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## **Clinic at Clingman Center** vaccinates Greenbrier Co. residents of color

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 10

By Bobby Bordelon

Over 60 Greenbrier County residents were vaccinated against COVID-19 in a clinic held for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) at the Clingman Center in Lewisburg on Saturday, Feb. 20. With more clinics expected in the near future, local organizer Loretta Young emphasized the need for members of these communities to reach out to her.

The clinic was coordinated by the Partnership of African American Churchs (PAAC), with local support from Race Matters in Greenbrier Valley, the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Part of the state of West Virginia's strategy is that we know African Americans are twice as likely - twice as likely - to come down with COVID and three times more likely to die from it," explained Young. "This is reflected also in the national statistics."

Greenbrier County's Latinx population is also a focus for the vaccination project.

"Last night, I also heard it is running the same [numbers] with the Latinx community," Young said. "The message we want to send to the Latino population is that this is for you too as well. ... Reverend Greg Scott is helping us with [outreach]."

The program brought 10 fully trained staff to the Clingman Center to administer the vaccine and maintain the proper records. The WV National Guard provided computer support and four Americorp members volunteered support.

"We were able to work with [WVSOM] and the Robert C. Byrd Clinic, [working] in the Clingman Center. We brought in their staff, we had two trailers full of

See "Clingman Center"\_Page 2

## In-person student attendance outcomes bleak in local schools

**By Bobby Bordelon** 

The Greenbrier County Board of Education got bleak, but expected, feedback of the first full semester of mixed remote and in-person learning for the county's middle and high schools on Thursday, Feb. 25.

The Local School Improvement Council presentations showed a higher rate of class failure than in previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a mixed schedule. For example, 63 percent of all Greenbrier East High School freshmen are failing a class, with 87 students failing four classes.

Despite this, as each school's principal noted, the county's middle and high schools are returning to a fiveday-a-week schedule beginning Mar. 1, per guidance from the West Virginia Department of Education. This offers some light at the end of the tunnel for the worried

"I'm very proud of what all of our schools have gone through in the last year," said Board President Jeanie Wyatt. "We can see some failures going on, but hopefully with getting back we can take care of all of that and get our kids on the right track."

Western Greenbrier Middle School, explained Principal Marsha Podfiadlik, has 217 in-person and 72 remote students. As this school year has gone on, and the school has dealt with several COVID-19 shutdowns, students seem to be struggling.

"The trend was [that] the first nine weeks, they did really well with it," said Podfiadlik. "The second nine weeks was when the inconsistency started. That's when it started falling apart. ... That was an overall trend for every content area."

See "Outcomes" \_\_



The Greenbrier River at Alderson can be seen here nearly reaching the underside of the old bridge. (Photo courtesy of the Alderson Police Dept.)

## Flooding affects region after heavy rainfall

By Sarah Richardson

Residents in our river communities and other lowlying areas were affected by high river crests, standing water, flooding, and other issues after most of the state received heavy rainfall at the start of the week. The rain, combined with melting snowpack, led to significant rising in water levels for nearly all creeks, streams, and rivers throughout the Mountain State.

Locally, Ronceverte, Alderson, Fort Spring, and Caldwell were particularly affected with the Greenbrier River cresting to dangerously high levels. The Monroe Draft Tunnel at Hart's Run was closed due to high water, along with multiple roads including River Road in Ronceverte, Stonehouse Road, Fort Springs Pike, and others. Flood warnings and wind advisories were installed for several days, along with a state of preparedness and a state of emergency declaration for the region.

In Ronceverte, the Greenbrier crested to roughly 19 feet, which flooded Island Park, surrounding buildings,

and more in the River City.

In Alderson the river was measured at over 17 feet, leading to minor flooding downtown and more widespread flooding heading toward Summers County. Within 12 hours of the crest, water levels diminished

On Wednesday, warmer temperatures and a muchneeded break in rainfall helped dry up most of the lingering flooding.

As of press time, no extreme damages have been reported. However, anyone who lives in Greenbrier County and has sustained damages to their home or property is encouraged to call and report it to 304-645-5444. If you live in a municipality, please call your local City Hall or Town Hall. Homeowners are also advised to thoroughly document any damages with photos and video, and to keep all estimates and receipts related to completing repairs.

## Hale Arbuckle: How one man made an impact not only in our community, but across the nation

**By Sarah Richardson** 

In today's world, with all modern amenities offered to us at the push of a button, the flip of a switch, or a quick run to the store, it's hard to imagine living life any other way. However, just a few short years ago, rural Greenbrier County was a completely different place. Imagine having to trek to town to refill your kerosene for your lamps, or you would have no lights. Or, if you wanted milk or eggs, you had to own a cow and some chickens of your own. This was the reality of living life out on the homestead in the 1900s.

Hale Arbuckle Jr., an unassuming man who was no stranger to hard work, owned and operated a food truck business serving rural communities around Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties. Such a business, while unconventional, provided an essential lifeline to those located off-the-grid by offering fresh fruits and vegetables, supplies, and anything else one might need to get by. Hale took it a step further by also delivering newspapers, hardware, and other needed items to his customers, and he did so while offering store credit on purchases, and going above and beyond by taking some customer's bills to town to be paid, seeking out special requests, and more.

If you lived in Spring Creek, Esty, Marlinton, But-See "Food Truck" \_\_\_ Page 3



Hale and Gerry Arbuckle are pictured here for Goldenseal Magazine with the food truck.

(Photo credits Goldenseal Magazine, 1989, "Parking the Truck Store, Hale Arbuckle Makes A Change, Andy Yale)

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## Education and COVID-19 focus of legislative fights for local representatives

By Bobby Bordelon

Over the past week, more bills from local lawmakers passed through West Virginia's Senate or House of Delegates, including bills from Senators Stephen Baldwin and Jack Woodrum, Delegates Todd Longanacre and Barry Bruce, and introduced by Governor Jim Justice through Baldwin and the Senate President. Education and COVID-19 continue to be the biggest issues of the session.

On his Facebook page, named Senator Stephen Baldwin, Baldwin also argued against passed legislation expanding charter schools in the state and removing local control from education (Senate Bill 212) and a bill allowing casinos to put ATMs near gambling locations. He argued virtual schooling has not been successful, which Greenbrier County Board of Education heard the results of in a recent meeting, and that the second bill enables gambling addicts to spend "their life savings" away.

Baldwin also recently held a town hall where those he represents could dial in remotely and ask questions about the bills. He addressed the likelihood of certain bills passing and noted a number of bills are being pushed by corporate lobbies such as ALEC.

In his weekly column, The Back Pew, Baldwin states People, "People aren't paying attention. That's the conclusion I've reluctantly drawn because I'm receiving far fewer calls, emails, and letters than usual. Visitors aren't currently allowed at the capitol. Very few people are tuning into the live streams or our virtual meetings. The media isn't present to document the session like usual. Even social media engagement is down this year."

In a commentary last week, Longanacre also addressed the education bills coming through both Houses, including bills declaring the al-

ready illegal act of teachers striking to be il-

legal, creating a method for public funds to go

to private, sometimes religious schools, and the

expansion of charter schools. "Just know that I have not met even one delegate on either side of the aisle who desires to harm public education or stifle business," wrote Longanacre. "All of us sincerely desire to make them both better but may have differing plans on how to get there. Of course, there are a few who I have heard say 'don't change anything, just give us more funding with regard to public education and 'corporations are taking advantage of the little man' one too many times. In fact, it oftentimes begins to sound like fingernails scratching across a chalkboard at times each time I hear them talk. But I nevertheless listen and later politely agree to disagree on some things."

Baldwin independently sponsored several bills passed by the Senate and sent over to the House of Delegates. Both Baldwin and Woodrum voted yea on these bills:

 Senate Bill 102, allowing disabled veterans and purple heart recipients to park free at See "Legislative Fights" Page 2

**Continued from Front Page** 

#### Clingman Center **Continued from Front Page**

equipment and people. We had about 60 people that we gave vaccines to. They'll come back at a later date and people who had their first vaccine will have their second [shot]."

Why the emphasis on communities of color? In addition to the higher rates of infection and death associated with COVID-19, the project also aims to address a systematic mistrust of medical institutions, referencing two famous cases of exploitation of the African American community by medical institutions. This includes the Tuskegee syphilis study, when African Americans were intentionally infected with the virus, studied, and not treated for approximately 40 years, and the theft of cells from Henrietta Lacks, a woman dying of cancer, which led to a cell line that made millions of dollars for pharmaceutical companies.

"Given the history, the sad history, of how African Americans have been used by the health system in the past, there's suspicion and there's fear and doubt about taking the shot," Young said. "We know that when you take the shot, you're protecting yourself as well as oth-

In order to combat this, a Zoom call was held with participants and the project's medical director, Dr. Gerff Cousins. About half of the participants were skeptical of the vaccine before the call - by its end, Young estimated 90 percent were ready to get vaccinated.

"They are arranging clinics all throughout the state of West Virginia to make sure that communities of color have opportunities to feel comfortable, ask questions. I'm not saying that the county is any different, it's just what our sad history has been in terms of trust. ... People did ask questions, they said 'I'm a diabetic, should I take the shot?' 'I have heart problems should I take the shot?' [Cousins] answered very honestly and reassured people that there had been so few reactions thus far that a general practitioner could take care of any reaction."

In order to sign up for the next upcoming clinic, expected later in March, Young explained possible participants "would need to contact me" by calling 304-610-6834 or emailing lorettayoung26@gmail.com.

"Since supply has increased, I would say anyone 30 and up could sign up. In order to sign up, I'll need their phone number and their birth dates," Young said. "They're getting enough supply in - the president has said he hopes to have enough vaccines so that every American can be vaccinated [around early May]. We're excited about that. ... We'll go anywhere to make sure that people are protected and that we really fight this virus."

