations. She was a frequent contributor to Atlantic Monthly, and at least three of her novels were made into motion pictures. She supported women's rights and was an active member of Richmond's League of Women Voters. Montague died in 1955 and is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Sources: *The Richmond Times-Dispatch, The Boston Globe, History of Greenbrier County by J. R. Cole.*

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MOUNTAIN STATE SPOTLIGHT

WV lawmakers claim eliminating income tax will drive growth. Economists disagree.

By Lucas Manfield for Mountain State Spotlight on Feb. 22

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

Desperate to attract jobs, West Virginia lawmakers made drastic tax cuts. The result was declining investment in education - and stagnant job growth.

That was more than a decade ago. Now, faced with the same problem, state lawmakers want to do it again. Amid a pandemic that has sent the nation into a recession and strained the state's most basic functions, they want to eliminate West Virginia's largest revenue source: the income tax.

This time is different, says Gov. Jim Justice, because eliminating the income tax has "sex appeal."

"We've tried in West Virginia. We have cut taxes on a lot of different things throughout the years, but has it really brought people to West Virginia? The answer is no," Justice said in an interview on the MetroNews radio show Talkline.

"But this will," he said.

But according to economists interviewed by Mountain State Spotlight, it probably won't - and could instead exacerbate the state's problems.

"I wouldn't feel it would be right to advise policymakers that the way to a stronger economy and job growth is to cut state taxes. The evidence is just too weak," said Therese McGuire, a professor at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She's advised state governments from Oregon to New Mexico on tax policy, urging them to avoid the exact mistakes that West Virginia's policymakers are now contemplating.

Story #1: Tax heaven

When people debate the latest changes to West Virginia's tax policy, they tell one of two stories.

Both have the same ending - strong, sustainable economic growth for a state that has long struggled with the devastating booms and busts of an economy dependent on resource extraction.

But their roadmaps for getting there couldn't be more different.

The first is a story about individual preferences. It is embodied by Elon Musk, the California tech titan and founder of Tesla who is frequently cited as the world's richest man - and who no

longer lives in California.

Late last year, Musk announced that he'd moved to Texas - and threatened to bring much of Tesla's operations with him - after expressing his frustrations with California regulations, calling the state "complacent." California's income tax is one of the highest in the nation; Texas, and eight other states, have none.

If Justice and Republican lawmakers have their way, West Virginia could soon be the 10th. They believe income tax cuts will attract business and stem the state's steady population decline as young people flee the state for better opportunities.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, cited Tennessee as a lodestar, noting it was "the number one state in the country where those U-Haul moves went," after the company released data on popular one-way destinations. The state has no income tax and has had one of the highest rates of job growth in the United States over the last decade. It's also home to Nashville, which is routinely listed as one of the most desirable places to live in the country.

Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, said the tax changes would increase the state population by 400,000 over the next decade (which would require either stopping everyone from leaving over that period, or doubling the number of people who move to the state). The population growth, lawmakers argue, will help fill the new hole in the state budget.

The problem with this story - lowering income taxes will drive population growth and, in turn, economic prosperity - is that economists don't think it's true.

"The research on this is very incomplete and ambiguous," said Dan Wilson, vice president of microeconomic research at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. There's no strong evidence to connect higher income taxes with substantial outmigration and economic growth, he explained.

Tim Bartik, a senior economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Michigan, was more blunt.

"It will not create a lot of jobs," he said. And those it does, he explained, will come at a high cost as the government makes cuts to replace lost funding.

It's not tax policy that's driving Tennessee's growth, Bartik said, pointing to major cities like Nashville and other metropolises that have managed to attract a highly-educated workforce. Bartik lived in Nashville for years while working at Vanderbilt.

"It's got a really high level of amenities. It's a really, really neat place to live," he said.

Story #2: Pay more, get less

The second story is much less rosy: the changes to the tax code will exacerbate the very problem they're trying to solve.

The income tax makes up nearly half of the state's budget. In order to pull off this disappearing act, the governor is proposing a 1.5 percentage point increase in the state's sales tax, among other, smaller adjustments to the tax code.

In effect, Sean O'Leary with the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy said, this will shift the tax burden from the rich to the poor. Low- and middle-income households already pay a greater proportion of their incomes in taxes, he explained. This new proposal "makes it a lot more on them."

