Alderson passes one percent B&O tax

By Bobby Bordelon

The first reading of a business and occupation tax (B&O) expansion in Alderson was approved by Town Council during their Thursday, Mar. 11 meeting. The council also discussed other potential ordinances on ATV's and next year's budget.

Mayor Travis Copenhaver explained that due to legislative rule changes last year serious budget revisions had to be considered before the 2022 budget could be balanced.

"It is a 1 percent [B&O tax] across the board for every business that is not a nonprofit, ... like the other municipalities have," said Copenhaver. "This is the way to offset what I've been harping about for the last several

The proposed B&O tax would not affect either Greenbrier or Monroe counties' hotel/motel tax, any utility tax, or previously established contractor's fees. If passed, the ordinance would be effective July 1, 2021.

"When we [last] changed this, I said we had the most backward B&O tax there was because we were trying to hold off taxing the locals," Copenhaver said. "This doesn't change rents, the property owners still pay the one percent, the only thing that it's doing is putting the one percent on all convenience stores, restaurants, cafes, all of the brick and mortar businesses. ... "[The language of the ordinance] had it so they were only taxed

See "Alderson" Page 2

Vaccine transportation program seeks volunteers

By Bobby Bordelon

The vaccine rollout in Greenbrier County is pushing forward with help for those with extra needs.

Several issues with the rollout have emerged as the COVID-19 pandemic begins to get under control. This has prevented some West Virginians who want to be vaccinated from getting it.

"If we're aware of the people around us and try to help everybody, we'll all be better off together," explained local organizer Jennifer Mason. "Part of that is being able to sign up for the vaccine and part of that is just being aware of your neighbors and helping when they need help."

This includes lack of knowledge of the vaccine clinics, unfamiliarity with the Registration Process, inability to get registered (even though it is just a phone call), and lack of transportation to the fairgrounds to get the

In order to combat this, Feeding Seniors and Mason have devised a new system for reaching out to people needing help.

"Greenbrier and Monroe County residents may call the United Way by dialing 211 to obtain assistance with registration for COVID Vaccines," said Mason. "The United Way worker will ask if they need transportation and we will endeavor to provide the same through individual volunteers and volunteers from the Sheppard's

Phone calls and emails are not the only way for those that like to get business done in person.

"If the individual prefers to register in person, but doesn't have a computer or needs help to use one, they can go to the Greenbrier County Public Service office at 9035 Seneca Trail S, Fairlea, the location of the old Kentucky Fried Chicken," Mason said. "They will be allowed to use the computers Commission has and/or one of the employees will help them to register on Everbridge."

Currently, Meadow River Valley residents unable to come to a clinic can be assisted by Rainelle Medical Center. Mason is looking for a similar arraignment on the eastern side of the county.

"There are some Greenbrier County residents on the Greenbrier Valley side ... need help with either transporting people to the fairgrounds or there are some

people who are homebound [that need help]," Visit us at — Mason explained. "We're www.mountain working on a solution on messenger.com how to get the vaccines to Inside This Week

Briefly 3

Classified 6

For the Record 4

Obituaries 5

Opinion 4

Entertainment

Sudoku

AG Day .. 8-10

Number of Sections: 1 Those looking to volunteer as drivers must meet a General few requirements.

> "They have to have a valid driver's license, they have to have insurance, and they have to go through training on how to transport elderly individuals," Mason said. "There are some precautions they have to take."

Feeding Seniors, a local group working with businesses to provide meals during the pandemic, has also helped the vaccine

"Feeding Seniors is See "Volunteers" Page 2



Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White (right) is interviewed by Showell and Rowan

Stage on a Stage podcast features interviews with teachers, Mayor White

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier Valley and Mountain Media News now have their own podcast! The Stage on a Stage podcast features local and casual interviews with students, teachers, representatives from the perspective of Greenbrier Valley youth.

Hosted by two Greenbrier East High School students, the show looks at education during COVID, casual conversations with West Virginians, and more. Of the first couple of episodes, guests have included GEHS band drum major, and now cohost, Reece Rowan, GEHS band director Jim Allder, GEHS engineering teacher Kevin Warfield, and Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White. Each spoke about their life, early career, thoughts on the state of West Virginia and the Greenbrier Valley, and what the future could hold.

The show has a guiding vision, interviewing locals about their lives in the Greenbrier Valley, but the spark of inspiration was even more straightforward.

"Me and my dad were listening to a Joe Rogan podcast one day and I was like 'wouldn't it be cool to do that for a job, at least it could be fun to do a podcast or something," said Showell with a laugh. "He was like 'okay let's do it' and I thought he was joking.'

The show's hosts are Showell and Reece Rowan, local students at Greenbrier East High School. When planning the first episode, Showell asked Rowan to be a guest, but the easy friendship and a misunderstanding lead to cohosting.

Rowan explained Showell asked him to be on the show and "I assumed he meant together, like we were going to cohost. [I] asked who we were going to have on" the first episode "and he goes 'You!" ... So I invited myself as a cohost."

After recording the first episode, mostly reflecting on remote learning and their understanding of politics, Rowan stayed on, interviewing each guest alongside

Both Allder and Warfield offered some insight into their experience teaching remotely over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, while White spoke on Lewis-

See "Podcast" ___

City hears proposal from Secretary of State; approves 2022 budget

By Sarah Richardson

After holding a multi-day long finance committee meeting last week to hash out details of the 2022 budget, this week's city council meeting for Lewisburg was streamlined as the council approved the first reading of said budget. Poll workers and election officials for this year's municipal election were also approved.

The council also heard a presentation from representatives with the Secretary of State's Office regarding e-voting, held a secondary first reading of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning ordinance, and discussed ongoing parks improvements.

The council heard from Deak Kersey with the WV Secretary of State's office, who proposed a pilot program to implement a "portal" for voters to see their ballot after it's been cast and is being stored in the voting

While West Virginia was commended after the 2020 election for election security, representatives noted an increased desire from voters to ensure their ballots are secure after they are cast. They are bringing a proposal for this pilot program to all municipalities in the state.

"We are looking to make sure that the technology we are using is as good as it can be," said Kersey.

"The reason this would be a pilot program is because it's a little bit different than what we've ever done in West Virginia before," he explained. "The system is the same, the process is the same, but what we add to this is an additional requirement for voter confidence in the process. Specifically, there are systems available now and more features available through vendors that we have used in the past, and others, that allow the voter at any time after they have cast their ballot to go in and see their ballot through a portal. The ballot will have a unique ID on it, nobody will know whose name is attached to it as it will just be a jumble of letters and numbers, and the voter can go into this website, type in their unique ID, and see their ballot that is currently being stored in the vendor's server."

While councilmembers supported the idea, with the next municipal election fast approaching on April 23, time constraints proved to be an issue.

"I feel there is not enough time to implement this program, it's not that we won't look at it later, but the time frame is just too tight. I really don't feel comfortable implementing this in an election this close, and I hope they understand that," said Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White.

Councilmember Josh Edwards agreed, "I concur. I just don't think we have enough time to implement it."

Kersey will provide the council with more background on the program for review.

In other news, the council approved the first reading

of the PUD ordinance once again after making changes to the allowed uses and densities. Planned Unit Developments are when land uses can be mixed at the same site, rather than being separated into residential and commercial uses. Multi-use subdivisions take advantage of zoning such as this to increase walkability and provide greater housing variety and density. A second reading is now scheduled.

The city closed on the purchase of the Barnette property located off of Grand Avenue near Lewisburg Cinema 8 last Friday. The site will be the location of the new fire station, which will replace the outdated Fire Station No. 1 downtown.

City Hall will open again to the public starting on Apr. 5. City Manager Misty Hill noted that the public bathrooms outside of City Hall, as well as those at local parks, are also now open for public use.

Public Works Director Roger Pence provided positive feedback on the city's decision to purchase a Ventrac for public works. The Ventrac equipment is multi-func-

See "City Council"___Page 3

Bruce-sponsored bills pass House

By Bobby Bordelon

As the Legislative session continues, more bills sponsored by Greenbrier County Republican representatives are passing through the supermajority in both houses.

Two new bills sponsored by Delegate Barry Bruce were passed by the House of Delegates with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre:

• House Bill 3078, clarifies the powers and responsibilities of parole boards, specifying that "an inmate may not be paroled under the special terms of this subdivision if the Parole Board finds that he or she has not completed the majority of his or her rehabilitative and educational programming and that the amount of rehabilitative and educational programming which must still be completed would interfere with his or her successful reintegration into society."

• House Bill 3128 adjusts the language and requirements around 911 fee reporting on the county level.

Although Delegate Todd Longanacre sponsored bills have not passed since last week, one of his bills drew attention. House Bill 2264, creating hospital exemptions from certificates of need, would allow someone to provide "hospital services performed at a hospital" without applying for a certificate of need. This would include

See "Legislative Bills" __ Page 3









Thanks for making us your local listening choice!