Outside of the program, during a recent press conference, Governor Jim Justice also announced additional categories of citizens available to be vaccinated outside of the PAAC's program. This includes:

- All residents age 50 and above.
- All residents age 16 and above with any of the following pre-existing conditions: Down syndrome, intellectual and developmental disabilities (& their caregivers), caretakers of those with congenital diseases, organ or bone marrow transplant recipients, pregnant mothers, cystic fibrosis, obesity (BMI > 35).
  - All educators age 40 and above.

#### **Legislative Fights**

paid parking of state or its political subdivisions,

- Senate Bill 16 provides continued eligibility for developmental disability services to dependents of military members,
- Senate Bill 359, informing landowners when fencing that may contain livestock is damaged due to accident,

• Senate Bill 392, creating penalty for impersonating

- law-enforcement officer or official, • Senate Bill 1, providing for parity of payment for
- telehealth services between service in-person and service provided through telehealth platform. While Senate Bill 368, creating the Reclamation of

Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties Program under the WV Department of Environmental Protection, passed several readings, it was sent back to the Senate's Rules committee.

Woodrum has sponsored five bills that have left committee. This includes Senate Bill 270, allowing taxation of hotel rooms booked through a "marketplace facilitator," which passed the Senate with Baldwin and Woodrum voting yea. A first reading is expected in the House.

Four of these bills have passed first reading and are continuing:

• Senate Bill 332, requiring all delegates to take an

- oath not to alter Article V of the U.S. Constitution. • Senate Bill 381, creating nonresident three-day fish-
- ing license • Senate Bill 501, continuing and indexing of license
- and stamp fees, and • Senate Bill 263, permitting online raffles to benefit
- charitable and public service organizations. Longanacre has sponsored 25 total bills, with four out

of committee. • House Bill 2791 would allow county boards of education to allow home or private schooled students to en-

second reading was passed on Mar. 2. • House Bill 2093 would require the Veterans Affairs Medical Foster Home Program to provide an annual report to the governor and provide exceptions for homes reviewed by the program. A second reading was passed

on Mar. 2.

roll or take classes in the county's vocational schools. A

• 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 that has passed both the Senate (nay Baldwin, yea Woodrum) and House (yea Bruce and Longanacre).

On Mar. 3, Longanacre also sponsored House Bill 2869, removing any mandatory mask mandate in West Virginia. This bill is still in committee.

• House Bill 2536, restricting the pay of striking teachers, has not progressed past first reading on Feb. 17.

Bruce has introduced 19 total bills, only one of which has been considered by the House of Delegates itself.

• 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 February 13, and is still slated for a second reading. A similar bill dealing with control over local health departments, Senate Bill 12, has been passed by both the House (nay Baldwin, yea Woodrum), then passed by the House (yea Bruce and Longanacre).

The other 18 Bruce-sponsored bills are still being considered by the House committees. These bills include a limit to the number of visitor's bureaus in a county, establishing quick response teams to communicate with overdose victims after the initial emergency response, requiring all public contracts to be publicly advertised. The last is of note after the Greenbrier County Commission recently approved a contract to rent Bruce's downtown Lewisburg office for the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department during courthouse renovations.

Both Bruce and Longanacre sponsored a transphobic bill which requires athletes to compete "based on biological ex" (sic), looking to ban transgender women and girls from competing in female sports. If a student's gender is disputed, either cis or trans, they would have to get a "signed physician's statement" indicating their gender based on "internal and external reproductive anatomy, the student's normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone, an analysis of the student's genetic makeup." One way of handling this would be having a physician perform a full-body physical on any athlete accused of not "being" their gender before they could compete.

According to the ACLU, the "facts" about trans athletes are often misconstrued. One Associated Press report found similar bill sponsors in 20 states "cannot cite a single instance in their own state or region where such participation has caused problems." One physician, Dr. Joshua D. Safer, explained "a person's genetic make-up and internal and external reproductive anatomy are not useful indicators of athletic performance." For a trans woman athlete who meets NCAA standards, "there is no inherent reason why her physiological characteristics related to athletic performance should be treated differently from the physiological characteristics of a non-transgender woman. ... A person's sex is made up of multiple biological characteristics and they may not all align as typically male or female in a given person."

Baldwin has sponsored ten bills that have left committee, several of which were introduced on behalf of Governor Jim Justice. These bills include:

- 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 (nay Baldwin, yea Woodrum) and has passed the first reading in the House.
- Senate Bill 272, addressing the "gig" economy of workers, passed the Senate's third reading (nay Baldwin, yea Woodrum), and has passed first reading in the House of Delegates.
- · 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 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, and is in House Judiciary.

### Outcomes

**Continued from Front Page** 

with 44 signed up for credit recovery.

Podfiadlik explained that a common theme with inperson students is to have a majority either passing with flying colors or failing the class. For example, in sixth grade English grades, 41 percent of students have an A while 25 percent have an F. These rough numbers were consistent across grade levels.

"It's not a matter if they didn't understand it, they just simply did not turn it in," Podfiadlik said. "They work the two days they're in the building, we even took our time in flex to help students work on work they were missing, ... in short of hitting that submit button for them, this was the result."

However, in reaching out to parents of students with failing grades, many corrected quickly. "The parents are like 'I'm so sorry, I'll take care of

it,' then that student does turn in work the next week," Podfiadlik said. "There have been a lot of positives - just seeing the staff come together [has been encouraging]." **EGMS** 

Similar to WGMS, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School [EGMS] had difficulties in the first half of the year.

"Our failure rate is high, more than normal," said EGMS Principal Sue Lee. "We have contacted or attempted to contact every student, every remote student, that is failing a minimum of two classes, [both] parents and students, to work out ways to be successful. I'm looking forward to this time because this will be their time to shine and turn it around for the school year."

Noting that the school had approximately 600 inperson students, [Sue] hoped the third nine weeks, with more attvacation, would help student outcomes.

"I think sometimes the students really thought it was a vacation," Lee said. "We're looking forward to our students being back."

#### **GWHS** At Greenbrier West High School, Principal Amy Rob-

ertson explained the high schools faced an additional problem to the middle schools. "I honestly think, unfortunately because of this pan-

demic, ... school has been put on the back burner," said Robertson. "Many of our older students have gotten jobs and so schoolwork is not important to them. I have told the staff this is going to be a monumental task to retrain their brains and not only get the students but the teachers to understand that education comes first."

Although many students have failed classes in the first semester, GWHS offers credit recovery for a number of classes. A day was scheduled for counselors to meet with students and form a plan to graduate on time and

- sign up for these programs. Despite this, many of the students have not yet done so. This includes: • 64 students needing to recover a math credit, with 44
- signed up for credit recovery. with Greenbrier County Elementary Schools. • 93 students needing to recover an English credit,

• 102 students needing to recover a Science credit, with 51 signed up for credit recovery. The possibility of larger classes sizes is also a con-

cern, with [Luin] explaining the school has three core teachers for each core subject. The number of students needing to take specific classes again could pack class-

There are success stories, however - seven GWHS students currently qualify for the PROMISE Scholarship. In addition, the return to school has [Luin] hopeful.

"One of the things I'm most proud of with our students is that we are all aware of how difficult this year has been and I have been overwhelmingly thrilled to death with how our students have been so resilient," Robertson said. "We have not had any issues with students not wearing their masks. They come to school, they want to be there. That has been very encouraging."

#### **GEHS**

For the Greenbrier East High Schools's (GEHS) 330 remote and 368 in-person students, Principal Ben Routson explained "this presentation is definitely different than what we've had in the past. I come to you today very concerned about our students." • Of the 239 seniors, 45 have failed a class needed to

- graduate. About half of those with an F are remote learners. Many of these students are entering credit recovery programs offered by GEHS. In addition, 55 students applied for the PROMISE Scholarship, with 14 that are eligible at this time. Russo explained that students who are not eligible could qualify if they improve their test
- In the junior class, 47 students have one F out of 226 total. The numbers for sophomores and freshmen look

much bleaker: • Of the 256 sophomores, 77 have multiple failing

- grades. Of these, 32 are remote learners. Approximately 63 percent of GEHS remote fresh-
- men are failing a class, totaling 131 students, 47 of which are remote learners. In addition, 87 are failing "at least" four classes "currently," 34 of which are remote learners. The return to full-time in person classes offers some

hope for improvement. "I've been at Greenbrier East for a long time and it's a

great school. It has been since I arrived," Routson said. "I just can't say enough about the staff and the students." Routson also noted the school's No Place for Hate

pledge program, which has gathered over 800 signatures. The presentations are expected to continue on Mar. 4

## PICK OF THE LITTER

#### **MAX**

Max is a four year-old Labrador retriever mix and weighs 53 pounds. This handsome guy has a goofy smile and brown and white coat. **GEICO** 

Geico is a twoyear-old Corgi mix and weighs 33 pounds. This little guy is definitely

not a mix you see every day! He has the standard short Corgi legs and upright ears.





These and other animals are available at the Greenbrier Humane Society, located at 151 Holiday Lane off of 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.

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

Their cat adoption fee is \$65 and covers

spay/neuter surgery, first dog vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim, flea bath and flea treatment.

They also offer donation-based spay/neu-

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

# Briefly

#### American Heritage Music Hall, Inc.

Open to the public, all welcome, handicap accessible. Admission \$7 Tuesday nights, \$10 Saturday - Audience provides food. Door opens at 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Located at 496 Island Park, Ronceverte. Jam & Dance every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 13 -Thomas Taylor Band. Saturday 27 - Ivan Combs & The Outlaws. Call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

#### **Union Area Chamber of Commerce** to meet March 9

at 11:30 a.m. at the MoCo Diner. Membership dues submitted before Apr. 1 will ensure your business information is included in the upcoming unionwy.com website. The Chamber is in the final steps of acquiring items/certificates or cash for their annual Farmer's Day raffles. Donor names will be included on all Raffle advertising where items are listed. Please contact Chamber by Mar. 9 if you would like to contribute something for this fundraiser. Agenda items, please direct to Michelle McFall at monroedaycare@hotmail.com.