Unlike the income tax, which is tiered to make it more burdensome on the rich, sales tax applies to everyone equally.

In short, in states without income taxes, the poor pay more.

This story goes like this: the state's previous efforts to reduce the tax burden on businesses have made West Virginia a less appealing place to live for most of its residents.

Tax cuts over the years have resulted in less spending on key services like higher education, or broadband internet. Tuition at the state's universities has increased by a third over the last decade. The result is fewer reasons for young people to stay in West Virginia, instead of moving to, say, Nashville.

And although the state slashed corporate income taxes in 2008, business hasn't boomed. While West Virginia's neighbors have experienced substantial job growth in the last decade - West Virginia has not.

While Republican lawmakers point to Tennessee, O'Leary and Bartik point to Kansas.

In 2012, Kansas passed a sweeping tax cut that then-Governor Sam Brown-

back called "a shot of adrenaline into the heart of the Kansas economy."

Based on model legislation developed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative think tank, the law eliminated some business taxes and cut income taxes.

At the time, Brownback called it "an experiment" and promised it would bring new jobs.

The experiment failed. Five years later, the laws were repealed after the promised jobs failed to appear. Instead, the Kansas economy lagged behind both its neighbors and the nation as a whole, and the loss of revenue led lawmakers to contemplate deep cuts to the state's education and infrastructure budgets.

Republican Don Hineman, the majority leader of the Kansas House of Representatives in 2017, gave a warning to West Virginia: "Do not expect that simply cutting taxes will magically produce economic prosperity. It did not happen in Kansas and it will not happen elsewhere. Things are never so simple," he said earlier this month in an event organized by the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

Why now?

Despite the changes coming during a national public health crisis, Tarr has described the timing of eliminating the income tax as "opportune." Workers, now free to work anywhere, might be lured into choosing West Virginia. Plus, Republicans won a supermajority in the state legislature in November.

The state also has a financial cushion, the governor has argued. Its surplus - \$464 million - can be used to fund future shortfalls.

But this is a mirage. The state's budget has been buoyed by federal pandemic assistance payments and state lawmakers have been robbing federal Medicaid dollars to shore up other holes in the budget - a strategy that will run its course by 2025 when the money dries up.

Past state budgets, O'Leary noted, have a six-year plan. This year's does not. (The Department of Revenue did not return a request for comment.)

Instead of cutting taxes, O'Leary argues, the state should be looking for new sources of revenue, "so we can fund our schools, so we can keep Medicaid solvent, so we can bring down the cost of higher education, so we can give our state employees pay raises, to attract and keep them in the state."

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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.

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- A minimum of six (6) years of experience involving:
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- Experience working in the higher education setting preferred
- Editing, budgeting, excellent interpersonal and social skills.
- Ability to perform assessments to determine program effectiveness.
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	6	7	2	8	1	3	9	4
8	4	9	3	7	6	5	1	2
6	1	5	9	2	3	8	4	7
9	8	2	7	4	5	1	6	3
3	7	4	1	6	8	9	2	5
2	9	1	5	3	4	6	7	8
4	5	8	6	1	7	2	3	9
7	3	6	8	9	2	4	5	1

G	L	O	R	E	A	T	A	S	E	E	V	D
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Legislature

cont. from Page 3

Senate Bill 34, creating exemption to state sales and use tax for rental and leasing of equipment, passed the Senate with yeas from all voting members.

Senate Bill 61, expanding Coyote Control Program through voluntary assessment on breeding cows, passed through the Senate with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

House Bill 2184, increasing penalties for exposing governmental representatives to fentanyl or other drugs, was passed by the House, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

House Bill 2260 deals

with obligations to enter into "performance-based" contacts with child-placing agencies. Passed by the House, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

House Bill 2500 stops local governments from enacting auxiliary container regulations and recycling. Passed by the House, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

House Bill 2094 makes adjustments to restorative justice programs for juveniles. It was passed by the House, with yeas from all voting members.

House Bill 2253 sets the penalty for lottery ticket forgery and related

crimes to a determinate period between one and five years. Passed by the House, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

Senate Bill 216, authorizing Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules, passed the Senate, with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

House Bill 2263 makes changes to pharmacy benefit managers. The House passed the bill with yeas from all voting members.

House Bill 2011 eliminates any time requirements for part time personnel to work during a working year. The bill passed with yeas from all voting members.