Greenbrier Valley's Talk and News Headquarters

Your Classic Today's HOT **Hits Station** Country!

-Police Blotter -

Podcast

Continued from Front Page

burg's several ongoing infrastructure projects, her work in local government, and managing a city during CO-

With production help from Bill DePaulo and the literal stage on a stage in his studio, the show aims for an easy listening atmosphere. "I would describe it as having a conversation with

your friends," Rowan said. "[We're] trying to be personable, but not official. Just casual."

"We just want to see what people have to say," Showell said. "We have some people from the community on, we just want to know what's going on around here."

The show now has a local focus, but Showell and Rowan also set their sights higher.

"Joe Biden," Showell said with no hesitation.

"It would be cool to sit down and have a conversation with the most official person in the nation," Rowan said.

The production is a Mountain Media News podcast, affiliated with the Mountain Messenger through its online, multipaper sister website Mountain Media News. Episodes have been posted to YouTube on the Mountain Media page.

Alderson

Continued from Front Page

if they made in excess of \$15 million, which is gone. ... That is the major revision of this ordinance. You have from now to next month to look at it and pick at it."

Copenhaver pointed to a rule change from last year, removing a municipalities ability to suspend driver's licenses and other punishments for failure to pay fines.

"The major issue right now is the budget deficit that we're looking at is a result of one tiny little thing done last year. That one, tiny thing has cost us, the little ol' town of Alderson, \$37,000. Our police department is not a money making endeavor, that's not the point. The point is 14 percent of our general fund before this law was enacted, then when the law became what it was, we didn't have any means to collect that."

Another future bill leaving the budget uncertain is Governor Jim Justice's proposed personal income tax replacement bill.

"If we do away with the personal income tax, how is that going to affect us, the class four municipality?" Copenhaver asked. "It's a major, major unforeseen issue. The ramifications of this bill alone is enough to make major deficits, and it has here, on the most local level."

Citing disagreement with some representatives of the West Virginia Municipal League, Copenhaver spoke out against continued removal of municipal powers.

"This is terrible," Copenhaver said. "Everybody wants to pay [less] in taxes, and everybody thinks it's great, but look at the big picture. ... I feel like we do a dagum job, even compared to other class four municipalities. I'm proud of what we do. But with the stuff that's been taken away from us, and what's proposed to be taken away from us, why even be an incorporated municipality? It would be easier for us to get out of the water and sewer business, get out of police business, and just be another spot with a sign that says 'unincorporated.' Deregulation from the municipal side of things is not the way to do it."

In other business:

- The Alderson Varsity Football Team came to Town Council after taking the championship for their division. Copenhaver said "You guys are due a debt of our gratitude. On behalf of the administration of the town, the administration of the council, thank you all very much. ... We appreciate you representing us so well.'
- Alderson will soon receive \$470,000 out of the federal March 2021 COVID-19 relief bill. Noting it comes with some guidelines, Copenhaver said "There's no question we're going to get it." This is not expected to affect the ongoing B&O tax ordinance.
- Another \$5,000 budget consideration could be considered next month, the licensing of All Terrain Vehicles in town. Copenhaver explained "we're going to have to make a decision because it's time to renew the [city licenses]. Do we keep our current ordinance and licenses [and requirements] for the side streets?"

WVDEP now accepting applications for 2021 WV **Make It Shine Spring Cleanup**

Applications are now available for the 2021 West Virginia Make It Shine Spring Statewide Cleanup. The annual event is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP) Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP). Normally held during the first two weeks of April, this

year's event was pushed back due to COVID-19 and will take place from May 1 through May 15. The Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling, and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter cleanups in state streams or on public lands.

The WVDEP encourages all volunteers to wear a mask and stay socially distant during their cleanups in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

More than 4,300 volunteers participated in the 2019 statewide spring cleanup, removing nearly 180 tons of litter and over 2,000 tires from West Virginia's landscape. The 2020 cleanup was canceled due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

Applications are available online here: https://apps. dep.wv.gov/ppod/make_it_shine.a5w and are due April 2. For more information, contact Chris Cartwright at

DEPwvmis@wv.gov or by phone at 1-800-322-5530.

Man arrested in Rainelle with variety of drugs, scales

On Mar. 17, at approximately 2 a.m., Sergeant C. R. Smith and Lieutenant B. A. Sheppard of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office initiated a traffic stop of vehicle near the intersection of US Route 60 and the James River Kanawha Turnpike in Rainelle.

The vehicle pulled into the parking lot of an apartment building and the driver, who was carrying a backpack, exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot. Sergeant Smith pursued and subsequently took the suspect, identified as Chet Edward Gunder, 45, of Rainelle, into cus-

Gunder was found to be in possession of a 9mm handgun, a .45caliber handgun, several individual Ziplock baggies containing a total of over 100 grams of methamphetamine, 7.6 grams of heroin, 2.3 grams of marijuana, 3 LSD stamps, .6 grams of MDMA, and digital scales.

Gunder was charged with 5 counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and fleeing on foot and was incarcerated in the Southern Regional Jail in Beaver, WV.

Man 'not guilty by reason of mental illness' for 2017 stabbing allowed less restrictive supervision

By Bobby Bordelon

Treatment for a high-profile case of schizophrenia in Greenbrier County appears to be successful in the case of Edwood Reyes-Cortijo. In a hearing under Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent, Reyes-Cortijo was permitted to move from a high-security mental health institution to a less-restrictive transitional housing facility on Mar. 12.

Bradley Jerome Morales-Andrades died on Mar. 21, 2017, in Greenbrier Valley Medical Center as a result of stab wounds. In October 2017, Morales-Andrades's roommate, Reyes-Cortijo, was indicted for his murder. During the proceedings in the Greenbrier County Circuit Court, a number of mental health evaluations were performed on Reyes-Cortijo, leading to a diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Reyes-Cortijo pled "not guilty by reason of mental illness, but guilty to murder in the first degree in regard to the facts" on Mar. 5, 2020.

"The defendant shall remain under the court's jurisdiction for the remainder of his life ... or until discharged by the court," reads the plea deal. "The court shall commit the defendant to a mental health facility designated by the department that is the least restrictive environment to manage the defendant and that will allow for the protection of the public."

After a nearly year long stay in the William R. Sharp Hospital, Reyes-Cortijo was approved to transition to less restrictive housing.

Cortijo's plea, approved by the court, also allows a chief medical officer or "responsible official" of a mental health facility to determine if Reyes-Cortijo "is not mentally ill or does not have significant dangerousness risk factors associated with mental illness," allowing him to be moved to a "less restrictive environment," considering the safety of the community and Reyes-Cortijo's well-being.

According to a report and testimony by Theodore Glance, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry for William R. Sharp Hospital, this is now the case.

"My comfort is that the diagnosis of schizophrenia and the treatment ... is a protective factor," said Glance."Now that we know that he has [it] and we know the level of violence that may result, in terms of lack of treatment and the disintegration of his mental status, that speaks to a protective factor. The concern of re-emergence of violence to that degree is highly unlikely be-

Volunteers Continued from Front Page

feeding the volunteers that are working the vaccine clinics," Mason said. "That's what we're up to right now. ... We have funding through the end of May, but they believe they're going to go to the end of July. For the moment I have funding, but if people can spare some money in order to provide meals to those volunteers, that would be great." Those looking to donate to this effort should make

checks out to the tax exempt Bimbo Coles and Company Project and mail them to 1194 Barkalin Lane in Lewisburg. Mason encouraged everyone to help in whatever way they could, even if it's just with your community. "My want list is for people to just be aware of their

neighbors and to see if they need help," Mason said. "I'm not saying you have to get this vaccine, I'm saying that if you want to, I want to make it possible for you to get it. There are a lot of people who are infrequently visited, they may only get Meals on Wheels or something, and being aware of those individuals and seeing if they need any help [is what we need]."

This event is completely dependent on volunteers, so sign up today and help make West Virginia shine! REAP, whose new motto is 'Keeping WV Clean and

Green,' was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts. More information is available on the REAP webpage: https://dep.wv.gov/ environmental-advocate/reap/Pages/default.aspx.

cause you don't go, normal normal normal boom. It's a gradual descent into the abyss. ... Mental illness doesn't work that way."

Glance pointed to the ongoing supervision of the court, social workers, and clinicians for keeping the now-known illness in check. "If there is a clinical concern by anyone ... I don't

think you have to wait for him to do something," Glance said. "If a clinical provider just has a gut feeling that something is going on, those things need to be addressed. ... I trust the intuitions of clinicians who work with people with mental illness." While examining Glance, Via asked if it could be too

soon, only four years removed from the crime, to consider this type of housing. This was echoed by the victim's mother, who was allowed to speak by Dent.

