

Clinic at Clingman Center vaccinates Greenbrier Co. residents of color

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 five-day-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 educators.

“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.”

WGMS

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” ____ Page 2



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 low-lying 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 to 12.5 feet.

On Wednesday, warmer temperatures and a much-needed 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)

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 already illegal act of teachers striking to be illegal, 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

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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 unionwv.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-effects-of-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

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, Meadow 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

ler’s Mountain, Droop Mountain, Renick, Auto, Denmar, Leonard Cordova, or anywhere in between, meeting Arbuckle on one of his routes could be the highlight of your whole week.

Hale, a Maxwelton native, married his wife Gerry in 1949. Her father, Jesse Baker Lewis, had started his own 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 Magazine 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 Yale.

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 circulated 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 hand-drawn 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.

Police Blotter

If defense possible argument for Friedman stabbing case in Lewisburg

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.

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 to in January.

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-year-old 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.”

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 Senior, 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-Hampshire) is lead sponsor on the bill.

“We have a lot of our elderly being exploited ... Grandparents are being exploited by grandchildren and children. So, that’s what this is addressing.” Delegate Rowan said.

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 action: 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 prosecution.

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Tax Tips

- *Remember: Thursday, April 15, 2021 is the deadline to file your income taxes*



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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, agriculture.

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-of-state 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.

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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 succeed here.

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



Michael Showell, Publisher

Sarah Richardson, Editor

Bobby Bordelon, Reporter

Kathy Hunter, Business Office

Kathleen Stickley, Business Office

Debra Smith, Advertising

Chris Kincaid, Business Systems Manager

Amanda Workman, Production Layout

Jeanette Albaugh, Production Layout

Brad Miller, Production Layout

Julie Sweet, Ad Design

Mark Cunningham, Office Assistant

Naomi Smith, Office Assistant



The Mountain Messenger is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Lewisburg, West Virginia. The known office of publication is Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 USPS 031784 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901

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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

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 over-emphasize 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 session.

VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS. Despite near unanimous agreement from students, parents, and teachers that virtual education has not worked during COVID, 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 @BaldwinForWV)

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OBITUARIES

Delorse Jean Dowdy



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

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 Helles (Dwane) of Quinwood; son, Richard Dowdy (Debbie) of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Brandi Masters (Levi), Jennifer Piner (Josh), Hannah Helles (Daniel Davis), Eric Dowdy, Brent and Matthew Helles; great-grandchildren 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.com

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" Lighthner, 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.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local food pantry in Huberta's memory.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Shirley Massie

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

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

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 arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

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 Landfill.

Dear Trying to Discourage Any More Diapers in the Landfill,

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 tell us?

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 recre-

ation, 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

-Toys

-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 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 funds.

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

has been hit particularly hard," Senator 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 COVID-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.

Morrissey Lists Top Consumer Complaints in Central/Southeastern WV for 2020

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey 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 Morrissey 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 written 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 scams.

The 2020 top complaint categories for central and southeastern West Virginia were:

Internet services

General sales

Cable TV

Used vehicle repairs

Telephone services

Hospitals and clinics

Cell phone devices and services

Used vehicles

Collection agencies

Communications complaints remained the top consumer concern statewide for a second consecutive year, accounting for more than a fifth of all complaints filed. Automotive and motor vehicle issues also remained steady at second statewide, followed by general sales complaints.

The Attorney General encourages consumers to educate themselves about their rights and responsibilities so they do not encounter similar

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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Architectural Wood provides model for local business growth, town development

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 tackles million-dollar woodworking projects and employs over 40 people.

Two of the business’s guiding partners, Carol Oosterbeek and Patrick Driscoll, 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 step.

“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.”

Oosterbeek 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-

beek. Shortly after, both joined Driscoll, who was excited to remain in-state for the outdoor activity possibilities and opportunities for his then five-year-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.

I think it was really worth it.”

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,” Oosterbeek 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-house.

“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 to pay deposits up front.”

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

“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

guys need anything?’ The 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 Danielle 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 course, 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 afraid of hard work.”