House Bill 2005 deals with health care costs, such as providing for healthcare savings cost calculations, violations and legislative rules; providing for price transpar-

ency and a publication of prices; and providing a cost of healthcare appointment prices. Passed by the House, with Bruce and Longanacre voting yea.

House Bill 2001 would create the "West Virginia Jumpstart Savings Program" and was passed by the House with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre.

Senate Bill 9, continuing Licensed Racetrack Modernization Fund, was passed with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 10 changes the date annual racetrack tables game license renewals fee is to October 1. Passed by the Senate with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

Senate Bill 81, revising the West Virginia Uniform Trust Code, was passed by the Senate, with yeas from all voting members.

Southern States raising funds for FFA

Farm supply retailer Southern States Cooperative is holding a month-long fundraiser to help raise money for FFA at the local, state, and national levels.

Southern States is holding its annual FFA Paper Emblem campaign throughout the month of March where customers can donate \$1 or more at check-out and sign their name on an "I'm Supporting FFA" emblem that will be displayed in the store's window.

"Southern States is proud to support the effort to help FFA and ultimately the young farmers that are involved in this great organization," says Jeff Strobberg, President and CEO of Southern States. "These young farmers are the future of food production and this past year we all saw what happens when our food supply chain gets disrupted - everyone is affected. This great organization makes an enormous difference in the lives of these future farmers."

Half of all funds collected will benefit a local FFA chapter in the community; the other half will benefit the National FFA Foundation. Ten percent of all donations will go to the state FFA Association.

The campaign kicks off March 1st. For more information and participating locations, visit southern-states.com/FFA.

Southern States Cooperative sells farm and home supplies, including fertilizer, seed, livestock feed, animal health supplies, propane and lawn care supplies.

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

The Country Roads Cooperative (Greenbrier, McDowell, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Summers, Webster, Wyoming) is inviting bids for the following for our Child Nutrition Departments as of July 1, 2021: **ITEM:** Food and Cafeteria/Kitchen Supplies **Period:** July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (may be rolled over twice) **Bid Opening:** Friday, March 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m. SESC Office 214 N. Kanawha Street Beckley, WV 25801 **Bid Due Date:** Prior to 12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2021 **Bids are to be mailed to:** Linda D. Knott, Chairperson Country Roads Food Cooperative Director of Student Services Summers County Public Schools 116 Main Street Hinton, WV 25951

Bids may also be hand delivered in a sealed envelope prior to 12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2021.

ENVELOPE SHOULD BE PLAINLY MARKED: "Food and Cafeteria/Kitchen Supplies Bid Quote"

For Food and Cafeteria/Kitchen Supplies application, please contact Linda D. Knott, Chairperson Country Roads Food Cooperative and Summers County Director of Student Services at 304-466-6006 or lknott@k12.wv.us.

LEGAL

Request for Bids

The Greenbrier County Commission is seeking sealed bids for an asbestos containing materials (ACM) abatement and demolition/debris removal project located in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The work to be completed includes the furnishing of all supervision, labor, materials, machinery, tools, supplies, equipment, services and appurtenances including utilities and transportation necessary for the complete and satisfactory ACM abatement and subsequent demolition/debris removal of the Greenbrier County Jailhouse located at 920 Court Street N. in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, as well as complete removal of the foundation associated with the Greenbrier County Courthouse - Former Extension Office, located on Court Street N. in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia. Removal of the Former Extension Office structure will be completed by others.

The project includes ACM abatement (1 structure), to be completed by a licensed ACM abatement contractor. The Greenbrier County Jailhouse has been inspected for ACM and five (5) confirmed ACM have been identified for proper removal and disposal. Results of the asbestos inspections will be made available to all bidders.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Greenbrier County Jail house on March 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. All interested contractors, or their representatives, must be present to be eligible to bid. Bids will be accepted at the Greenbrier County Courthouse until 4:00 p.m., March 8, 2021. All bids submitted will be opened at the Greenbrier County Commission meeting on March 9, 2021. The Greenbrier County Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Information for bidders and other related documents will be available at the pre-bid meeting. For further information, contact Kelly Banton at 304-647-6689 or email to kelly.banton@greenbriercounty.net.