"A person who knew what they did does not have a place to live outside in stability," said Elicelia Andrades. They need to complete the time in prison." Dent again noted the plea of not guilty by reason of

mental illness. Defense Attorney Joshua Edwards also noted the hearing was not "about punishment, we are here to talk about what is appropriate for his treatment."

"[This is the] most common, the most frequent, and the most emotionally charged question that the public has when we discuss [not guilty due to mental illness pleas]," Glance explained. "They feel that a transition to a less restrictive placement is in some way, ... using words that have been used to me numerous times, 'getting away with it.' My response to that is when a person is found not guilty by reason of mental illness, the thing that folks forget is he is found not guilty and that Mr. Cortijo ... did not commit the violent acts. His mental illness committed the violent acts."

According to the Treatment Advocacy Center, "a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating barriers to the timely and effective treatment for people with severe mental illness," approximately 3.3 percent of the U.S. population struggles with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, with millions untreated for the disor-

Those afflicted are typically more likely to harm themselves than anyone else - approximately 50 percent will attempt suicide at during their lifetimes, totaling in the millions, while accounting for only 10 percent of the country's average homicide rates. Untreated illness in these individuals often leads to homelessness, victimization, suicidality, arrest, and incarceration.

In the order, Dent also noted that any further progress for Reyes-Cortijo would have to be approved by the

Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have driven by a scrap metal business on Route 60 near Caldwell. What kind of metal materials do they

Curious

Dear Curious,

There are two scrap metal businesses on Route 60 near Caldwell - Boggs Scrap Yard and S. S. Belcher Co. They accept most metals, but not paper, plastics or cardboard. There is more information about both of these businesses, including phone numbers, on the web.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Last week you said that plastics could be made from an organic polymer. What is a polymer?

Missed Chemistry Class

Dear Missed Chemistry Class,

The most understandable definition of polymer comes from kids.kiddle.co, unless you are a chemistry major! The word "polymer" can be broken down into "poly" (meaning "many" in Greek) and "mer" (meaning "unit"). This shows how the chemical composition of a polymer consists of many smaller units (monomers) bonded together into a larger molecule. Thus, a polymer is a molecule, made from joining together many smaller molecules.

Dear Readers,

Several months ago, I was asked how to dispose of Roundup. At the time I could not find an answer, not even from the Roundup website. However, I now have some really good news about its disposal. The WV Department of Agriculture and the Greenbrier County Solid Waste Authority are sponsoring a free Pesticide Collection on Saturday, May 15 at the Recycling Center in Ronceverte, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All West Virginians are welcome to bring their unused or leftover pesticides for disposal by the WV Department of Agriculture. All pesticides are accepted: Insecticides (kills insects), Herbicides (kills weeds), Bactericides (kills bacteria), Rodenticides (kills rodents), Larvicides (kills mosquitoes), Algicides (kills algae in water & swimming pools), Fungicides (kills fungi - blights, mildews, molds, rusts) and neonicotinoids (a group of insecticides that are highly toxic for bees and birds). More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, begin checking your garage, basement, and storage units for leftover or unused pesticides to bring to the collection for proper disposal.

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.

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. 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.

Gbr. Co. Democratic Women's Club

will meet Tuesday, Mar. 23at 5:30 p.m. On the agenda: Old Business - Minutes Review - 2/23/2021; Treasurer's Report; Proposed By-laws; Legislative Advocacy for 2021 Session; New Business - Activities Committee Update; Communications Committee Update; Membership Committee - Reaching out to new members; Position Paper for Club; Tee shirts for club. Next meeting Tuesday, Apr. 27, at 5:30 p.m.

WVSOM Board of Governors

will meet Friday, Mar. 26, via teleconference. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. To attend by phone, dial 844-621-3956 toll free and use access code 1386616010. No committee meetings are scheduled. A copy of the agendas for all meetings are posted on the WVSOM website at www.wvsom.edu/About/BOG prior to the meetings and are available in the president's office. WVSOM board meetings are open to all who are inter-

AA meetings

ested, including the general public.

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.

Legislation would return tax money to WV Dept. of Highway's budget

By Erika Diehl, West Virginia Press Association

The West Virginia Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee turned its attention this week to the history and causes of the Department of Transportation's budget deficit.

SB 489 reinstates the method of returning sales tax spent on contractor materials for road maintenance and construction to the State Road Fund. This method reverts back to previous legislation put in place in 2007.

Legislation passed in 2018 removed the tax exemption, stating the Tax Commissioner shall transfer taxes collected into the State General Revenue Fund instead.

During Tuesday's meeting, Sen. Rollan Roberts (R-Raleigh), said he wondered if the 2018 legislation was a knee jerk reaction to the Roads to Prosperity program initiated by Gov. Jim Justice in 2017. This program generated \$2.8 billion for the State Road Fund in fees, taxes

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Deputy Commissioner of Highways, Jimmy Wriston, was present for questions.

The Roads to Prosperity program changed the landscape, Wriston said. It was a great start and helped build a maintenance fleet with more employees and take care of big projects like King Coal Highway and Corridor H, he said, adding that, as a result of the under-investment over several decades, that program was just one of the many silver bullets needed.

Wriston said the amount of money needed to take care of every project in the state approaches \$30 billion.

"The effect of eliminating funding going to the Highway Department has the equivalency of just reducing the Department of Highway's budget for the year," said Sen. Chandler Swope (R-Mercer). "(This bill) will give a little bit more money to fill that huge void."

In 2020, the exemptions would have added up to \$20 million. The estimation for this year so far is \$14 million.

"It's road fund dollars," Wriston said. "It should go back to the road fund to continue doing more maintenance and more construction."

Sen. Robert Beach (D-Monongalia), made a public request for Wriston to use the exemption money to fix the pothole at mile marker 144 on I-79, for which he receives many complaints. "I intend to patch all the potholes, but that one will get

priority," said Wriston. He went on to confirm the Department has accepted the Governor's challenge to have every pothole done before Memorial Day.

With unanimous approval, the bill will move to the full Senate after first being referred to the Committee on Finance.

A committee substitute for SB 474 was adopted during the meeting. This is an agency bill from the Department of Transportation Division of Highways exempting DOH from Purchasing Division Procedures.

The Director of Operations Division in the Division of Highways, Jacob Bumgarner, appeared before the committee and was asked to describe the reason this bill is important to Highways. "I don't think we're going to see a lot of changes for

putting out contracts," Bumgarner said. "We feel like this is going to be a time saving issue. We feel like we are capable of making the proper decisions based on the laws that are in place to run those contracts in a way that is transparent and correct."

Bumgarner said the time it takes for the current process has caused the department to miss out on bids or stall projects waiting on a part from a specified vendor rather than a local store.

SB 529, correcting improper citation relating to DMV registration, was on the agenda, as was committee substitute for SB 346 authorizing the DMV to use electronic notice for licensees and vehicle owners. Both bills were adopted with no discussion and will move to the full Senate.

Great American Outdoors Act funds nine projects on Monongahela National Forest

Monongahela National Forest is pleased to announce that as part of the Great American Outdoors Act nine local projects have been selected for fiscal year 2021. The selected projects will be the first round of improvements to address deferred maintenance on the Forest while improving visitors' experience. Many of these projects have multiple phases and will not necessarily be completed this year.

These projects are part of the \$285 million investment made possible by the newly created National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, established in 2020 by the Great American Outdoors Act. These funds will allow the USDA Forest Service to implement more than 500 infrastructure improvement projects essential to the continued use and enjoyment of national forests and grasslands. These funds are critical in helping to reduce the Forest Service's \$5.2 billion deferred maintenance backlog and an important step in restoring what visitors love about national forests in the Eastern Region.

Several of the selected projects for Monongahela Na-

• Lake Sherwood Campground Rehabilitation. Lake Sherwood Campground will be renovated by replacing some toilet/shower wooden buildings with new accessible concrete structures, demolishing old vault toilets, repairing utility lines, replacing sewer infrastructure, reconstructing the amphitheater, and installing new traffic signs.

· Marlinton-White Sulphur Ranger District Stream Crossing Structures for Trout Fisheries. This project will include the design and replacement of three undersized and deteriorating culverts on Forest Roads 296 and 298 (Laurel Run) and Forest Road 999 (Williams River), resulting in ecological uplift and improved trout fishing.

 Williams River at Tea Creek Bridge Replacement at Cranberry Wilderness. Design and construct a replacement bridge on Forest Road 404 over the Williams River for access into Tea Creek Campground.