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

LEGAL

The Country Roads Cooperative (Greenbrier, McDowell, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Summers, Webster, Wyoming) is inviting bids for the following for our Child Nutrition Departments as of July 1, 2021:

ITEM: Food and Cafeteria/Kitchen Supplies

Period: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (may be rolled over twice)

Bid Opening: Friday, March 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m. SESC Office 214 N. Kanawha Street Beckley, WV 25801

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

Bids are to be mailed to: Linda D. Knott, Chairperson Country Roads Food Cooperative Director of Student Services Summers County Public Schools 116 Main Street Hinton, WV 25951

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

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

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

LEGAL

Advertisement and Expression of Interest for Advertising & Public Relations Services

Pursuant to WV Code 5B-21-4(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 5 p.m. local time on April 23, 2021.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

WV 14 (PIKE STREET) 26TH AVENUE TO BLIZZARD 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 virtual 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 Environmental 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. **FORMAL 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.

West Virginia14TI@burgessniple.com

Visit the WVDOT 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-auctions/us/

LEGAL

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: M. M.	DOB: 06/15/2005	CASE NO.: 18-JA-119
IN RE: H. M.	DOB: 05/23/2014	CASE NO.: 18-JA-120
IN RE: W. M.	DOB: 06/10/2016	CASE NO.: 18-JA-121

Respondents,
Maranda McElroy

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 alleging 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 from the undersigned Circuit Clerk at his office.

Randolph County Circuit Clerk
Philip D. Riggleman
Randolph County Courthouse
Elkins, WV 26241
304-636-2765

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/

Do you want government taking more control?



Elected officials are looking to make big changes

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

- Delinquent tax lists
- Property sales
- Election ballots
- Voting changes
- Tax increases
- Project bids
- Family court

- Government budgets
- Government financial statements
- Zoning changes and other public notices

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

Stephen Baldwin
(304) 357-7959
stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov

Jack Woodrum
(304) 357-7849
jack.woodrum@wvsenate.gov

Barry Bruce
(304) 340-3131
barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov

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

KEEP YOUR LEGAL ADS IN GREENBRIER COUNTY

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until May 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

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

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a 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 eligible to bid.

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

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

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

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.

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-service>.

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 start-

ed 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.

Commentary WV Democrats

cont. from Page 4

their communities. West Virginia Democrats pledge to support COVID 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 policies 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 hurt?

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)

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

alike.”

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.

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 Capito said. “Now, more than ever,

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 deliver vital funding for finan-

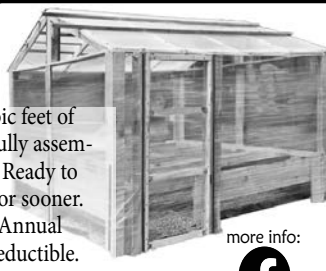
cially strained mental health care and substance use disorder support programs and ensure resources are available to families helping people recover from substance use.”

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-

See “Capito” Page 10

Be Prepared With Your Own Food Supply!

12x12 structure with 100 cubic feet of year-round growing space. Fully assembled with dirt and irrigation. Ready to plant. Delivered by April 1st or sooner. \$1200 each. All sales for our Annual Spring Fund Raiser are tax deductible.



more info:



Barker Adams Foundation

The Barker Adams Foundation is a non profit that exists to train, mentor and support veterans, those with drug dependency and under employed individuals.

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April 15, 2021

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DF-CD-NP-Q121

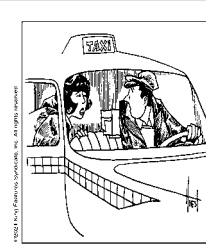
DINING & entertainment guide

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Prime Rib
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**SCRABLERS**
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Nimble
TAPED