Volleyball 4 Autism Sponsors needed for teams forming

Students in New River Community and Technical College's Browning Social Services Club are working through the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for their annual fundraiser for The Un-Prescription, Volleyball 4 Autism. Teams are forming and sponsors are needed for the event on Saturday, Apr. 10, at Memorial Baptist Church, 1405 S. Kanawha Street, Beckley.

"Volleyball 4 Autism is a culmination of what our social services students have learned. We've faced additional challenges during the past year, because of COVID-19, which forces us to be more creative in our efforts," said New River CTC Assistant Professor of Social Services Dr. Kelli White. "The event helps our students to take the things that they've learned and put them into

practice, to go beyond what they've read in books. They have been able to plan and organize, to write grants and to follow up with donors. It's a great experience for them, and we see former students come back to help and participate."

White started Volleyball 4 Autism over a decade ago to help provide more families with access to diagnostic services through Autism Health. Now, college students run the fundraiser.

Autism Health and the nonprofit, The Un-Prescription, has helped hundreds of families by providing natural approaches to treat underlying medical problems that can cause difficult behaviors and aggression, sleep problems, constipation, delayed language and poor social skills. The center, based in Beckley,

currently serves patients from 16 states, but funds raised through Volleyball 4 Autism help West Virginia families.

Registration for teams of eight is \$100 if registered by Mar. 29 or \$150 at the door, and the 2021 event will have two divisions, one for those who play regularly and one for those with less experience. T-shirt sponsorships are available for \$100, now through Mar. 31.

The 2021 tournament will kick-off at 9 a.m. with the battle for the net challenge between the West Virginia State Police and the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department and Jan-Care and the Beckley Police Department.

For additional information on Volleyball 4 Autism, to register a team, donate or sponsor the event email volleyball4autism@gmail.com.

GCS Welcomes Middle & High School Students Back

Following West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) guidance, Greenbrier County Schools will welcome in-person middle and high school learners back to the classroom five days a week with a ninety-minute early release beginning Monday, March 1.

In keeping with WVDE guidance, high schools will continue full-time in-person learning through the end of the school year, returning to fully remote learning only if the county is in the red category on the WVDHHR County Alert Map. Elementary and middle school learners will continue full-time attendance with a 90-min-

ute early release for the remainder of the school year regardless of map status. Pre-K will attend 4 days/week. The ninety-minute early dismissal for all grades allows time for daily sanitization protocols and remote learning duties.

"We have been looking forward to this opportunity with great anticipation," states Greenbrier County Superintendent Jeff Bryant. "Our community has moved in a positive direction with regard to the COVID-19 infection rate, making it possible for our middle and high school students to return to our classrooms for in-person instruction five days a week. We can't wait to welcome them back on Monday," continues Bryant.

While remote learn-

ing will continue to be an option for families, the school system encourages remote students, especially those who are failing, to return to in-person learning. Remote students who want to transition back to in-person instruction may contact their school principal to coordinate their return. West Virginia Virtual students will complete the semester virtually.

All schools in the county will continue to exercise the recommended mitigation strategies, including mandatory mask-wearing for all staff and students, handwashing, social distancing measures, limiting visitors, and sanitizing daily. In positive COVID-19 case identification instances, Greenbrier County Schools will continue its current practice of contact

tracing, quarantining, and closing classrooms and schools as needed.

"We appreciate the ongoing support from our students, families, and staff as we have made necessary scheduling adjustments throughout the school year. We understand that it has been challenging and we want our school community to know that we appreciate their patience and flexibility. We all continue to have the best interest of students at heart," concluded Superintendent Jeff Bryant.

The school system has also announced adjustments to the school calendar. March 29, 30, 31, and April 1 will now be in-person learning days. These dates were previously listed on the calendar as remote learning days.

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 May 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
005	*1505318	S389-REC/AL-21 00	STP-2021(018)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-9 RECALL STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, NICHOLS, OTHER

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

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

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

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

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

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Elected officials are looking to make big changes

The West Virginia Legislature is considering taking Greenbrier County legal ads and public notices out of the Mountain Messenger and onto a state government-controlled website in Charleston.