#### 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.

#### 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-effectsof-covid-19.html

#### -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.

White Sulphur Springs City Council will meet Monday, Mar. 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be

- preceded by a Finance meeting at 6:45. On the agenda:
  - Financial statement
- Bills to be paid
- Budget revisions

#### Council meeting agenda:

- Approval of Minutes Feb. 8, 2021 Financial statements
- Citizens' comments (2 minutes each) Standing Committee Reports
- Infrastructure
- Finance & Budget
- Planning & Zoning
- Parks & Recreation - Recycle & Beautification
- Emergency Services
- Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Officer Reports
- Police Chief
  - Fire Chief
  - Maintenance Supervisor
- Special Reports - Tri-Cities Power Authority
- Main Street / Revitalization Committee
- New Business
- Budget revisions
- Renewal of Greenbrier Valley Conservation District **Funding Agreement**
- Mtn. Transit Authority reque st for local commitment - Approval of 2021-2022 General Fund Budget

### —Police Blotter———

#### **6** If defense possible argument for Friedman stabbing case in & wisburg By Bobby Bordelon

The case against Logan Friedman for a June 2020 Lewisburg stabbing incident continued under Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent on Monday, Mar. 1. Friedman was indicted on one count of malicious

wounding in October 2020 and was initially held in Southern Regional Jail before being permitted bond.

"On Tuesday, June 23, at 6:26 p.m. the Lewisburg Police Department received a call of a stab wound on Hilltop Drive in Lewisburg," reads the initial press release. "After arriving on scene officers found the victim, Roy Warning, suffering from several injuries including an apparent stab wound to the chest. First aid was rendered to the victim by Lewisburg PD officers until First Responders from the Lewisburg Fire Department and the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance Service arrived. The victim was transported to Greenbrier Valley Medical Center and then flown to a Charleston area trauma center with critical, life threatening injuries."

The hearing saw a state motion to allow Friedman's initial statement to police to be used as evidence approved. The defense did not oppose the motion, noting their case would consider an argument of how much "weight" a jury would give it, as opposed to it not being admissible.

Although the motion was not contested, Defense Attorney Grady Ford also informed the court the future of the case was still up in the air with several possible resolutions.

"This is a self-defense case, but the state and I have had some preliminary discussions and I think a further status hearing would be fruitful," said Ford. "... There may be a defense motion or two to be filed as well. ... We'll know at that point whether it needs to be tee'd up for trial or if some other resolution might be reached."

The case is expected to continue in April after potential motions are submitted.

## **House of Delegates** committee clarifies protections against financial exploitation of seniors, incapacitated

By Erika Diehl, West Virginia Press West Virginia House of Delegates' Committee on Se-

nior, Children, and Family Issues Wednesday had unanimous consent to pass H.B. 2671 - Relating to financial exploitation of elderly persons, protected persons or incapacitated adults.

The bill will now move to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. Committee Chair Delegate Ruth Rowan (R-Hamp-

shire) is lead sponsor on the bill. "We have a lot of our elderly being exploited ... Grand-

parents are being exploited by grandchildren and children. So, that's what this is addressing." Delegate Rowan

While there were amendments to the bill, most were simply updating language and code numbers but some are intended to further clarify these protections. The bill now addresses the way in which a person may take ac-

tion: by filing a civil complaint for financial exploitation and/or a petition for a protective order. HB 2671 was amended so action may be taken not only in the county where the people reside, but also where the

financial exploitation occurred. Additionally, any order issued must contain language that violation of the order may result in criminal prosecu-

#### Wolfe sentenced to five years probation for law enforcement case, crash By Bobby Bordelon

Andrew Wolfe was sentenced to five years of probation, with requirements for substance abuse evaluations and battery interventions, for his role in a law enforcement chase during a search for a missing juvenile.

A press release issued on Jan. 15, 2020, noted a missing juvenile was believed to be with Wolfe, then aged 22. While fleeing from law enforcement, Wolfe was traveling in excess of 70 miles per hour in a 35 zone, and chased in a curve on Route 20. Wolfe was charged with reckless fleeing from an officer in August 2020 by a Greenbrier County Grand Jury, a charge he pled guilty

On Monday, Mar. 1, the case moved forward to sentencing. Dent noted his history caused her alarm.

"Mr. Wolfe, what concerns me most about the presentence report, other than the substance use, [is that] you're 23 years old and although ... this is your first felony, you have a significant criminal history in misdemeanors," said Dent. "... What's concerning most about those is they're batteries, assaults, telephone harassment, shoplifting, a protective order violation, another domestic battery, knowingly making a false alarm of a fire, ... and pending additional domestic assaults, domestic battery, and destruction of property. Although they're misdemeanor offenses, they're quite significant."

Public safety was also a concern for Dent; "the charge to which you plead is reckless fleeing from an officer that put the public's safety at risk. So there seems to be a general underlying theme of no concern for the safety of others and that concerns me."

Wolfe was sentenced to one to five years, then placed on probation for a five-year time period. Included in probation is the requirement for psychological evaluation, including for substance abuse and participation in the Greenbrier County Day Report's Batterer Intervention and Prevention Program. Also included is the requirement that Wolfe remain employed during probation.

"Because it is recommended by the parties, I'm going to place you on a period of probation of five years," Dent said. "... Looking at your history as a young, 23-yearold I want to make it clear that in the event that you would violate any laws, then that could be a violation of your probation and what you're looking at is one to five in the department of corrections."



news@mountainmessenger.com

#### Tax Tips Remember:

Thursday, April 15, 2021 is the deadline to file

your income taxes





Free E-file of Federal and State Returns CONTACT OUR PROFESSIONALS

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in Lewisbura

[Across from Taco Bell]

Serving The Area Since 1986 Federal & **State Forms** Arbuckle Lane, Lewisburg, WV

304-645-6037

Office Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM

Lewisburg City Council

will meet in Special Session Tuesday, Mar. 9, immediately following the Lewisburg Finance Committee meeting which begins at 7 p.m. via teleconference. For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 9. The following topic is scheduled for discussion:

· Fire Department - approval of the purchase of Barnette Property for Fire Station # 1

### For the Record

#### **Deeds**

Joseph Hodge and Morgan Hodge to Darrell Allen Bryant and Amanda Bryant, 11,404 square feet, Lewisburg District J. Marvin Jones to Brandon Staires, 1.5 acres, Mead-

ow Bluff District Genevieve Dodd to Robert Rowe and Karen Rowe,

2.5 acres, Lewisburg District Franklin Lee Bennett and Dreama Pearl Bennett to

Clifford Wayne Judy and Lisa Judy, three parcels, Meadow Bluff District Michael Keatley and Tearsa Keatley to Hubert S.

Brooks, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Block 6, Subdivision 2, Town of Rupert

#### **Food Truck**

**Continued from Front Page** 

buckle on one of his routes could be the highlight of your Hale, a Maxwelton native, married his wife Gerry in 1949. Her father, Jesse Baker Lewis, had started his own

ler's Mountain, Droop Mountain, Renick, Auto, Denmar,

Leonard Cordova, or anywhere in between, meeting Ar-

food truck business in 1938, leading Hale to join in the family business in 1949 in order to help out. "We lived in Spring Creek when I was a little girl, and

my dad worked at the mill and my mom was the Postmistress," said Gerry. "After dad started the food truck business in 1938, I worked on the truck with him from 1946 to 1948, when Hale and I got married." In an interview with Andy Yale of Goldenseal Maga-

zine in 1989, Hale said, "I worked for a little while with him, then he made me a partner, and we worked it partners for a while. Then in 1964 he retired and sold it to me. So he, basically, was the brains of it. I just continued what he started."

When Hale starting working with him the business was renamed Arbuckle and Lewis, and it stayed that way until Hale's retirement in 1989.

"We had routes on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, so we spent Monday, Wednesday, and Friday loading up the truck," said Gerry, remembering the runs and stops with pinpoint accuracy. As if it were yesterday, she can instantly name the roads on each route, down to each turn, and recounts the customers along the way fondly. After running the same routes for so long, the customers turned into friends, and the routes would morph to follow them as some of them relocated.

"They not only sold groceries, but they would pick up things from town. People would give them their light bills and they would bring them to town to be paid," Gerry said. "After the homesteaders moved in, one of them wanted a newspaper from a big city, and Hale brought it to him every Saturday. If people wanted stove pipes or hardware, we would bring them parts from Martin and Jones. We used to have a big barrel of vinegar on the back of the truck, and they would measure out the vinegar they

bought." Hale would also stay up to date with the how his customers were doing and help them by carrying heavy feed sacks inside for the elderly, tinkering with broken machinery if they needed a second set of hands, and was a friend to all those that knew him.

"And to each exchange, and to every action, he brings an unchanging courtesy and respect, silent testimony to the value be placed on friends and customers," wrote

Hale would pick up the goods for his truck from local suppliers such as Covington Grocery, when they had a location in downtown Lewisburg across from where the Visitors Center is now. Pure Kerosene provided the kerosene, and pop trucks brought pop.

By arranging a little of this and a little of that from each place, he would start each route ready to fulfill nearly anything on someone's grocery list, from bacon to chicken feed to aspirin.

As the years went by, people's buying habits changed, Hale told Goldenseal, "At one time we didn't carry any milk- you know all country people had a cow, there was no demand for milk as such. The old-time people bought a lot of flour, sold a lot of feed, coffee, sugar, salt, baking powder- things like that. So there's been a big change in what the demand is for. I've simply gone along with the demand for what people wanted."

Such a job isn't the most glamorous, and doesn't strike most people as particularly attention-grabbing, yet several news organizations ended up interviewing Hale about the business over the years, including the Charleston-Gazette in 1980 and Goldenseal Magazine in 1989. The Gazette article ended up being picked up and cir-

culated by none other than the Associated Press, which led to a flood of letters following its publication around the country. The couple received letters from 18 different states including Arizona, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Michigan. Many of the letters were from former West Virginians, or those that had ties to the state, excited to see the work Hale was doing and to catch their home state mentioned across the nation.

"The first letter he got was from California, the lady had been an Arbuckle and wanted to know if they were related, and they were," Gerry said. She added that one Florida paper that ran the story even included a handdrawn illustration of the truck.