Creak
ARGON

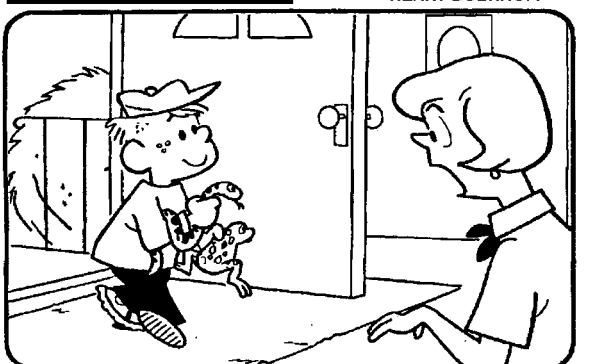
Crate
ASTECK

Rebound
BUNCOE

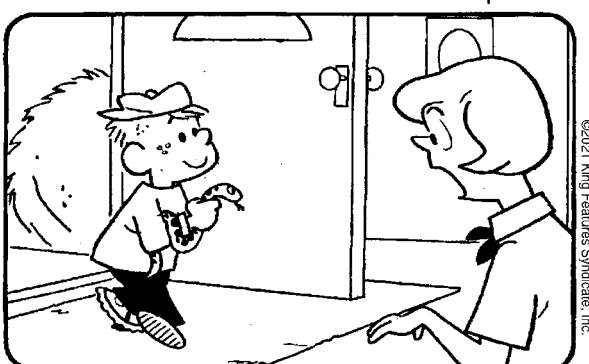
TODAY'S WORD

"Quick, Hopkins Maternity Hospital, and don't worry... I'm a _____ there."

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Window is different. 2. Frog is missing. 3. Doorknob is higher. 4. Failing is missing. 5. Cap is reversed. 6. Earing is missing.

Super Crossword STICKY SITUATIONS

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 tournament
25 Supermodel Klum
26 Hi-fi platters
27 Cook gently
28 Behave obsequiously
31 Secretive U.S. org.
32 Redding of song
36 Opp. of horizontal
37 Film preview
38 Sort who's at hand whenever needed
42 Part of a hunting outfit
43 Lucy of "Kung Fu Panda"
44 French painter Rosa

DOWN
1 Does a fist bump, colloquially
2 Chicago's home
3 Close loudly making people feel close
4 The Caribbean's — Islands
5 Slipper, e.g.
6 Peanut butter brand
7 Volcano stuff
8 Startling cry
9 Light source in a socket
10 Had dinner at a friend's house, e.g.
11 Note equivalent to 66-Down
12 Not necessarily against
13 Spoke
14 In the — of (during)
15 In readiness
16 Map-filled references
17 Most with it
18 Alleges
24 Ice-cream alternative, for short
29 "Scream" director
30 Sitarist
33 Shankar
34 Weight unit
35 With a sharp picture, briefly
36 Shrek creator
37 William
38 "Gigli" co-star, familiarly
39 Certain nuclear weapon, for short
40 "Be silent!"
41 Adolescent
46 Country's econ. measure
47 Suffix of medical conditions
49 Free (from)
51 Plump bird
52 "— From Muskogee" (1969 hit)
53 Annoys
55 Circle part
56 Ionian, e.g.
58 Upper crust
59 Purity of a color
60 Razor-sharp
61 Advanced
62 Lead-in to skeleton
63 Give a job to
64 Former Laker
65 Office letter
66 Note equivalent to 11-Down
71 Do a tax task
72 J.D. Salinger title girl
73 "— be my pleasure"
74 Baby of a boomer
77 In — (as first found)
80 Big name in beer brewing
82 "Alley —!"
83 Condé —
84 Mall lure
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
109 PLO head
110 Mahmoud
111 Brimless cap
115 "The Godfather" score composer
116 Some med. scans
118 All-night bash
119 Comic Laurel
123 Eon subunit
124 Bonn article
125 TSA requests

A Look Back



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


Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

		8		1				3
	5				7		2	
6			9			1		
		9		2			8	
4			5					7
	1				6	9		5
		5	8			6		2
1		3			2	4		
	8			3			7	

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!