The Great American Outdoors Act authorizes funding under the Legacy Restoration Fund annually through fiscal year 2025. Forest Service economists estimate that projects funded with these dollars will support roughly 4,400 jobs and contribute \$420 million to the gross domestic product. Forest Service infrastructure supports more than 300 million recreationists, first responders such as wildland firefighters, and other users of Forest Service roads. Each year, visitors to the national forests contribute almost \$11 billion to the U.S. economy, which sustains more than 148,000 jobs.

For more information on these nine projects contact Public Affairs Officer Kelly Bridges at kelly.bridges@ usda.gov or 304-642-2864.

Continued from Front Page

Legislative Bills

"in-patient services, out-patient services, emergency room services, surgical services, diagnostic and imaging services, and laboratory services provided on the hospital's campus."

The bill brought significant criticism and concern for regional healthcare providers from Senator Stephen Baldwin in his column, The Back Pew.

"I cannot overemphasize how deadly this policy change would be," wrote Baldwin. "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."

Longanacre explained he sponsored the bill in order to introduce more business competition for local medical

"Historically, when a local business knows that there is likely to be no competition in their community for their product or service, they tend to charge consumers what they want," Longanacre wrote. "With regards to healthcare, if such providers jack up their price for a unique service that they know is not being offered anywhere else in the community, the patient's insurance company may initially absorb the brunt of the charges but could raise client premiums over time. This is not fair to the patients. ... Let the free market decide who may stay or go and

who may expand services or roll them back.' Comprehensive healthcare is often not possible in smaller clinics, lacking the resources to perform major,

life-saving procedures. Baldwin pointed to the need for these large facilities to provide these "smaller" services in order to keep the more difficult and rare services avail-"The idea is to keep rural hospitals open and operat-

ing efficiently," Baldwin wrote. "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." In addition to the 13 other Senator Jack Woodrum-

sponsored bills that have passed the Senate, Senate Bill 396 was approved in a 34-0 yea vote on February 25. If passed, this bill would limit the types of "nuisance claims" against fire departments or emergency medical services for use of "fixed sirens." The bill is still currently in a House committee.

Three bills introduced by Governor Jim Justice have also passed through both chambers of the legislature, having been sponsored by Baldwin and the Senate President. This includes:

· 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, Woodrum) and the House (Longanacre yea, not voting Bruce).

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

• Senate Bill 272 seeks to address the "gig" economy of workers, "distinguishing independent contractors from employees; applying classification provisions to workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, wage payment and collection, and Human Rights Act matters; establishing classification criteria; setting forth limitations to applicability of the act; and providing for severability." The bill has been passed by both the House and the Sen-

ate, with yeas from Bruce, Longanacre, and Woodrum, and no vote from Baldwin (absent).

tive round-ups by the Mountain Messenger. This coverage can be found online at mountainmessenger.com. Longanacre - H.B. 2093, H.B. 2260, H.B. 2791

The following bills were covered in previous legisla-

Woodrum - S.B. 339, S.B. 359, S.B. 1, S.B. 7, S.B. 9, S.B. 10, S.B. 66, S.B. 69, S.B. 263, S.B. 501, S.B. 381, S.B. 421, S.B. 429

Baldwin - S.B. 344, S.B. 359, S.B. 392, S.B. 368, S.B. 1, S.B. 16, S.B. 39, S.B. 102, S.B. 272, S.B. 275

Bruce - H.B. 2003

Public Meetings

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

Rainelle Town Council

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

Lewisburg City Council

will meet in special session Tuesday, Mar. 23, at 7:30 p.m. via teleconference. For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 23. On the agenda:

 Conditional use permit, Civitas Hospitality Group DBA Briergarten, 121 Stratton Alley, Suite #9. Application to serve food and alcohol on the outdoor fenced in patio, public hearing

City Council

Continued from Front Page

tional, it can clean sidewalks, suck up leaves, mow steep edges, clear snow, and more. Pence noted this equipment is important to help maintain sidewalks around the city, including the new walkways along Route 219. He also noted that the "finishing touches" are underway at the new Dorie Miller shelter, and they are currently accepting reservations for use.

Katie Killcollin was nominated to serve on the Parks Commission.

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OPINION

Commentary

Objection to HJR1

By W. Clayton Burch, State Superintendent of Schools and Miller L. Hall, President,

WV Board of Education

The West Virginia Board of Education and State Superintendent W. Clayton Burch object to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of West Virginia as set forth in House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1).

In 1958, the voters of West Virginia amended our state constitution to give general supervisory authority over the schools of our state to the State Board of Education. This amendment was undertaken in response to a legislatively commissioned study of West Virginia's system of public education and was recognized as a necessary step to provide our state's schools with a governance model that is thoughtful, managed by a diverse group of experts, and immune from the ebb and flow of politics.

HJR1 seeks to subject the State Board's rule-making authority to the fluctuations of the legislative process. In doing so, the State Board would lose its ability to respond swiftly to the needs of teachers and students throughout the year. Decisions affecting daily classroom life would be placed in the hands of a partisan Legislature that changes every two years. This amendment would give a large and ever-changing body the authority to alter the shape of our classrooms with each new election.

The West Virginia Board of Education is comprised of experts from diverse backgrounds and educational expertise who are appointed by the governor for overlapping terms. This ensures continuity and a balance of political and geographic representation and creates stability for decision-making. Because members are appointed for nine-year terms and meet every month, they have the time to fully study and solicit broad stakeholder input on issues impacting our schools before issuing or amending policies. They also maintain a close daily connection to educators, allowing members to respond to student and personnel needs as they arise without unnecessary delay. This past year alone, the State Board was able to respond to numerous requests for waivers of its rules each month to help schools navigate the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In past years, waivers have been granted on an as-needed basis to respond to emerging local needs in instructional matters, building concerns, and a myriad of other issues identified by county and school personnel. But even more important than the quick turnaround needed in the consideration of waivers, the Board has been able to ensure the stability of content standards - the essence of

Commentary

State Auditor vows transparency for federal stimulus money

By John B. McCuskey

State Auditor

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, President Biden signed into law the most recent round of "stimulus dollars" designed to combat the societal and fiscal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether you agree with the passage of this bill or not, the money is coming and this 1.9 trillion-dollar package is as far reaching as it is large. Importantly, it differs from previous packages in several important ways. From the auditor's office standpoint, the biggest difference is that it allocates funding to city and county governments without direction from the state government.

From the beginning, of the lengthy debate on this bill, our office has monitored progress, maintained communication with our stakeholders, and planned to ensure maximum effect will be felt by the citizens of West Virginia. This internal process has produced several tangible results.

First, we have created a small division within our office to maintain expertise on the fluctuating regulations that go along with this money. We have learned from the first rounds of stimulus money the ways in which this money can be used changes sometimes daily, and we endeavor to ensure our local governments will have the most up to date and accurate guidance as to how this money is spent and accounted for.

Further, and more importantly, this new division will be tasked with implementing a novel program that will allow cities and counties to pool these funds in a way that will enable them to tackle large scale infrastructure projects. It is our vision this money will be used to upgrade crumbling water and sewer systems, repair roads, and provide needed 5G and other broadband programs to underserved areas.

Lastly, as with the initial round of stimulus money, we will use state of the art accounting technology to ensure this money is spent transparently. We know from years of experience the key to accountability and efficacy is transparency. Each citizen of our state deserves to know how their hard-earned tax money is being spent.

According to our state's constitution, West Virginia is not allowed to maintain indebtedness without a vote of the people. This important fact to understand is our state does owe a debt, a debt created by years of neglect for maintenance of the mandatory infrastructure that both maintains livability and enables economic growth. We believe our plan will enable our local governments to satisfy this debt to our citizens and use this one-time money in a way that will benefit our citizens for generations to come. It is our greatest fear history will repeat itself, and we will be 10 years down the road asking, "Where did all that money go?" We will do everything in our power to avoid this pitfall and have amazing local government

partners committed to success.

This week we will be taking our initial steps implementing this plan, and it is my plea to the people of West Virginia to stay informed, use the information we provide and hold your elected officials accountable for the spending of your money. This is a generational opportunity. We can maximize it together.



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classroom learning - shielding them from shifting partisan politics. This preserves classroom consistency, sustains the work of West Virginia teachers who developed and wrote our standards, and allows schools to focus on equal access to a quality education for all West Virginia children.

The Constitution of West Virginia is our state government's charter of principles and organization crafted toward the ends of justice and liberty for our state's citizenry. It should be amended only in the interests of making our system of government more fair and efficient in promoting the welfare of all West Virginia residents. HJR1 will have the opposite effect, making our system of education less efficient, more chaotic, and subject to partisan politics. For these reasons, we must object.

Letter to the Editor

Public education: Can we improve? Part 2

Dear Editor:

Part one outlined the low grades of our public school's 4th and 8th graders in math and reading. The SAT scores, were equally low in comparison to the nation's students. Of local students registering at New River campus in Lewisburg, 68% were required to take remedial courses to qualify for admission.