After he retired, Hale spent his time volunteering with the Family Refuge Center, teaching Sunday school, umpiring girls' softball games, volunteering with the Maxwelton Ruritan Club, and more. A true community figurehead, Hale's tireless volunteerism and service benefited every organization lucky enough to work with him.

Gerry and Hale were married for 71 years until his passing on Oct. 3, 2020 at age 93. A memorial service will be held this summer in his honor on Droop Mountain.

## OPINION

#### Commentary

#### The case for Agriculture **Business Development** Fund

By Kent A. Leonhardt

**West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture** 

Within the first days of the Biden Administration, Vice-President Kamala Harris held a roundtable discussion with West Virginia media outlets on the administration's plans for rural states. Part of this maneuver was to put pressure on lone West Virginia Democrat, Senator Joe Manchin, to support President Biden's stimulus package. The new administration is also hopeful to make in-roads with a base that has felt ignored as the National Democrat Party has turned its focus away from fossil fuels and the working-class. Within this discussion, the Vice President mentioned abandoned mine land as an avenue to create an economic prosperity for the region. Madam Vice-President, there is a proven winner for these types of projects,

Even though West Virginia has been discussing economic diversification for years, it's now evident the new administration in Washington, DC, will not be favorable towards fossil fuels, the economic driver for our state. How we mitigate the effects of an unfriendly federal administration is by removing hinderances to local economic development. Under my administration, your State Department of Agriculture has worked to improve the business climate to grow agriculture and diversify our state's economy by streamlining rules and regulations, as well as providing more resources to local businesses. We have made strides and learned a great deal, but it's clear our own resources are limited as the state leaders continue to ignore agriculture-based investments in the Mountain State.

As we try to overcome these challenges, one common theme continues to arise: the need for an agriculture business development fund. Two clear examples of where such a fund could have aided new business development is a Charleston meat and food service business expansion and helping a lavender production and processing operation get started in Southern West Virginia. In both cases, these entrepreneurs had to turn to very competitive Abandoned Mine Land Funding (AML) to close the capital gap facing their initiatives. Without these businessmen willing to take on considerable risk by investing in their home state, these opportunities would have been lost.

A fund dedicated to agriculture business development is not unheard of as other states have done this with great success. Kentucky used tobacco settlement funds to establish their fund which made sense as they used the funds from one fleeting agriculture commodity to help farmers diversify. Tennessee, Virginia and Michigan are other states seeing great returns on investments as they help develop their agriculture industries. They all have focused on attracting high-tech agriculture-based manufacturing that provides new opportunities for local producers. To attract these types of business, we need to invest in our state by casting a wider net with more tools. That includes having funds available for conducting an analysis and economic studies, which are usually covered by existing funds.

While we continue to work with in-state and out-ofstate food processing companies to expand their operations or relocate to the Mountain State, we still face a lot of challenges that cannot be overcome with AML funding alone. This makes even starting the conversation or exploring a new agriculture business development a lost cause. We need a fund available to do feasibility studies for prospective agri-businesses, develop utilities and road upgrades on the many sites sitting idle throughout the state, or to develop new business sites. What we cannot do is say we believe and value the work of our farmers without putting agriculture on a level playing field with not just our neighbors but other industrial sectors. We know we cannot rely on the federal government to tell us what is best for West Virginia. It will take state lawmakers, business leaders and producers to turn our state around.

e-mail news stories and letters to the editor to news@mountainmessenger.com

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#### Letter to the Editor

### Public education, can we improve?

**Dear Editor:** 

The following information is a consolidation of information printed in The West Virginia Daily News and received verbally from Greenbrier West and Greenbrier East High School. The goal is to discover why West Virginia College Sat scores are the lowest in the Nation; and why 68%, plus or minus, of new enrollees at new River Campus at Lewisburg are required to take remedial courses; and to discover ways to improve education with the help of Parents of High School Students, Retirees and current students.

The West Virginia Daily News reported on 17 Feb. and 25 Feb., 2021, that forty two percent of Greenbrier East and forty four percent of Greenbrier West students achieved "Honor Roll" status, which I always thought reflected an "A" average. However, it now appears that only a "B" average is require to achieve Honor Roll status. Further, this high percentage of Honor Roll students was achieved during the Covid-19 pandemic, which included significant remote learning, which either reflects the effectiveness of remote education or the reduction of "degree of difficulty" of exams given.

The above is in significant conflict with Guest Commentary on effectiveness of West Virginia's Public Education published by the West Virginia Daily News on 22 Feb. 2021; when compared to 2019 National scores published by the NAEP, National Association of Educational Progress.

- 1. Fourth-grade: Math 49th, Reading 48th
- 2. Eight-grade: Math 48th, Reading 48th
- 3. Graduates going to College: Thirty-three percent are required to enroll in remedial courses.
- 4. National ACT data: Less than half of WV students reach the average bench marks for reading, math, and science.
- 5. SAT scores: West Virginia public school students have the lowest SAT scores in the Nation.

The next letter will address Charter Schools and why they are good for West Virginia. P.S.: For the academics, I have a Masters in Education Administration.

> Frank W. Tuckwiller Lewisburg

#### Commentary

### Legislature needs to create opportunities for ALL West Virginians to stay, rebuild and succeed

By House of Delegates Minority Leader Doug Skaff, Jr.

For the first time in my lifetime, Democrats are a super-minority in both the State Senate and the House of Delegates. It may seem to outsiders that we are more divided than ever, however, that does not have to be the case. Republicans and Democrats may have different ideas on how to get there, but we have the same goal in mind - a stronger, healthier West Virginia. Our caucus platform for the 2021 Legislative Session is focused on just that - putting West Virginians first by creating opportunities for ALL West Virginians to stay, rebuild and

West Virginia Democrats stand for every West Virginian - our neighbors who lost their jobs and are trying to navigate the state unemployment process; the businesses and restaurants trying to keep all of their employees working while their businesses are at reduced capacity; the public-school students who do not have access to the internet at home to do their schoolwork on virtual learning days; our healthcare workers, front-line workers and first responders who are overworked and tired but still showing up for work every day; and the parents who are struggling to work, teach at home and ensure their children are thriving in the middle of a global health

pandemic. This has not been an easy year for anyone-

but West Virginians are resilient people. It is time, now

more than ever, to put the people of West Virginia and our shared values first. The Legislature should do all we can to support each other as our state recovers.

We want to reverse the outward migration trend by supporting policies that are good for our state and her people - policies and programs that will help people STAY here. We need to champion policies that give our residents a reason to stay here and give those who left a reason to come back home. Policies like enhanced PROMISE scholarships for STEM students; revitalization programs for struggling coal communities and student loan forgiveness and new tax credits for the people that we need to keep here in West Virginia - our college graduates, our healthcare workers, our teachers and our seniors.

Democrats plan to champion policies to REBUILD and strengthen our communities. We know, as West Virginians, that strong communities are vital in recovery from whatever catastrophe that our state is facing-from the drug epidemic to the natural disasters that we seem to see every year. Just as they are after massive floods

or snowstorms, strong communities will be vital as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to improve our infrastructure systems to ensure all West Virginians have access to affordable broad-

band, safe roads, clean water and healthcare resources in See "WV Democrats"\_\_ Page 8

### The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



People aren't paying attention. That's the conclusion I've reluctantly drawn, because I'm receiving far fewer calls, emails, and letters than usual. Visitors aren't currently allowed at the capitol. Very few people are tuning into the livestreams or our virtual meetings. The media isn't present to document the session like usual. Even social media engagement is down this year.

I certainly understand why. We are all just trying to keep our head above water right now. But you need to pay attention to what's happening in Charleston. The ramifications of several policy changes will affect our families for years to come.

RURAL HOSPITALS. Current state law requires hospitals to hold a "certificate of need" for the services they provide. The idea is to keep rural hospitals open and operating efficiently. If a certificate of need wasn't required in rural areas, you'd see rural hospitals close and small medical offices pop up all over the place offering various small medical services. HB2264 removes the requirement for a certificate of need. I cannot overemphasize how deadly this policy change would be. None of our local hospitals would be able to stay open if this bill were to pass. They all strongly oppose the bill. Hospitals are often one of the largest employers in the county they serve. The bill passed the House last week and now heads to the Senate.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. Every year, there's an effort to decrease water quality standards by legislators who are close to industries who discharge pollutants. It's happening again this year, and again I will oppose it. We need clean water for so many reasons - drinking water, fishing, rafting, economic development, tourism, and more.

HARM REDUCTION. County health departments across the state operate "harm reduction" programs. They are substance abuse disorder programs intended to limit the spread of HIV among citizens. And they've proven to be highly successful. Unfortunately, one senator has made it his life's mission to eliminate them. He introduced such a bill this year, and it is moving towards passage in the Senate (SB13).

ATMs IN CASINOS. To my utter shock and dismay, this week the Senate passed SB358 allowing casinos to place ATMs on the casino floor. This has been prohibited up until now to keep people from losing everything they have. March is national Problem Gambling Awareness Month. One in 50 West Virginians has a gambling problem, which wrecks families. We should be ashamed for making a bill like this, which doesn't reflect our West Virginia values, a priority this early in the legislative

VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS. Despite near unanimous agreement from students, parents, and teachers that virtual education has not worked during CO-VID, the Senate passed a bill allowing new virtual charter schools. They are allowed to enroll up to 26,000+ students in virtual programs. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$200 million. And it didn't even go to the Finance Committee for review!

Pay attention, folks. The long-term ramifications of these bills are colossal. They will affect our families for years to come. Do what you can to make your voice heard to your representatives, and I will keep doing what I can to represent you.

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 (a)BaldwinForWV)

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## **BITUARIES**

#### **Delorse Jean Dowdy**



White Sulphur Springs-Delorse Jean Dowdy, 79, passed away Monday, Mar. 1, 2021, at Raleigh General Hospital in Beck-

Delorse was born Jan. 31, 1942, in Caldwell, the daughter of the late Walter Beard and Darie Susan Dahmer Bennett.