- Delinquent tax lists
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- Voting changes
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- Project bids
- Family court
- Government budgets
- Government financial statements
- Zoning changes and other public notices

Contact your legislator today and tell them you want your legal ads and public notices in the Mountain Messenger:

- Stephen Baldwin**
(304) 357-7959
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- Jack Woodrum**
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- Barry Bruce**
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- Todd Longanacre**
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KEEP YOUR LEGAL ADS IN GREENBRIER COUNTY



New River CTC's paramedic graduates at the college's Advanced Technology Center, Ghent. Pictured: Front Row: Christopher Vanderhans (left), Samantha Crewey, Lindsey Hamblin, and David Harrison; Back Row: Walker Jungers (left), Matthew Dickens, Jericho Cresong, Joshua Armstrong, and Casandra Newhard. (Not pictured: Sylvia Lewis)

New River CTC's EMS program receives scholarships and celebrates student success

The West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services has awarded New River Community and Technical College's Emergency Medical Services program fifteen \$1,500 scholarships for current Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) students. The scholarships will help with tuition costs, testing fees and program administration.

New River CTC's AEMT program builds on the EMT-B certification creating a pathway for those working in the emer-

gency medical services field to continue their education at New River CTC to gain paramedic certification and earn an associate degree.

In January, New River CTC paramedic candidates tested for their National Registry Paramedic Psychomotor exam at the college's Advanced Technology Center in Ghent along with two AEMT students.

"Because COVID-19 has made it difficult for many to test, we opened these tests up to the public. Some of the candidates

we tested lived six hours away," said New River CTC Director of EMS Programs Travis Copenhaver. "We are thrilled that all of our students passed their exam. They have given the last year of their lives and overcome so many challenges with COVID-19 and the efforts to get them to this point."

After the students pass their cognitive exam, they will be credentialed in their respective state.

Due to the need for EMT-B providers in West Virginia, the

college is expanding class offerings for EMT-B training through workforce education. The next classes will begin Mar. 1 in Ghent, Lewisburg and Summersville.

Registration for the paramedic certificate program starting in August will open Mar. 1 and continue through Apr. 15. New River CTC offers paramedic classes in Ghent, Lewisburg and Summersville. Online program information sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 2 at 6 p.m. and Thursday, Mar. 4 at 10

a.m. To register for the Tuesday session, visit https://newriver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tNkMaaAcRqie52qY41iJLg and to register for the Thursday session, visit https://newriver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sv50G2T2C20xqtWY9DbA.

For more information about EMS programs at New River CTC, visit www.newriver.edu, email admissions@newriver.edu or call 866-349-3739. Information on EMT-B training can be found online at www.newriver.edu/workforce/.

NRCTC Foundation accepting scholarship applications

New River Community and Technical College Foundation is accepting scholarship applications from Feb. 24 until Apr. 5. The scholarship application is available online at www.nrctcf.org. Scholarship funds may be used to help students pay for college tuition, books, and expenses. Scholarships will be awarded during the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters.

"Scholarships are often crucial to students' success in college. Now is the time to apply for next year," said New River CTC Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and College Foundation Michael Green.

New students, current students, and graduating high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Most scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000 and are based on criteria including financial need, program of study, academic merit, and community service.

Scholarship information will help students navi-

gate the online application and answer questions about the scholarship process. The webinars also will provide information about financial aid, letters of recommendation, and writing scholarship essays.

The scholarship information webinars will be at 10 a.m. on Mar. 9, at 2 p.m. on Mar. 16, and at 6 p.m. on Mar. 23. To register for a scholarship webinar, visit www.newriver.edu.

"Especially following a difficult year, scholarships can provide a support system for students who otherwise may not be able to achieve their academic and career goals. We are so thankful to the Foundation's generous donors who make these scholarships possible," Green said.

New River CTC Foundation provides \$125,000 in student scholarships each year.

For more information, contact 304-929-6734 or foundation@newriver.edu.

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304.647.4406

NEW LOCATION:
3115 Seneca Trail South, Peterstown, WV 24963
304.753.9100

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 Dr. Jesse Chafin, MD	 Jana Whited, FNP-BC
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 Joseph Lutz, PA-C	 Dr. Alan Lee, DO
 Cindy Mann, FNP-BC	 Dr. Ray Jones, DO
 Dr. Debra Sams, DO	
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY	OPHTHALMOLOGY & OPTOMETRY
 Dr. Connie Perkins, DO	 Dr. Yuri Arvan, MD
 Dr. Samantha Chaffin, MD	 Dr. Savannah Long, OD
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