During week two of legislative session in Charleston, Fred Albert, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) West Virginia, stated "In less than a week, the 2021 legislative session has been nothing but a barrage of attacks against public education and those who work in it." Mr. Albert appears to be endorsing the quality of remote education being received by our students, while Senator Baldwin states, "Despite near unanimous agreement from students, parents, and teachers that virtual education has not worked during COVID" However, remote education must be working very well as 43% of Greenbrier County high schoolers made the Honor Roll. I believe that Mr. Albert also recognizes that Charter Schools will demonstrate Greenbrier County Students have the capacity to demonstrate their ability and desire to learn far more than the current tests and SATs reveal.

Senator Baldwin further states "Pay attention, folks. The long-term ramifications of these bills are colossal. They will affect our families for years to come." Senator Baldwin's statement can be interpreted two ways; less learning by our students or greater learning by our students. The history of Charter Schools is the later, greater learning with greater acceptance into college, with concurrent improvement of public education. Senator Baldwin also infers that

Charter Schools will cost the Public School system \$200 million/\$100 million, depending on date of "The Back Pew". This is both true and false; as the millions will come from currently budgeted public education funds and be transferred to Charter School at approximately \$4,600 per student, leaving approximately \$8,000 per student with the public school system. The resulting reduction in students per class, which is a demand of the AFT and Mr. Albert, will also result from Charter Schools. However, Senator Baldwin misquoted the Delegate, "the \$8000 would remain in the public school district", not "county" as stated by the Senator in March 3 Daily News. Further, the Delegate stated that his information about the \$8,000 was confirmed by the Capitol Legal Department.

I have two granddaughters who were lucky enough to have their names drawn to attend charter schools in Delaware and South Carolina. My research into these schools revealed, that in Delaware, available seats were over scribed by multiplies and there was no difference in learning skill by race or gender. In South Carolina, the desire to enroll children, in Charter Schools was just as great. The success of these Charter Schools did not take away from public schools, and the competition seems

to improve public education. It must be remembered

that Elementary Schools in Greenbrier County have

The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



A friend recently commented that my last two columns have been "depressing."

My response was, "I can't help it if the facts are depressing."

It has been a difficult session, because the priorities in Charleston are all backwards. But I wanted to switch things up this week and focus on some good news! Below are a number of issues I've been working on which I hope can help our people.

OFFICE OF RECOVERY. The drug crisis is out of control in West Virginia, costing our economy \$8.8 billion annually and costing our families even more in terms of lives lost. Recovery programs do work, and we have seen success in several areas. The problem is that no one is coordinating our recovery efforts. I worked with the governor's office and across the aisle in the Senate to develop an Office of Recovery. It will ensure that one person will be totally focused on coordinating our response to the substance abuse crisis across the state. This is a giant step forward in helping to instill hope and healing across the mountains. I thank everyone who worked together to make it happen.

VETERAN'S NURSING HOME. As I announced last month, we finally gathered enough financial resources to build a veteran's nursing home in southern West Virginia! It's in the governor's budget, and we expect that to be done. Once we pass the budget, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin work on site preparation and construction. It will take some time, but we are on the march!

VETERAN'S BENEFITS. A group of veterans began meeting in the church I serve last year. Great group of guys and gals! They offered several suggestions for how the state could thank those who served this country. I then offered those ideas as bills - granting property tax exemptions to disabled veterans, giving active and retired veterans a discount at all state parks, and more. This week the bill to grant a discount at state parks passed the Veterans Committee and heads to the floor of the Senate for a vote. It's a win-win-win as it allows us to thank our veterans with a benefit, showcase our beautiful state parks, and increase tourism in the state!

AMERICORPS. Along with my friend Sen. Bill Hamilton, (Republican, Upshur County), I introduced a bill granting students with Americorps volunteer experience a scholarship to attend college in West Virginia. Again, it's a win-win situation as it incentivizes volunteerism and rewards young people for furthering their education and work in our state.

GUN SAFETY BILLS. West Virginians are avid supporters of the Second Amendment. In today's day and age, it's more important than ever to ensure gun safety. So a few years ago, I introduced a package of bills to provide tax credits for responsible gun owners. For example, you could get a tax credit for completing a firearm safety course. Or, if you buy any safety equipment such as a safe, then you would not pay any sales tax. Stay tuned to see if these common sense bills gain enough traction to be voted upon.

VACCINES. My focus in terms of COVID response continues to be securing more vaccines. If we can continue to vaccinate citizens at a high rate, then we can get back to doing the things we love which have been unsafe for the past year. Do your part by signing up for a vaccine at www.vaccinate.wv.gov or 833-734-0965. All essential workers and those with pre-existing medical conditions can all now get a vaccine!

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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news stories and letters to the editor to news@mountainmessenger.com

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon Wednesday

OPED piece submission guidelines:

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

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

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

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

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

been open five days a week with few exceptions. High Schools have not; and according to Senator Baldwin remote education has been a total failure; even though the two high schools reported an average of 43% of students made the Honor Roll.

Next week I will ask for support of students and parents on providing copies of tests and volunteers to assist in evaluating the degree of difficulty and success of student's retention of subject taught. Names will not be released but copies will be available to the County Board of Education if or when requested. Mailing address will be a Post Office Box.

Frank W. Tuckwiller Lewisburg

BITUARIES



Lewisburg-Joyce "Joy" Skeens, 83, passed away Saturday, Mar. 13, 2021, after a short illness.

Born Oct. 20, 1937, at Clintwood, VA, she was a daughter of the late Henry Alexander Short and Grace V. Beverly Short.

She was a retired nurse from Greenbrier Valley Medical Center and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fairlea.

Joy displayed unconditional love and acceptance to everyone in her life-especially her family. She cherished every moment with family and was especially gifted in making those around her feel cared for, whether it was through showing genuine interest during conversations or being present to lend a helping hand whenever she could. Her faith and love for God was reflected in her generosity with others. She had a natural gift to remember every detail about others' lives and to acknowledge their strengths. She never ran out of questions when engaging in conversations! Her career in nursing was a perfect fit-as she was a natural at nurturing everyone in her life, whether it be family, neighbors or a stranger in need. She was also a fierce protector of those she loved! Joy also brightened the room with her humor and playful nature. She treasured time with her children and grandchildren and was always seeking the next shared adventure with family and friends. Joy blessed the lives of everyone who knew her through

nature and zest for life. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Edwin Lee "Ed" Skeens; two sons, Edwin Skeens, and wife Judi French and Joel Skeens and wife Lisa, all of Columbus, OH; two grandsons, Joseph and Joel Skeens, Jr.; sister, Glenda Lovegrove and husband Don of Billerica, MA; and nieces and nephews, Tommy, Joe Harvey, Donna, Susan, Molly, Alex and Richard.

her consistent love, caring

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Mar. 17, at the First Baptist Church of Fairlea where Pastor Dallas Smith officiated.

The family received friends before the service at

the church on Wednesday. Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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1. Sniper 2. Reef;

Today's Word

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Marshall Edgar Feury



White Sulphur Springs-Marshall Edgar "Red" Feury, 77, went home to be with his Lord and savior surrounded by his family on Friday, Mar. 12, 2021, at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

He was born Oct. 29, 1943, in White Sulphur Springs, the son of the late Golden and Myrtle Huffman Feury.

Red was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend. He helped anyone in need and expected nothing in return. Prior to opening and operating "Reds Body Shop" for over 40 years he worked with Duke Traynor and his auto shop. Red loved golf, hunting, fishing and playing pool with family and friends.

During his illness he had many loved ones by his side and helping him. His sister Louise Feury and brother Golden Feury, made sure he made it to all his doctor's appointments. His daughter, sons and grandchildren were all by his side the last weeks of his life.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Meta

Gale Bland Feury. Red is survived by daughter, Tammy Yeack of White Sulphur Springs; two sons, Sammy Feury and wife Denise of Covington, VA and Mark Feury of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Ashley Yeack, Danielle Smith, Duell Feury, Chasity Abney and April Mankins; greatgrandchildren, Brayden Kincaid, Kendall Kincaid, Kyler Marshall Kincaid, Brody Abney, Bryanna Abney, Mark Mankins, Daniel Mankins and Joylnn Mankins; sister, Louise Feury and husband Wayne; brother, Golden Jr. Feury and wife Sadie; and a very

special friend, Ira Corbett. Funeral services for Red were held Tuesday, Mar. 16, at Emmanuel United Methodist Church where Pastor Lowell O'Dell officiated followed by interment in Hillcrest Cemetery

at White Sulphur Springs. Visitation was before the service at the church on

Tuesday. Pallbearers for Red's service were Korey Kincaid, Brayden Kincaid, Myles Cox, Ira Corbett, Jason Abney, Ricky Feury and Greg Vaughn.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www. WallaceandWallaceFH.