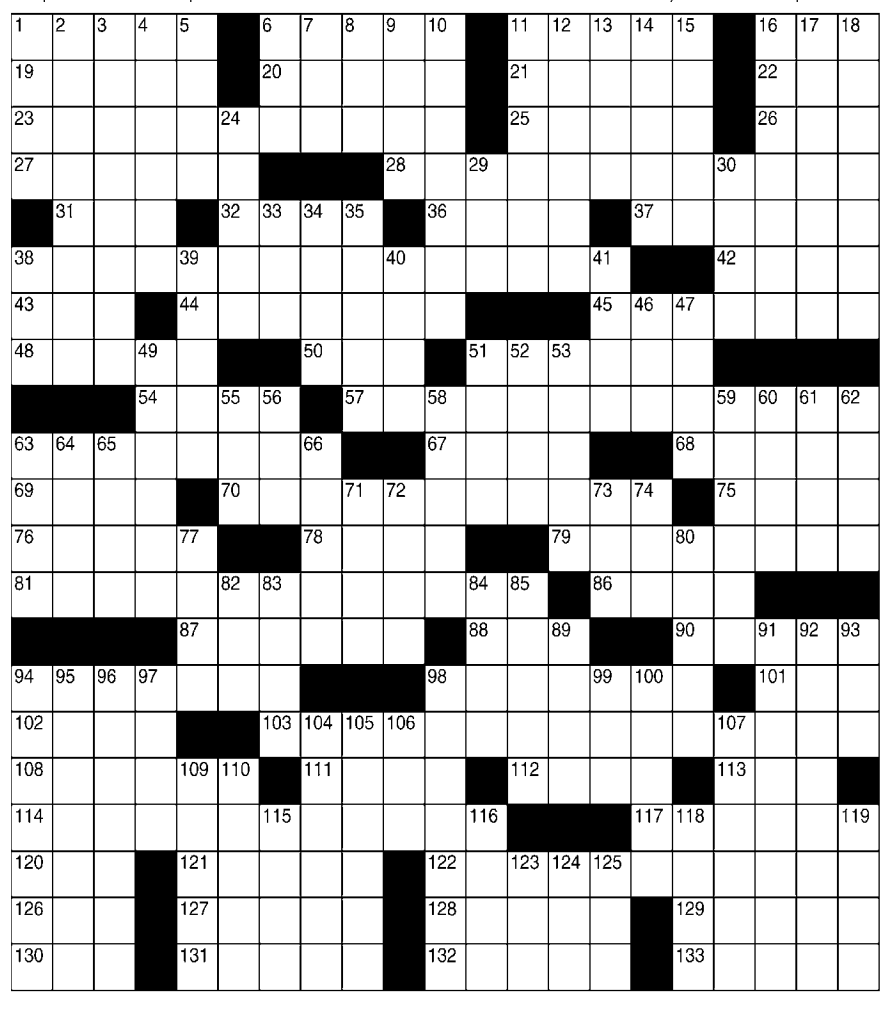
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MENU

THEATER 8
MOVIES
Showtime : 7:45 pm
R

MENU



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NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:

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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
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Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital
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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.

"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 Quintet".

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 performing arts organization, presenting classical, pops, and chamber-music concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Currently 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.

Elliot Foundation

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A NIGHT OF ECLECTIC SOUNDS

West Virginia Symphony Orchestra

WVSO

Sounds of the Symphony
a virtual concert series

Concert available on-demand March 1, 2021 at wvsymphony.org

Concert will be televised on WV Public Broadcasting March 11, 2021 at 10 p.m.

Concert performances broadcasted statewide. In partnership with

Public Broadcasting

WEST VIRGINIA SYMPHONY

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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304.647.4406

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3115 Seneca Trail South, Peterstown, WV 24963
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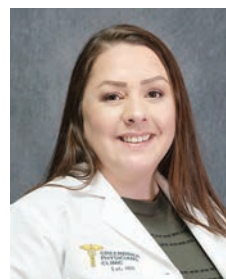
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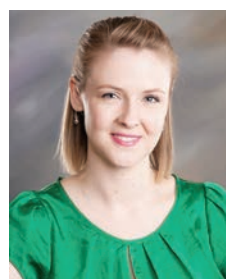
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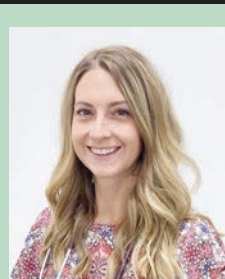


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