She was of the Pentecostal Holiness Faith. Delorse will be known as a loving mother, grandmother and sister. She had a willing heart to help others, full of life and never met a stranger.

Other than her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Lee Dowdy; sisters, Ernestine Milliness Morgan, Rachel Louise Mines, and Elizabeth Bennett; and brothers, Donald Bennett

and Ronald Bennett.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Kathy Hellems (Dwane) of Quinwood; son, Richard Dowdy (Debbie) of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Brandi Masters (Levi), Jennifer Piner (Josh), Hannah Hellems (Daniel Davis), Eric Dowdy, Brent and Matthew Hellems; greatgrandchildren Gavin, Ava and Paisley Masters, Brayden and Elizabeth Piner; sisters, Susanne Jane Honaker (A.J.), of Caldwell, Aretha Bennett Dowdy of Caldwell, Theda M. Hoke (Edward Jr.) of Lewisburg and Genevieve Wiley (Joe) of Ronceverte; and brother, James "Buck" Bennett (Evelyn) of Ronceverte.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Mar. 5, at 3 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs with Pastor Donnie Dowdy officiating. Interment will follow in Mapledale Cemetery near White Sulphur Springs.

The family will receive family and friends from 1 until 3 p.m. at the funeral home on Friday.

In respect to the Dowdy family, as required by County officials, masks and social distancing will be followed due to Covid-19.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www. WallaceandWallaceFH.

#### **Huberta Ann** Lightner



Lewisburg-Huberta Ann Lightner, 83, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born Feb. 16, 1937, at Marlinton, she was a daughter of the late Hubert B. Slaven and Mary Wilson Slaven Geddings.

Huberta was a Christian, who loved the Lord, was a member of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, loved gardening, sewing, needlework, cooking, eating what she cooked and reading.

She is survived by

three daughters, Michelle "Missy" Ligthner, Mary Lightner, and Karen Sue O'Brien and husband Marty, all of Lewisburg; sister, Connie Hudson of Ronceverte; two brothers, Edgar Slaven and wife Sarah and Robert Slaven and wife Karen, all of Ronceverte; granddaughter, Dr. Sara Blankenship and husband Nathan Dixon of Athens, GA; and several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 6, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Chapel in Lewisburg, with Pastor Dallas Smith officiating.

nations may be made to a local food pantry in Huberta's memory. Wallace & Wallace Fu-

In lieu of flowers, do-

neral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting www. WallaceandWallaceFH.

#### Shirley Massie

Ronceverte-Shirley Massie, 74, passed away Monday, Mar. 1, 2021, at her home following a long

Shirley was born July 21, 1946, in Alderson, the daughter of the late James (Jim) Hurd and Georgia

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Barbara Hurd Elliott.

Shirley was a long-time founding member of Rhema Christian Center. She was the Church clerk/accountant of the church for over 40 years. Shirley was very active in the church and loved her church family very much. Shirley was the wife of

and survived by Claud W. Massie of 44 years. Those left to cherish her memory were: her children, Joseph (Jody) Ott, Shawnda R. Moore (Will Hamrick), Michelle Massie Allery (Jeff Defibaugh), Sacha Ott Haynes, and Carolyn Massie Clevenger (Gary Clevenger); grandchildren, Leetah Massie (Scott Porterfield), Autumn Haynes, Tré Moore, Kalyssa Moore (Sheldon

Simmons) and Isaac Clevenger; great-grandsons, Koen Haynes-Massie and Navy Haynes-Massie; sister, Beula (Boo) Hanson (Kirby Hanson); and her nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Shirley will be Friday, Mar. 5, at 1 p.m. at Rhema Christian Center. Friends and guests may call at 12 noon until 1 p.m. at the church. Pastors Lewis Moyer and Steve Cook will officiate. Interment will follow in Riverview Cemetery in Ronceverte.

The Massie family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Kanawha Hospice Care, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901, in honor of Shirley Massie for their tireless, generous assistance to her and her family and others alike.

Due to Covid-19 regulations the family asks that you abide by these: masks and social distancing.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte is in charge of arrange-

Please send online condolences by visiting www. WallaceandWallaceFH.

## Dear Recycle Lady,



Dear Recycle Lady,

Recently I saw a question about disposable diapers. I was disappointed you didn't suggest using cloth diapers. Was this because of the natural resource of water used to clean the cloth diapers or an oversight? My daughter used cloth diapers for the whole time her baby was in diapers. I highly recommend them. They are costly at first but well worth it.

Trying to Discourage Any More Diapers in the

### Dear Trying to Discourage Any More Diapers in

You are absolutely correct. Using cloth diapers saves landfill space, and also helps keep plastic out of the environment. Not mentioning cloth diapers was oversight on my part as I just answered the question asked, which was "Do disposable diapers contain plastic?" and didn't elaborate. Thanks for calling it to my attention.

#### Dear Recycle Lady,

I recently purchased a handbag that looks and feels like leather. However, the attached tag read: PETA -APPROVED VEGAN. What exactly does this label

**Puzzled and Curious** 

#### **Dear Puzzled and Curious,**

Congratulations on being stylish and animal-friendly, but perhaps not environmentally friendly. Since your product is approved by both PETA, an animal rights organization, and vegans, who do not eat or use animal products, your handbag is definitely not leather. It is made from vegan leather, or what used to be called faux leather. According to www.peta.org/.../ what-is-vegan-leather, vegan leather is often made from polyurethane (PU), a polymer commonly used in the plastics and composites industry or it is made from sustainable materials such as pineapple leaves, cork, apple peels, and other fruit wastes and recycled plastic."The most commonly used material is polyvinyl chloride (PCV) which is a plastic based material. Items may not be made of leather, but many vegan leather bags, shoes and accessories look as smart and luxurious as real leather.

#### Dear Recycle Lady,

What is the water cycle and what does the ocean

have to do with it? Oceanographer

#### Dear Oceanographer,

The water cycle is what sustains all life on earth. It is water's journey from the land to the sky and back again. This journey consists of evaporation that moves water into the air, condensation that vaporizes it and moves it upward and precipitation that moves water from the air to land. All water is essentially recycled water! According to www.reference.com/science/water-cycle-important, the water cycle keeps the Earth's water clean, distributes the water across the planet's surface, maintains aquatic ecosystems and aids in the process of plant growth. The ocean plays a key role in the water cycle. According to Freetheocean.com, not only does the ocean hold 97% of the total water on the planet, but it also holds 78% of global precipitation that occurs over the ocean! The ocean is also the source of 86% of global evaporation.

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.

## Democratic Women's Club collecting donations for MARVEL Center

The Democratic Women's Club is conducting a campaign to collect donations for the Meadow River Valley Early Childhood Learning (MARVEL) Center.

The MARVEL Center is an ambitious community initiative to provide a child and family-centered services in Western Greenbrier County. Located in the old Rupert Elementary School, it's three major goals are to provide a: early childhood development center; safe, developmentally appropriate day care, consistent nutrition, healthy recreation, and broad spectrum learning opportunities to infants and children up to 12 years of age; training for our early childhood career development and parenting education, resources and support for Meadow River families; community recovery and revitalization; and opportunities for family recreation, summer programs, community service, and healthy engagement for all.

Suggested items for the donation campaign include:

-Cleaning supplies like disinfecting wipes, bleach, paper towels,

spray disinfectant

-Books--for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age

-Wash cloths

-Snacks such as goldfish, sugar free pudding and Jello, fruit cups

The Democratic Women's Club office will be open on March 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accept donations that will be delivered to the Center. You can also make a direct donation to the Center via this link: https:// themarvelcenter.org/donate/.

## **GVA** to receive over \$1M in relief funds

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore has been hit particularly hard," Sen-Capito and Joe Manchin have announced a total of \$5,640,837 for airports across West Virginia to provide economic relief and combat the spread of COVID-19. This grant funding is made available through the Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2020.

Greenbrier Valley Airport is slated to receive \$1,007,122 of these

"While the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been broad, our air transportation system

ator Capito said. "Air travel is critical to economic development and the day-to-day lives of West Virginians. This funding is welcome news for our state and will hopefully help our airports maintain practices that limit the spread of COVID-19 and support costs associated with operations, personnel, and sanitation."

"West Virginia airports are essential to our state's economy and provide access for tourism and aerospace industries while spurring economic development. As with many economic sectors in West Virginia,

the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our airports across the state. I am pleased DOT is investing in regional airports in West Virginia, which will help keep passengers and personnel safe and boost our state and regional economies. We must continue to take the necessary steps to safeguard our airports and those who work there as we fight the CO-VID-19 pandemic. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a pilot myself, I will continue to advocate for funding and resources to support West Virginia airports," Senator Manchin said.

## **Morrisey Lists Top Consumer Complaints** in Central/Southeastern WV for 2020

General sales

Used vehicles

Used vehicle repairs

Telephone services

Hospitals and clinics

Collection agencies

Cell phone devices and services

Communications complaints re-

mained the top consumer concern

statewide for a second consecutive

year, accounting for more than a

fifth of all complaints filed. Auto-

motive and motor vehicle issues

also remained steady at second

statewide, followed by general sales

The Attorney General encourages

consumers to educate themselves

about their rights and responsibili-

ties so they do not encounter similar

Cable TV

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced the top consumer complaints received in 2020 from Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers and Webster counties.

"Our office's Consumer Protection Division works tirelessly to review consumer complaints of all shapes and sizes," Attorney General Morrisey said. "Our office recognizes its role to vigorously protect consumers from scams and predatory business practices. Our attorneys and staff work diligently to resolve consumers' complaints." The list is assembled from writ-

ten consumer complaints filed with the Consumer Protection Division. The tally does not include phone calls from consumers who did not follow up with a

written complaint. It also does not include reports of The 2020 top complaint

categories for central and southeastern West Virginia

FB-@morganfhwv James "Richie" Holliday II, CFSP Owner/Licensee In Charge Internet services

FUNERAL HOME, INC www.morganfh.net

complaints.

12 Reserved For Those With Exceptionalities Wheelchair Accessible -Modern Technology

Headstones, Markers

and Memorials

problems.