Stephen Patrick King



White Sulphur Springs-Stephen Patrick King, 83, left his earthly life to begin God's promise of life eternal Monday, Mar. 15, 2021 at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, surrounded by loving family. He fought a brave battle with pulmonary fibrosis but couldn't win the final round when pneumonia became a complication.

Steve was born and raised in White Sulphur Springs by his late parents, Patrick H. and Eloise Hanna King.

Salutatorian of White Sulphur High School's class of 1955 and a graduate of West Virginia University, he immediately was contracted with the West Virginia Agency of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance and became the local District Agent until he retired in 2000. Then, as he often said, he could devote all of his time to his real life's work of hunting on Greenbrier Mountain and fishing every fishing hole he came across in both the United States and Canada (but always coming back to the Greenbrier River). He also loved playing golf with his buddies at Valley View Country Club if the fish weren't biting. He was sometimes referred to as a walking chamber of commerce because he would often stop total strangers to tell them of the wonderful outdoor activities in and around Greenbrier County and they really should

come back and enjoy them. Steve was a lifelong member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church,

chairman of the Administrative Council and member of the Board of Trustees. He was a proud Rotarian and past president of both the White Sulphur Springs and Lewisburg clubs. He was a Paul Harris Fellow. His office was in Lewisburg and he was asked to become president of the Eastern Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce and he accepted on one condition. That condition was that he be allowed to expand membership to the western side of the county and rename the organization the Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce. His condition was accepted and membership increased from fewer than 50 to more than 200 within a year's time. He also served on the Board of Directors of Carnegie Hall and the Greenbrier Valley Theatre and was currently serving on the theatre's advisory board. He held memberships in the Bass Anglers Society and Trout Unlimited.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Dannie.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 62 years, Sue Ballard King; children Betsy Karr (Jimmy) of Rotonda West, FL; Stephen Patrick King Jr. (Angie) of Roanoke and Lewisburg; and John Ballard King (Jennifer) of Renick. He had five precious grandchildren, Devin King (Patricia) of Smithfield, VA; Susanna Harrison (Josh Jones) of Columbus, OH; John Michael King (Bill Rydzewski) of Washington, DC; David Ballard King (Nicolly) of Tampa, FL; and Lillie Ann King of Lewisburg; and adopted grandson, Kalleone Moret of York, PA. He also leaves one brother, Toby and wife Jennifer of Toronto, Canada; and eight nieces and nephews. A special brother from another mother, Harry Ballard of New Bern, NC, will miss their many good times together. Steve often said that he was the richest man on Earth to have the love of his family and many, many

The family will receive friends at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Sunday, Mar. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. and a memorial service will be held Monday, Mar. 22, at 11 a.m. at the

church. Because COVID-19 re-

where he had served as strictions have been somewhat relaxed, come as you are comfortable. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Greenbrier Valley Theatre (1038 E. Washington St., Lewisburg, WV 24901) or Emmanuel United Methodist Church (136 Hanna Lane, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986). Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www. WallaceandWallaceFH.

Clarence Edward Bostic, Sr.

White Sulphur Springs-Clarence "Cootch" Edward Bostic, Sr., 79, went to be with his Lord and Savior. while surrounded by family, on Monday, Mar. 15, 2021.

He was born July 18, 1941, in Glace, to the late Stanley and Rachel Bostic.

Cootch was a proud veteran of the United States Army and achieved rank of Sergeant First Class. He served Oct. 23, 1961 until Oct. 30, 1964. He later served nine years in the US Army Reserve 80th Training Command and served as a 11B4H Senior Instruc-

He retired after 32 years with Hercules and AET in Covington, VA. During that time, he also served as president of Local Union 884.

In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching the WVU Mountaineers, his beloved beagle, Duke, and being a member, Sunday school teacher, and deacon at Grace Baptist

Church. Cootch was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Billy Joe Bostic, and in-laws, Woodrow and Helen Harvey.

Cootch is survived by his wife of 55 years, Drema Kay Harvey Bostic; daughters, Tammy (Mike) Massie, Susan (Jim) Roncaglione, and Renee Robinson; son, Clarence "Bo" (Jennifer) Bostic, Jr.; grandchildren, Ross Massie, Carl, Louis, Sam, Willie, and Felix Roncaglione, Justin, Carrigan, and Alec Robinson, Cameron Bostic, and Tyler Rice; seven great-grandchildren; and siblings, Ralph Bostic, Anna Lee Dial, and Mary (Larry) Cameron.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Mar. 19, at Grace Baptist Church, 304 W Main White Sulphur Street, Springs. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Kenny Baker, and Pastor George Clarkson officiating. Graveside services will follow with Military Honors at Hillcrest Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Cootch's memory, to Grace Baptist Church, P.O. Box 156, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986.

neral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online con-

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G L A S S B A G S E P I C S T H U S



Computer Class April 6 - June 8

Call Curtis Pauley for information. 304-646-0684

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Two, 1 bedroom apartments available near Osteopathic School in Lewisburg. \$750-\$800 monthly rent. First and last month rent due at move-in. Nonsmoker. 304-645-1993 M-F 9am-5pm for details

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Request for Proposal (RFP)

Notice of available funding to serve as the One-Stop Operator and/or Title I Comprehensive Youth Service Provider for the eleven-county local workforce development area of Region 1 in West Virginia (Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, Webster & Wyoming). Thomas P. Miller & Associates, LLC (TPMA) is serving as the independent procurement entity for the Region 1 Workforce Development Board. Deadline for bids is 04/15/21. The total cost of the programs is funded 100% by Federal WIOA dollars and 0% funded by non-governmental sources. The budget for the One-Stop Operator Contract is \$200,000, and the budget for the Title I Comprehnsive Youth Services Provider Contract is \$1,200,000.

> Interested parties can review the RFPs at: https://www.tpma-inc.com/r1wdb/





Carnegie Hall, Inc. in Lewisburg is searching for President/CEO. CEO reports to the Board of Directors and directs/administers all activities of the organization toward fulfillment of its mission. Qualified candidates will hold a bachelor's degree; a master's degree is preferred. Minimum five years' experience in managerial or supervisory role, preferably with a nonprofit. Demonstrated experience planning, organizing, and communicating complex programs, ability to work with people and inspire enthusiasm, experience managing multiple programs simultaneously. Job description available at http://www.carnegiehallwv.org.

Email cover letter and résumé to CEO@carnegiehallwv.org by March 26.

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Hinton House Apts. 495 Stokes Drive. Office Hours M-F 8-4.

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LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing April 1, 2021

Via Teleconference because of the Covid-19 Pandemic For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall

304-645-2080 by 4:30 on April 1, 2021 The City of Lewisburg's Planning Commission, will meet on Thursday April 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by teleconference to hear the following application.

Agenda:

- 1. Call to Order.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes. 3. Comments from the Public.
- 4. Public Hearing: North Ridge Properties LLC. Deed Book 662
- page 460 tax map 10 Parcel 2.1. Request for minor subdivision.
- 5. Comments from the Commission.
- 6. Comment from Zoning Officer.
- 7. Adjournment.

Next regular scheduled Planning Commission is May 6, 2021, with a deadline of April 16, 2021.

LEGAL

Notice of Public Hearing April 29, 2021 5:00 p.m.

For information on how to attend the Board of Zoning Appeal meeting, please call Marsha Cunningham at 304-645-2080 no later than 4:00 on April 29, 2021.

The City of Lewisburg Board of Zoning and Appeal will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to hear the following application.

- 1. Call to Order:
- 2. Approval of the minutes: February 25, 2021.
- Comments from the public:
- Notice of public hearing: Roger Pence, 185 Green Lane application for a variance to install a 6' privacy fence.
- Comments from the Zoning Board: 6. Comments from the Zoning Officer:
- 7. Adjournment:

The next scheduled meeting for the Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeal will be held on Thursday May 27, 2021, with a deadline of Friday April 16, 2021.

Do you want government taking more control?



Elected officials are looking to make big changes Contact your legislator today and tell them you

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
 - Government budgets
- Property sales ■ Election ballots
- financial statements Voting changes
- Tax increases ■ Project bids

■ Family court

- Zoning
- changes and other notices

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 **Barry Bruce**

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

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

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rood 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.

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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Check out available properties at

4thwayproperties.com

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Call Terry or Isela @ (304) 647-8943

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL Email us at FourthWayProperties@yahoo.com

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MISCELLANEOUS

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The Weekend Paper For The Greenbrier Valley - March 20, 2021 - Mountain Messenger - 7 www.mountainmessenger.com

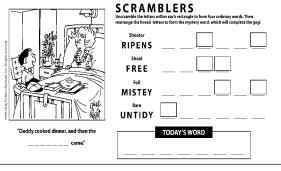
entertainment guide

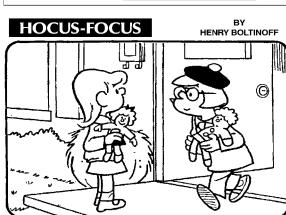
Dutch Haus Restaurant Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg

WEEKEND SPECIAL BEST STEAKS IN TOWN With Mashed Potatoes and Gravy. Served with salad, vegetable, and bread.

Open For Breakfast Saturday & Sunday 8:30-11:00

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Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Socks are higher. 3. Button is removed. 4. Hair is shorter. 5. Pants are different. 6. Mailbox is missing

Greenbrier Valley Restaurant Week set for April 19-24

The Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the 1st Annual Greenbrier Valley Restaurant Week that will take place Apr. 19 to 24. This sixday event will feature the Greenbrier Valley's greatest restaurants and the area's diverse culinary scene. The restaurants will be offering special fixed menus for a discounted price for dine-in or

take-out.

The Chamber will also be selling chances to win dinner for two at the participating restaurants: The Humble Tomato, Briergarten, Stardust Café, The General Lewis Inn, The Livery Tavern, The French Goat, The Asylum, Hill and Holler, Fruits of Labor, Del Sol Cantina and Road Hog's BBQ.

To purchase tickets for "The

Chamber Dining Experience" go www.greenbrierwvchamber. org/events or use the QR code at the restaurant's participating in

restaurant week. Participating restaurants and menus can be found at www.

For more information email director@greenbrierwvchamber.org or call 304-645-2818.

greenbrierwvchamber.org/events.

= A Look Back =

By William "Skip" Deegans

Of all the celebratory events during West Virginia's centennial in 1963, the most memorable may be the West Virginia Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture. The exhibition was judged by James J. Sweeney, the former director of New York's Guggenheim Museum. He was awarded first prize and a cash award of \$1,963 to state native and West Virginia University professor Joe Moss for his paint-"West Virginia Moon." As shown in this week's photo, Moss' entry was made from weathered boards,

an old screen door, and painted with some leftover paint.

The award was met with a hue and cry heard all over West Virginia. Charleston's mayor John Shanklin called the painting "atrocious" and "sickening." Editorials in the Beckley Post-Herald and Raleigh Register described it as a "monstrosity," recommended it be burned, and the publisher wrote that he was "disgusted" about the

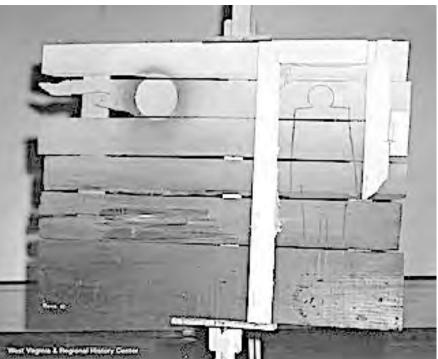


Photo courtesy of West Virginia Regional History Center.

painting. There was concern it would tarnish West Virginia's image. Even Dwight D. Eisenhower weighed in by remarking "...freedom of the arts is a basic freedom that the artist must be free." When the exhibition opened to the public at Huntington Galleries following the initial commotion, 3,000 people came to see "West Virginia Moon" on the first day.

Joe Moss left West Virginia to become a professor at the University of Delaware where he taught for 29 years. He died in 2018, and testimonials indicate he was a gifted and well-beloved teacher. The state bought "West Virginia Moon," and it is exhibited at the State Museum in Charleston.

Sources: Huntington Herald Dispatch, Beckley Post-Herald, Raleigh Register, West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Congressional Re-

Openings still available for

virtual school spring class

Carnegie Hall homeschool and

Openings for Carnegie Hall's Tuesday

afternoon class for homeschool and vir-

tual school students have become avail-

able for age 8-16 years old. The classes,

aimed at providing hands-on arts and

sciences educational opportunities, in-

clude basket weaving, acrylic painting,

There are four classes remaining in

the first session, which continue on

Tuesday, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 6, and

Apr. 13 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. A second

Cost is only \$25 thanks to a grant

making slime, and more.

session starts April 20.

Super Crossword

38 Central

44 Vivid

crimson

45 Egg pouch

54 Talk wildly

55 Deuce taker

57 Hackneyed

58 Grid of fine

lines in an

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59 Franklin of

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47 Slender

ACROSS
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13 HOHOE

19 Boundary 20 "— Three Ships' 21 — Park

(Edison's home) 22 Took off 23 Really big tree?

25 Fundamental tree? 27 Longs for 28 Franz who composed "The Merry Widow" 30 Early settler "Erin Burnett

OutFront' channel 32 Passes on, as a story 34 French brandy 35 Chinese ideology centered

around a tree? 39 Actor Mahershala 41 "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane

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118

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67 68 43 Two of Henry VIII's wives 44 Coagulates 46 "Gunga Din' studio 47 Recorded 104 Like sown 106 "Ally McBeal"

a tree?

House

seeds

co-star Lucy

digitally, in a way 49 LAX datum 51 Wharf locale 56 Tree-dwelling hooded snake? 60 Tree whose 107 In total trunk curves? 109 — Gay

42 Soon

62 Cut of pork (WWII B-29) 63 Dutch 110 Tea-scenting Renaissance blossom 114 Tree that scholar 65 Rake part makes people think 66 Nuances 69 Item in a like a French novelist? 116 Window sections

place setting 70 Of delicate beauty 72 A shot through 73 Love-struck which trees 74 Farm vehicle are visible? 75 Tree sold at a 118 Richard of "Wicked Woman" 119 "Für —"

low price? 78 Cantaloupe growing on a tree? (piano piece) 83 More flavorful 120 Romances 121 Florida bird 84 Indy circuit 86 Auction site 122 Mail in 123 Steven of 87 Union promise Aerosmith 88 Slant 124 Fit of pique

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90 Millionaire-125 Plow inventor making game John 93 Menial type 94 Provoke 98 Corp. wheel 99 Charm

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7 Viper variety 8 Old warship 9 Deary 10 Prepare for a pyramid 11 Oyster bead 12 People with

clout 13 Applaud 14 Asked for 15 Nasal singing tones 16 Curtis of cosmetics 17 Overthrow

18 Potato stuff 66 Splinter 24 Suvari of Hollywood 67 Laugh sound 26 Ghostly cry 68 Golf coups novelist

29 "Siddhartha" 69 Thurman of 32 Soul music is a form of it **33** — soda (cleanser) 35 Singer Cohn 36 Jimmy Durante's "-

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Hollywood 70 Funny Carvey 71 With 64-Down. hostile swarming insect Dinka Doo" 73 Suit fabric

70

13 14 **74** Old computer language

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48 CBS military 80 In - of law show (replacing) 81 Gas leak 50 Fez dangler giveaway 52 Small and 82 Zilch 70-Across 53 Chief Norse 85 Suburb of

Dallas 89 Hack (off) 91 Prohibits 92 High crime 93 Bird feathers

94 Gaps 95 Mammal's 96 Comic Tracey 97 Roly-poly

64 See 71-Down 99 Cavalry soldier 100 Actor Ruck 101 Talked like Cindy Brady

103 Alert at sea 105 Car contract 108 As is fitting 110 Joke 111 About

112 - -do-well (idler) 113 Punta del -115 1,000 G's 117 Luau bowlful

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37 "Park" a ship Georgia city 40 Gets bested 76 Entertainer

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

♦ ♦ Challenging Moderate ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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numbers from one to nine.

egiehallwv.org or call 304-645-7917.

from United Way of the Greenbrier Valley. These are small, socially distanced, in-person classes and all participants are required to wear masks while in Carnegie Hall. To register, visit www.carn-

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



Greetings to New and Existing Patients,

At Greenbrier Audiology, we work with our patients to improve patients' quality of life by addressing individual hearing losses. That process involves understanding each patient's hearing needs and goals, prescribing hearing aids, and counseling on how to get the most out of hearing aid capabilities. We truly appreciate the trust our patients put in us to help them hear their best.

Today, we're writing you because Widex has released a new hearing aid that redefines what is possible in terms of sound quality in a hearing aid. You truly must "hear it to believe it," and now you can. WIDEX MOMENT™ has redefined pure, natural sound. It doesn't sound like a hearing aid; it lets you appreciate the world of sound as it is. It can help you reconnect to the sounds of your life: music, the laughter of friends, and conversations with loved ones.

Hearing aid technology has taken a huge leap forward with WIDEX MOMENT™. As your trusted hearing professionals, we urge you to open your mind to the possibilities of updated hearing solutions.

We would like to extend an invitation to new and existing patients to our Widex Open House Event on: Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021.