Though the list does not include scams, that topic remains a frequently reported consumer issue. The Attorney General warned consumers they should always be wary if a business uses high-pressure sales tactics, refuses to put terms in writing or demands the consumer surrender personal information, such as a Social Security number or banking information. Consumers who believe they may

have been the victim of a scam or taken advantage of should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808, the Eastern Panhandle Consumer Protection Office in Martinsburg at 304-267-0239 or visit the office online at www.wvago.gov.

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alstore.com.

**HELP WANTED:** We are hiring a LEAD HOUSE-KEEPER at the Lemon Hotel in Paint Bank, VA! The lead housekeeper will oversee all aspects of the housekeeping and laundry services for the Depot Lodge and the Lemon Hotel in Paint Bank, VA. We are looking for a self-motivated, adaptable person with excellent team building skills. The successful candidate will be detail-oriented to ensure high standards of quality are met. Additional duties include

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#### **HELP WANTED**

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### Architectural Wood provides model for local business growth, town development guys need anything?' The

By Bobby Bordelon

As development continues in downtown Ronceverte, one hidden business offers a model for the city's possibilities - Architectural Wood, LLC. Located on Edgar Avenue, the ten-year-old business million-dollar woodworking projects and employs over 40 people.

Two of the business's guiding partners, Carol Oosterbeek and Patrick Driscool, reflected on what it took to build the downtown business over the last ten years and how the only way to improve the city is to take it step by

"This is not an overnight thing for us where we came in here and the next day it looked like this," said Driscoll. "You have to believe in what your future can be, then it takes time for it to become a realization. It's how much effort you can put into it. ... The same thing can happen for the town."

Oosterbeck is originally from South Africa, and just recently earned her citizenship in the United States. She moved to West Virginia from New Jersey over ten years ago with her husband, Tony Ooster-

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:

Linda D. Knott, Chairperson Country Roads Food Cooperative

"Food and Cafeteria/Kitchen Supplies Bid Quote"

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

116 Main Street

Hinton, WV 25951

ENVELOPE SHOULD BE PLAINLY MARKED:

Bids are to be mailed to:

12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2021.

lknott@k12.wv.us

IN RE: M. M.

IN RE: H. M.

IN RE: W. M.

Respondents.

Maranda McElroy

214 N. Kanawha Street Beckley, WV 25801

Bid Due Date: Prior to 12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2021

Director of Student Services

Summers County Public Schools

Bids may also be hand delivered in a sealed envelope prior to

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

LEGAL

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT** 

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RANDOLPH COUNTY,

WEST VIRGINIA

ATTENTION:

Maranda McElroy You have been named as the mother of one or more children who

are the subject of the above styled matter involving a petition alleg-

ing the abuse and neglect of the children, whose mother is Maranda

McElroy. It appears after due diligence the Petitioner has been unable

to locate your current whereabouts. You have the right to counsel at

every stage of these proceedings. An attorney has been appointed to

represent you. His name is Brent Easton, at P.O. Box 267, Davis, WV

26260, and his phone number is 304-940-2627. These proceedings can

result in the permanent termination of your parental rights if you fail to

or make an appearance in this matter. A Status Hearing is scheduled in

this matter for Maranda McElroy for March 29, 2021, at the Randolph

County Circuit Court at 3:30 p.m., and a Disposition Hearing may

follow immediately thereafter. A copy of said Petition can be obtained

Randolph County Circuit Clerk

Philip D. Riggleman

Randolph County Courthouse Elkins, WV 26241

304-636-2765

from the undersigned Circuit Clerk at his office.

DOB: 06/15/2005

DOB: 05/23/2014

DOB: 06/10/2016

beek. Shortly after, both I think it was really worth joined Driscool, who was excited to remain in-state for the outdoor activity possibilities and opportunities for his then fiveyear-old daughter.

Oosterbeek has an obvious love of design - when entering their conference room, the smallest question had her jumping into an explanation of how their conference table was designed. The table's corners were replaced by another edge, turning the rectangle into a hexagon. Oosterbeek explained this allows people to see each other easier, allows for more of the table to be used, and provides more comfort.

"If you have [someone] who's very large, they don't feel confined," Oosterbeek said. "They can relax. ... [They] don't feel crowded and it allows you to use all the corners this way. That's why I do that. ... When you're having a meeting, you don't want people to feel uncomfortable, you want people to feel relaxed, so that was my whole purpose. ... It mimics the black metal on all our stand-up desks, plus the walnut. Patrick and I chose these veneers.

Getting to this point has been a ten-year process for the partners - one that began with a walk through by the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension, which provided them with a list of improvements to

make to the building. "The nice part about it is [the employees and partners] got to see all the changes on a gradual basis," Oosterbeek said. "... We had this assessment and we took it seriously. We checked a box off, we went to the next on, we checked a box off, we went to the next one."

This includes upgrades for the warehouse, lighting, machining, break room, and the office.

"We couldn't do everything overnight, but they saw these little things happening," Oosterbeck said. "It could be funny, [many employees] were so accustomed to older equipment, older technology. ... And now, if you were going to go back, [they would say] 'what do you mean, we can't go back!""

The striking office also serves to inform potential clients of the company's abilities.

"If we want to bring clients in here and we have the old oak and the green carpeting, it's very difficult to explain [that] we can design anything and make anything," Oosterbeek said. "But when you walk someone in here and they see this, you don't have to explain yourself too much. You've already got their attention. ... We need it to be [impressive]

when we bring architects and [general contractors] in here. We want them to feel 'Wow!"

Many of the improvements were made in-

"My millwork guys, everybody touched everything in this building," Oosterbeek said. "There is nobody in this company that didn't touch something here and that was the nice part of that. When everyone walks through here, they feel some ownership. ... Whether they painted, spackled, cleaned, everybody has touched it."

The office is just one job the crews have tackled - Driscoll explained the company focuses on custom mill work, which can vary in size and scope, and case work, such as custom cabinets.

"In our industry, most people will concentrate on one thing and one thing only," Driscoll said. "We chose to go a little outside the box and we [decided our] package would include glass, fabric, counters, quartz, it didn't matter. If it integrated will our mill work or our case work, we took it on. Problem with that is you have

Oosterbeek and Driscoll both emphasized the role of a number of governmental and developmental organizations as the business began.

to pay deposits up front."

"We had the EDC, the EDA, [they] were huge to the success of this company, not only from a monetary sense, but just their guidance, their support," Oosterbeek said. "... They were always checking up and making sure 'You support we got from the state of West Virginia, I can't even express how enormous it was. Because of that, we fought hard to be a success. ... We came in and I really wanted to fly under the radar for a lot of different reasons. We wanted to establish ourselves. ... That's very difficult. You've got money coming in, sometimes, you can't bank on it, but money going out? It's gotta go. In the early years,

that was extremely hard." This support helped the company expand to over 40 employees and move up from \$10,000 jobs to over \$1 million contracts. One job featured on the website is the Earl and Darielle Linehan Concert Hall is located in UMBC's Performing Arts and Humanities Building.

"[The building] is the designated concert hall for the university's symphony orchestra and other performing ensembles," reads the website. "In addition to the engineering and fabrication of the woodwork in the concert hall, other project work includes maple paneling seen throughout the concourse, the corridors and ensemble practice rooms, as well as casework, display cases, wood benches and wood rail caps."

The goal of the development organizations is to facilitate local job creation - Oosterbeek said that is just what they allowed Architectural Wood to do.

"The people here didn't want to leave," Oosterbeek said. "Why would they? We have clients that come down here and

they say, 'we didn't realize this [was here].' They love Lewisburg, they love that quaint town, ... as opposed to the hustle and bustle of DC. It has so many pluses."

This includes speaking with teachers and counselors at Greenbrier County schools, working with engineering teachers, and providing internships for jobs all over the company.

"There was an intern we had, who came in every year for three years," Oosterbeek said. "Great kid, everybody loved him. Went off to college, WVU, went to work for a couple of different people, then showed up at my office one day and said, 'I just can't work for anyone else but you.' ... I hired him on the spot, he joined us about a week later and we're very

happy about that." In sponsoring local sports teams in Ronceverte and Quinwood, creating internships, and communicating with schools, Driscoll hopes the business will allow more Greenbrier County youth to stay in the area.

"I know we're missing the boat on a lot of opportunities as far as having skilled employees for the future because they don't know what's in this building [and many leave the state]," Driscoll said. "It really takes the right person to come in here, and the counselors are the kind of person that doesn't change from year to year. ... The potential people have here - if you give people a chance to prove themselves, they really just want to have stability in their lives and a future

to look forward to." Oosterbeek agreed.

"You can't do it alone. That's really what it's all about. We were very up front with our staff. We explained we were gonna check a box off at a time and they knew exactly who helped us get here. Patrick and I are not wealthy, it's not like we have deep pockets, but we weren't

To reach Architectural Wood, call 304-647-3300 or email sales@arcwoodwv.com. They can also be found online at www.arcwoodwy.com.

afraid of hard work."

### LEGAL

**Advertisement and Expression** of Interest for Advertising & Public Relations Services

Pursuant to WV Code 5B-2I-4(e), the West Virginia Tourism Office is seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified agencies to provide marketing, advertising and public relations services to the Tourism Office. Interested agencies can visit WVtourism. com/contracts to obtain a copy of the Request for Expression of Interest and submission requirements. Expressions of Interest must be received no later than

#### LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail East, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24925, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 29 and 131. The auction will end on 03/17/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox. com. These auctions will run until March 17, 2021. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/ storage-auctions/us/

## LEGAL

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

WV 14 (PIKE STREET) 26TH AVENUE TO BLIZZARĎ DRIVE WIDEN AND ADD LANES (0.49 MILES) STATE PROJECT U354-14-9.23 00 FEDERAL PROJECT STP-0014(174)D

CITY OF PARKERSBURG WOOD COUNTY The West Virginia Department of Transportation will be hosting a vir-

tual public meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 to inform and gather public input on the proposed project to upgrade WV 14 (Pike Street) by widening and add lanes from 26th Avenue to Blizzard Drive. This project is being undertaken to reduce traffic congestion and improve non-motorized movement through the corridor. This meeting complies with the public involvement requirements of the National Environ mental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The public meeting will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. FOR-MAL PRESENTATIONS WILL BE MADE ON MARCH 23, 2021 AT 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The public will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and give written comments on the project throughout the meeting.