Appointments are limited, so please call us today at 304-647-4327 to schedule your free hearing consultation and risk-free 14-day trial of WIDEX MOMENT™.

Warm regards



Kristin D. Shockey

Doctor of Audiology



Emily Miller Doctor of Audiology



206 Dawkins Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901

PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 5

(304) 647-4327 www.greenbrieraudiology.com

FOOD Brings Everyone to the Table March 23, 2

CELEBRATE AG WEEK MARCH 21-27, 2021



Though few may recognize the role of technology in modern farming, there's no denying the impact that various technologies have already had on the agricultural industry. And that impact figures to become even more profound in the

The role of technology in agriculture

When asked to think of industries that utilize technology in unique ways, few people may immediately think of agriculture. But technology has left a significant footprint in every industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms operate a lot differently than the farms of yesteryear. Dramatic changes have taken place within the agricultural industry over the last few decades, helping farming operations become more efficient and profitable as well as safer and more eco-

Robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technologies are now routinely employed within the agricultural industry. The NIFA notes that the value of such technologies cannot be understated. Thanks to the technolo-

gies at their disposals, farmers no longer have to uniformly apply water, fertilizer and pesticides to their farms. Technology now allows them to use only the minimum amounts required as they zero in on individual plants and target specific areas of their farms. The NIFA notes that the utilization of these technologies produces some very real benefits, including:

- Higher crop productivity
- · Reduced impact on natural ecosystems
- · Less runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater
- · Increased worker safety

Safer, more efficient and more ecofriendly operations can only make the agricultural industry more successful in the decades to come. That's especially notable as the world continues to confront climate change and how it might affect the food supply.

Food Brings Everyone to the Table— Celebrate Ag Day on March 23, 2021

Join the virtual event from wherever you are to hear updates from government leaders and honor the contributions of American agriculture.

Food brings everyone to the table. And this year, our virtual Ag Day celebration will bring everyone together to recognize the importance of American agriculture. The program will include both live

and pre-recorded segments with remarks from government leaders on the agriculture industry's economic growth opportunities and how the future will be shaped by lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. A representative from the collegiate Ag Day student program will share their

2021's Outstanding Young Farmers will also be recognized during the event. The program begins on March 23,

experiences and participants will get to

hear the winning Ag Day essay as well

as view the winning Ag Day video essay.

2021, at 8:30 a.m. CST. You can register to attend now.

"Hosting a virtual Ag Day event has led to some creative ways to celebrate American ag," said Jenny Pickett, President. "The program will include informal thank you videos to farmers from individuals and companies in the industry so even though we can't gather in person, it will still have a personal feel and energy to it."

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA). ACA is a not-for-profit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

Find more information on Ag Day and helpful tools for spreading the word about the importance of American agriculture at www.agday.org.

Greenbrier 4-H Foundation hosts geranium sale

For yet another year, the 4-H Foundation will be selling Blue Ridge Farms geraniums. Colors available are red, American White Splash, pink, coral, and crimson flame (violet). The pick-up date is May 6 at the WV State Fairgrounds from 3 to 5 p.m. at the picnic pavilion near Fair

Profits from the sales are used to

support many 4-H camp scholarships and the visual presentation contest. You may contact any foundation board member: Noel DeHaven, Molly Hileman, Todd Ramboldt, Debbie McClung, Tammy Shiflett-Tincher, Kim Walker Estep, or Jamie Tuckwiller for more information, or call or text 304-667-9288 or email jolong53@gmail.com.



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Creative Kitchens • Edith's Store • Fairlea Animal Hospital

The Ferrell Eye Clinic, P.C. • First Baptist Church, Fairlea

Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center

Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy

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

Knight Henderson-American National Insurance

Lawrence J. Ickes, CPA, A.C. • Lewisburg United Methodist Church

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

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

Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital

Shuck Memorial Baptist Church • S.J. Neathawk Lumber

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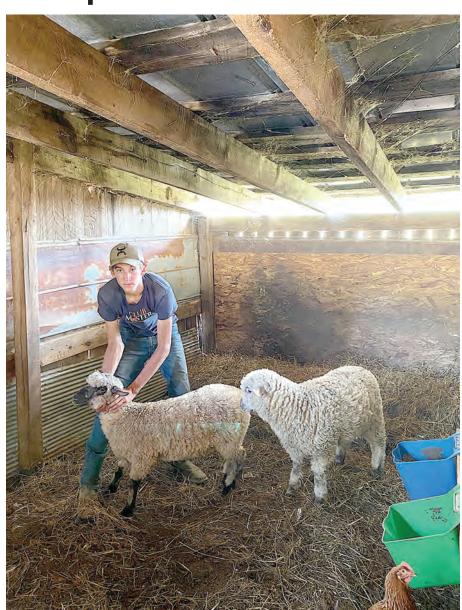






FFA officers had their first meeting of the year on Nov. 7, 2020. They spent the day planning their goals and activities, and learning to be a team. Participants also enjoyed some FFA ham and tenderloin just like they normally have in the Ham Stand at the West Virginia State Fair. It was such a great day, and from an advisors perspective, listening to our kids laugh and enjoy some of our normal activities was such a blessing.

AG learning never stops with entrepreneurial SAE's



Learning doesn't stop for agriculture science students if they are out of the classroom, or even over the summer. GEHS FFA member Mason, along with every agriculture student, must have a Supervised Experience Program which is a job related to agriculture, a business they own, or agriculture research projects.

tion, beef production, sheep production, and his newest venture is hemp production. Along with these entrepreneurial SAE's, he also held a full time job over the summer with Bobby's Lawn Care Service. The skills he and all our members are learning through these enterprises will last them a lifetime, no matter what their

White Sulphur Springs,

Hands-on dissection lab benefits **Animal Production students**



Animal Production students began the largest unit they will do all yearanatomy and physiology. They dissect a fetal pig, learning each part and system, and how everything works together to make the body work. These

students have been so excited to start this learning activity. They are even videoing it in class and loaded this and the lab manual onto their Google classroom so students who are remote can also experience this learning lab.





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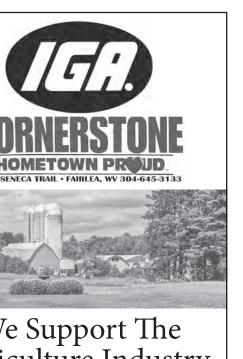
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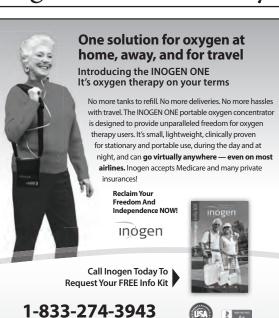
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THANK YOU FOR READING THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER 10– Mountain Messenger – March 20, 2021 – The Weekend Paper For The Greenbrier Valley

Common sustainable agriculture practices

The concept of sustainability varies by industry. Within the agricultural industry, sustainability is a multifaceted concept that has become increasingly popular in recent decades.

According to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, sustainable agriculture seeks to increase profitable farm income, promote environmental stewardship, enhance quality of life for farm families and communities, and increase production for human food and fiber needs. In an attempt to reach those goals, farmers who embrace sustainable agriculture may look to various practices.

- Cover crops: The Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit organization that aims to employ independent science to address the planet's most pressing problems, notes that cover crops are planted during the offseason when soils have traditionally been left bare. Cover crops can help prevent soil erosion and replenish the nutrients in the soil. Cover crops also can limit weed growth, reducing the need for herbicides that can prove harmful to the environment.
- Reduce or eliminate tillage: According to the UCS, traditional plowing, or tillage, can cause a significant amount of soil loss, even as it prepares fields for planting and reduces the likelihood of

weed problems. Eliminating or reducing tillage involves inserting seeds directly into undisturbed soil, which can reduce erosion and improve the health of the soil.

- Integrated pest management: Integrated pest management techniques aim to minimize the use of chemical pesticides that can prove harmful to the environment and local wildlife. According to the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, IPM strategies like habitat manipulation and the planting of disease-resistant plants are designed to promote long-term prevention of pests and the damage such pests can cause.
- Agroforestry: The Association for Temperate Agroforestry defines agroforestry as an intensive land management system that incorporates trees and/or shrubs to optimize the benefits they provide when deliberately combined with crops and/or livestock. The shade and shelter provided by trees and shrubs can protect plants, animals and water resources.
- Crop/livestock integration: The UCS notes that there is growing evidence to suggest that the careful integration of crop and animal production can help farmers make their farms more efficient and profitable.



Sustainable agriculture is a complex concept that can benefit farmers, their local communities and the environment in myriad ways.

CELEBRATE AG WEEK MARCH 21-27, 2021





Monday - Wednesday 8 AM - 6:30 PM Thursday - Friday 8 AM - 6:30 PM Saturday 8 AM - Noon Sunday 5 AM - 6:30 PM



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