Advanced Registration is required: Please send your name, email address, and organization (if one) to the following email to receive a link to the Team Meeting.

WestVirginia14TI@burgessniple.com

Visit the WVDOH Website at http://go.wv.gov/dotcomment for project information and the opportunity to comment on the project

Please submit comments and questions during the Virtual Public Meeting by using the chat window to type your question/comment. Those wishing to file written comments may send them to Mr. RJ Scites, P.E., Director, Engineering Division, West Virginia Division of Highways, 1334 Smith Street, Charleston, West Virginia, 25301 on or before April 25, 2021.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation will, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in our services, programs and activities. Please contact us at (304) 558-3931. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can reach all state agencies by calling (800) 982-8772 (voice to TDD) or (800) 982-8771 (TDD to voice), toll free.

#### LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION** Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 295 and 266. The auction will end on 03/24/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until March 24, 2021. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-

## Do you want government taking more control?

CASE NO.: 18-JA-119

CASE NO.: 18-JA-120

CASE NO.: 18-JA-121



#### Elected officials are looking to make big changes

**KEEP YOUR LEGAL ADS IN GREENBRIER COUNTY** 

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
- Property sales **■ Election ballots**
- Voting changes

■ Project bids

■ Family court

- Tax increases

- **budgets** Government
- financial statements

Government

Zoning changes

and other

notices

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

stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov

**Jack Woodrum** 

**Barry Bruce** (304) 340-3131

barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov

Todd Longanacre

(304) 340-3129 todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov

Call Contract State Project 005 \*1505318 S389-REC/AL-21 00 STP-2021(018)D

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):

LEGAL WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **Division of Highways** 

**Federal Project** 

Description PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-9 RECALL STRIPING

auctions/us/

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 contractors' 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 eli-

gible 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 WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chief Engineer of Programs

Division of Highways Ryland W. Musick, Jr., P.E., Ph.D. Deputy State Highway Engineer

## **DSLCC Launches** IT Academy

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College is launching the DSLCC IT Academy by offering six free online self-paced courses related to the computer networking and cybersecurity industry and open to anyone at any skill level.

The DSLCC IT Academy was created by DSLCC Information Systems Technology Program Head Tamra Lipscomb as a way to engage people who have an interest in various areas of Information Technology.

"I am so excited to provide this opportunity for free learning to the community," said Lipscomb. "Many jobs require technical skills and big name companies are looking for qualified people to work remotely. That could be from home or your favorite location with Internet access. The pandemic has opened up many new possibilities."

The Academy is currently hosting courses in the following areas: The Internet of Things, Networking, Cyber Security and Linux. All skill levels are welcome to join. Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/ DSLCCITAcademy.

For more information about the academy or to learn more about offerings at DSLCC, please contact Lipscomb at 540/863-2896 or tlipscomb@dslcc.edu.

## Save the Children Leads **Food Distributions in Greenbrier County**

Effort Aimed to Support Children and Families, Curb Hunger During COVID-19 Pandemic

Local nonprofit Save the Children is distributing boxes filled with fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, milk and dairy products are being distributed in West Virginia as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farmers to Families Food Box program. Families and individuals from Greenbrier County participated in a drive-up distribution event at Rupert Elementary School on March 5,

2021. "We know that coronavirus continues to have significant, detrimental impacts on children and families across America, particularly those who depend on school for meals. Save the Children is proud to be part of the solution to ensure fresh food reaches rural communities," said Betsy Zorio, Vice President of U.S. Programs and Advocacy at Save the Children. "So often we hear of parents going without to ensure their kids have the food they need to grow healthy and strong. By coordinating distribution efforts in Greenbrier County, we're hopeful we can help curb hunger for kids and adults

More than 25,000 food boxes are being distributed weekly at a variety of community pick-up points in rural communities across Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. Distributions will continue through February 26, with the potential for continuation based on a program extension authorized by USDA.

Before COVID-19, nearly 90 percent of counties with high child food insecurity rates were classified as rural. The pandemic has exacerbated hunger across America, with food insecurity rates tripling for households with children.

As part of Save the Children's coronavirus response efforts in the United States, the nonprofit has helped prepare and deliver more than 8 million meals across rural America since March.

## WV DMV announces convenient online knowledge test for learner's permit now available

Commissioner Everett Frazier of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles is pleased to announce that customers may now take their driver's license knowledge test, also known as the learner's permit, online at the DMV's website, dmv. wv.gov.

According to Commissioner Frazier, "We are so excited to offer our customers this new online service. It's simple to register, and can be done immediately from the comfort, safety, and convenience of home." Customers wanting to take advantage of this opportunity may

visit the DMV website, or this direct link: https://apps.wv.gov/dmv/self-Customers will need access to a

computer with a keyboard, mouse, and camera to take the test; phones will not work.

If customers need technical assistance with any portion of the online testing process once they have started the test, they may email WVK-2DOnlineSupport@iti4dmv.com.

Once a customer passes the test, they will be sent a link to conveniently schedule an appointment at their local DMV Regional Office where they can show their proof documents and receive their learner's/instruction permit without having to wait in line.

For more information, please visit the WV DMV website.

cont. from Page 4

#### Commentary WV Democrats

their communities. West Virginia Democrats pledge to support CO-VID testing and vaccination infrastructure, small businesses and entrepreneurs affected by the pandemic and efforts to improve the unemployment compensation process. We, as a state, need to continue to support, protect and stand up for our law enforcement, local public health agencies, emergency responders and frontline workers. As we have seen this past year, we heavily rely on these individuals - and we need to make sure that their voices are heard and that they are allowed to participate in the legislative process.

The Legislature needs to provide our communities and our people with the resources they need to SUC-

CEED here in West Virginia. The Legislature should pass nondiscrimination legislation and the Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan Fair Pay Act. Helping West Virginians succeed means we also need to keep an open mind and look at polices to reduce, not shift, the tax burdens for our residents. We, as legislators, must make it a priority to create opportunities for minority communities, women, small businesses owners, families and individuals reentering society. Strong, healthy communities and businesses will help all West Virginians prosper.

West Virginia Democrats pledge to support policies- regardless of which party champions them - that create opportunities for ALL West Virginians to stay, rebuild and succeed here. On every vote that we take, our caucus members plan to ask two questions: How does this help West Virginians? Who does it

I believe that now, more than ever, is the time to party politics aside and join together to support policies to move West Virginia forward. It is time to make West Virginians our top priority. We, as legislators, need to do all we can to help West Virginians stay here, rebuild here and succeed here because this is their home.

(Delegate Doug Skaff, Jr. (D-Kanawha) is the House Minority Leader and President of HD Media. You can reach him at 304-340-3240 or doug.skaff@wvhouse.gov)

## Capito, Gillibrand Introduce Legislation to Support Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder as **Addiction Crisis Intensifies During Pandemic**

The Family Support Services for Addiction Act would create a grant program to fund services for families helping loved ones with substance use disorder

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) have introduced bipartisan legislation to provide families with the tools they need to support their loved ones living with addiction. The Family Support Services for Addiction Act would provide \$25 million in grant funding to help nonprofits and community organizations provide support services to families with loved ones seeking addiction treatment.

"As we continue to combat both the COVID-19 pandemic and the addiction crisis in West Virginia and across the nation, it has become clear the strain these dual battles have on those struggling with addiction and their loved ones," Senator individuals and their families are feeling isolated, ashamed, and unsure where to turn for reliable information and advice. This bipartisan legislation will hopefully provide family members with the support, resources, and information they need to assist both their loved ones struggling with substance use disorders and all within their family who are impacted by it."

"The pandemic has exacerbated our country's addiction crisis and we must bolster support services for those seeking treatment, and their families, to combat this troubling trend," Senator Gillibrand said. "Equipping families with the resources they need to support loved ones battling addiction and substance use disorder is essential for recovery, especially during a pandemic that has isolated many families. Passing the Family Support Services for Addiction Act would Capito said. "Now, more than ever, deliver vital funding for financially strained mental health care and substance use disorder support programs and ensure resources are available to families helping people recover from substance use."

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges for those already suffering from mental health and substance use disorders as Americans have adjusted to social isolation, increased financial stress, loss of work, lack of structured time, and daily uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges for those already suffering from mental health and substance use disorders as Americans have adjusted to social isolation, increased financial stress, loss of work, lack of structured time, and daily uncertainty. Provisional CDC data reported over 81,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States between July 2019 and June 2020 — the highest number of over-

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DF-CD-NP-Q121

# entertainment guide

### Dutch Haus Restaurant Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg

STEAKS IN TOWN

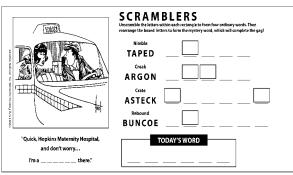
## **WEEKEND SPECIAL**

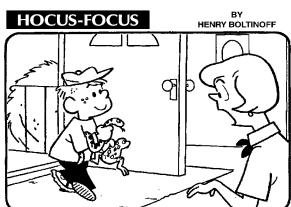
Prime Rib

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1, Window is different. 2, Frog is missing. 3. Doorknob is nigsling.

45 Narcissists

48 Bone: Prefix

informally

51 YWCA part

54 Yule, briefly

57 Small Vlasic

offering

**63** Domestic

Ericson

surface

69 "As above."

in a footnote

70 Morning joe,

maybe

76 Gambols

78 Inventory

ship

79 Board, as a

81 One who's

86 1/16 ounce

88 "- aboard!"

90 Baker's unit

94 Pec-building

exercises

98 Tilling tools,

to Brits

making

close

people feel

in hygiene

101 King, in Caen

87 Perfectly

distraught

with feelings

67 Explorer

68 Glossy

\_ALookBack\_



Photo courtesy of West Virginia University Regional History Center.

#### By William "Skip" Deegans

If one had to choose one machine that most impacted the industrial development of Greenbrier County, it might be the Shay locomotive. Shown this week is an undated photo of Rainelle's Meadow River Lumber Company's Shay No. 2 and its crew. The steep hills in western Greenbrier County made transporting logs a challenge. Conventional steam locomotives did not have good traction, and their long frames made it impossible to make tight turns. Ephraim Shay came to realize

there was a need for a better locomotive for logging. He was born in 1893, and became a teacher, doctor, and served in the Union Army's Corps of Engineers during the Civil War. After the war, he became a timber man in Cadillac, Michigan. Shay designed a new geared locomotive that had good traction, could pull large loads, and would run equally well forward and backward. In 1881, he received a patent for his new design and gave the Lima Locomotive Works the exclusive right to manufacture Shays.

While the days of steam locomotives hauling logs are long gone, the Cass Scenic Railroad allows us an opportunity to ride behind a Shay. There are nine Shays - operational, on display, or being restored - in Cass. Two of the Shays had been in service by Meadow River Lumber Co., and two were used by Cass's Mower Lower Company.

Sources: Logging Locomotives by G. Leroy Crislip; Mountain State Railroad and Logging Historical Association.

## THANK YOU FOR READING THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

## **Super** Crossword

#### **ACROSS** 1 Plates, e.g. 6 "Star Wars"

villain - the Hutt 11 Longtime fashion mag 16 "Got it!" 19 Muslim god

20 Has left the office, say 21 Bilbao locale 22 "Whether nobler .. 23 Sudden-

death extra in a golf 25 Supermodel Klum

26 Hi-fi platters 27 Cook gently 28 Behave obsequiously

31 Secretive U.S. org. 32 Redding of

36 Opp. of horizontal 37 Film preview 38 Sort who's

at hand whenever needed 42 Part of a hunting

outfit Fu Panda' 44 French

102 Old Peruvian 103 Connections 43 Lucy of "Kung 108 Big name painter Rosa

111 "QED" part 112 Beneficiary 113 Certain PC readout 114 Purplish fruit spread 117 Male ducks **120** — Lingus

121 Rivulet 122 What the last word of 23-, 28-, 38-, 57-, 70-

81-. 103- or 114-Across is a synonym of 126 Hang behind 127 Giant in life insurance 128 Televised

129 "... and vice 130 Hip-hop "Dr." 131 Hide, as loot dynasts

132 Old Russian 133 German city

DOWN 1 Does a

fist bump colloquially 2 Chicago's home 3 Close loudly 4 The

38 "Gigli" co-star. Caribbean's familiarly - Islands 39 Certain 5 Slipper, e.g. weapon, for 6 Peanut butter brand short

7 Volcano stuff 8 Startling cry 9 Light source in a socket 10 Had dinner

11 Note

**12** Not

66-Down

against

**14** In the — of

(during)

16 Map-filled

references

17 Most with it

24 Ice-cream

18 Alleges

13 Spoke

46 Country's econ. 47 Suffix of at a friend's house, e.g. equivalent to necessarily

Muskogee" (1969 hit) 53 Annoys 55 Circle part 56 Ionian, e.g. 58 Upper crust 59 Purity of a

15 In readiness color 60 Razor-sharp 61 Advanced 62 Lead-in to skeleton 63 Give a job

alternative. for short 29 "Scream" director Lamar 65 Office letter Craven 66 Note equivalent to

30 Sitarist Shankar 33 Weight unit 34 With a sharp picture, briefly 35 Shrek creator William

title girl 73 "— be my pleasure' 74 Baby of a boomer (as first found)

80 Big name in beer brewing 82 "Alley -!"

83 Condé -

84 Mall lure

STICKY

**SITUATIONS** 

measure medical conditions 49 Free (from)

40 "Be silent!"

41 Adolescent

51 Plump bird

64 Former Laker 109 PLO head

11-Down 71 Do a tax

72 J.D. Salinger

85 Spill clumsily 89 Guitar's kin 91 Con artists 92 Abridge 93 Took cover 94 Patchy horse 95 Vague 96 Plague 97 Fit as a fiddle 98 Sound of falling hail 99 F-J link

100 One of two in "crocodile" 104 Wading birds 105 R&B singer Badu

106 — Mahal 107 Accuses Mahmoud

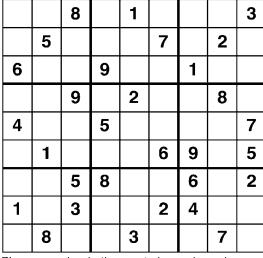
110 Brimless cap **115** "The Godfather" score

composer Nino 116 Some med. scans

118 All-night bash 119 Comic Laurel 123 Eon subunit 124 Bonn article 125 TSA requests

## Weekly **SUDOKU**

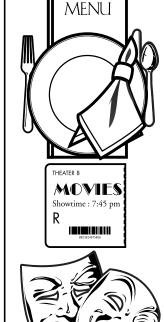
by Linda Thistle



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

#### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc



## **NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:**

## Greenbrier Greeters

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Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy

Greenbrier Valley Medical Center • Greenbrier Valley Theatre Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital • The Heart Center-Thomas W. vonDohlen, M.D.

> Knight Henderson-American National Insurance Lawrence J. Ickes, CPA, A.C. • Lewisburg United Methodist Church

Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital, Inc.-Dr. Mary Ann Mann

Mary Kay Cosmetics-Erica Buzzard • Mountain Messenger Olive + Shea Natural Nail Studio • Post Net • Premier Bank • Robert C. Byrd Clinic

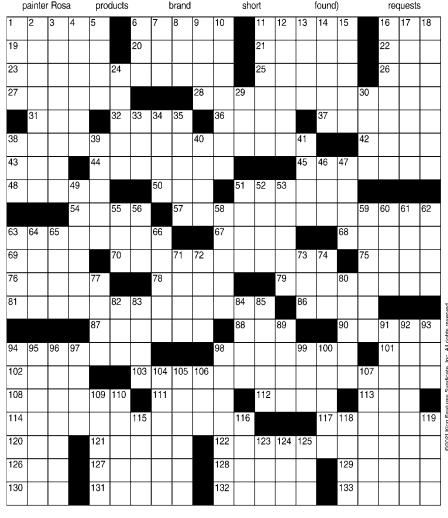
Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital Shuck Memorial Baptist Church • S.J. Neathawk Lumber Spare Time Sports Bar & Grille • St. James Episcopal Church

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, WSS • State Farm Insurance-Chris Hall

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## West Virginia Symphony Orchestra Announces "A Night of Eclectic Sounds" stream and television broadcast

The WV Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) will feature members of the Brass section and a quintet with pianist Barbara Nissman in a new concert available for digital stream, and television broadcast on March 11, on West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

"A Night of Eclectic Sounds" is available as of Monday, Mar. 1, and will be hosted on the Symphony's website for 30 days. Tickets for access to the stream are available for \$15 for single tickets and \$25 for family tickets and can be purchased through wvsymphony.org. As a thank you for your loyal support, all subscribers to the 20-21 season will receive complimentary access to the live stream. This access is available to subscribers regardless if they have received a refund or donated tickets from cancelled concerts in 20-21 season. For more information or questions regarding access, please contact Amanda McDonald, amcdonald@wvsymphony.org or 304-957-9880.

Thanks to a partnership with West Virginia Public Broadcasting, this concert will be broadcast statewide on Thursday, March 11 at 10 p.m. on all West Virginia Public Broadcasting television channels.

Capito cont. from Page 8

dose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period. This included a 33.9 percent increase in overdose deaths in West Virginia. Before the pandemic,

families with individuals who have a substance use disorder often struggled to access basic support services, and even when services are offered, they usually come at an additional cost. Now, as providers and organizations are overwhelmed by need and struggling to stay afloat because of the financial uncertainty originating from the pandemic, these services are even harder to access. This makes it difficult for families to help their loved ones seek treatment and prevention services or navigate other social service systems. The Family Support Services for Addiction Act would establish a federal grant program to help nonprofits and community organizations offer support to families of individuals struggling with substance use disorder. This would help empower families with knowledge and resources to support their loved ones throughout their addiction and improve recovery outcomes.

The Family Support Services for Addiction Act would bolster national and local community programs that offer family support services by delivering \$25 million in grants through the Department of Health and Human Services over five years. Family support services include caregiver peer support, education and training, systems navigation for families trying to access treatment and other resources, counseling services, support groups for those in crisis and for those who have lost loved ones, and skill-building.

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"We are thrilled to bring another streaming and televised concert to our patrons during this time, and even more excited to showcase our musicians on stage with Ms. Nissman," said WVSO President Joe Tackett.

"A Night of Eclectic Sounds" was originally recorded in late December from the Culture Center stage and features chamber music by musicians of the WVSO. Guest conductors Luke Zyla and Robert Turizziani alternate taking the lead throughout the brass portion of the program which includes chamber pieces like Fanfare from "La Peri" by Dukas and the Antique Suite by Horvit.

The second half brings local favorite, Barbara Nissman, to the stage on piano with members of the strings section to perform Schubert's Piano Quintet in A major, most known as the "Trout Quin-

This concert is made possible thanks to our generous sponsors the Elliot Foundation, City National Bank, Jackson Kelly PLLC, and AC&S Incorporated. The WVSO thanks its loyal patrons for their continued support and engagement during this time.

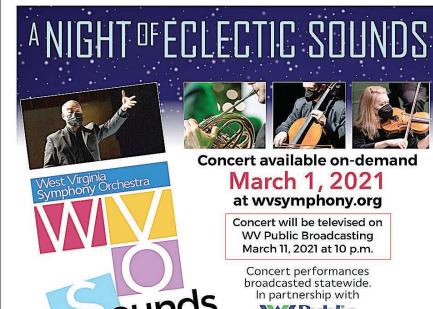
The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia's premier perform-

> ing arts organization, presenting classical, pops, and chamber-music concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Cur

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rently in its 82nd season, the WVSO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program.

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