

Mountain messenger

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

School officials explain COVID-19 contact tracing, precautions in sports

By Bobby Bordelon

As COVID-19 restrictions lift in West Virginia, and those 16 under are unable to be vaccinated, one concern of many residents is potential spread within and around Greenbrier County schools. In order to prevent such a spread, officials pushed classes to remote learning for both Greenbrier East High School and Eastern Greenbrier Middle School students last Friday, Mar. 26. However, concern remains for some parents after a GEHS basketball game was played on Saturday, Mar. 27.

Head School Nurse Paula McCoy explained the cases that pushed the two schools to remote learning did not affect the basketball team.

"We had back to back incidents with different sports, [but] the person who tested positive and was quarantined late last week was ... not a basketball player or around any basketball player," explained McCoy. "We did a lot of contact tracing on Friday and had to quarantine a lot of students. ... We all have to follow

the same West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources guidance on when student athletes need to be quarantined, how long, then what needs to be in place for them to return to academics and to sports."

The problems with positive cases during a game often come about when a positive case is found after the game.

"Ever since we've dealt with COVID, we have dealt with [positive athlete cases]," said Superintendent of Schools Jeff Bryant. "... We have had instances, back in the fall and maybe during this winter where our students have been involved in a contest with another team, say an away game, then received notification 24, 48 hours later that a student athlete was positive and quarantined numerous teams at numerous times so far this year."

This notification system would also go both ways.

"If we have a COVID case and it involves athletics, and it maybe involves another school because of contact we had

See "Contact Tracing" — Page 2

County Commission discusses American Rescue Plan funding, water damage cleanup

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier County Commission called a special meeting to approve a new savings account for COVID-19 relief funds, open bids for flooding clean up, and emphasize the availability of vaccines on Thursday, Mar. 25.

The approval of The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will soon bring over \$6 million into Greenbrier County and many of the municipalities within. In order to receive these funds, the Commission authorized the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office to open a new bank account.

"But it's not all going to the sheriff's

department," joked and clarified Commissioner Tammy Shiflett-Tincher.

An overall plan for the funds has not yet been approved by the commission.

...

The commission opened bids for water damage clean up on Route 60 near Meadow River and Route 92 near the Anthony Creek area.

"This is from the high water that we had just a couple of weeks ago," explained Commissioner Lowell Rose.

"This is only for select locations in these two areas of the county, it's not for

See "GCC" — Page 2

MerryWeather's boutique opens downtown

Festival fashion and handmade collections

By Sarah Richardson

Downtown Lewisburg has gained another new business with the addition of MerryWeather's boutique on Court Street. Owner Heather Fox not only runs and manages the new storefront, but hand makes a portion of the inventory, as well.

She describes the store as "an eclectic boutique for music festival fans," and offers women's and men's apparel, masks, dis-

tinctive jewelry, hats, steel drinking straws, wooden stickers, handbags, scarves, and more. Fox notes, "I am happy to be offering a plus size collection, including sizes from 1XL to 3XL. I also hope to expand this in the future."

Fox has always been an artist, and says it's very important to her that a big part of MerryWeather's would be things she has created. Her art mediums are wide in variety, and she is currently focusing on three main lines of products.

She creates earrings made from reclaimed leather with wire wrap-

ping and bead accents, as well as hand dyed clothing. "I make t-shirts and styles in Peruvian cotton for women and men that I hand dye using an original technique that combines shibori and tie dye," she explained, which makes each piece totally unique. She is also producing cotton face masks with her original origami design in five sizes. The masks are either hand dyed muslin or printed cotton.

"I'm from here, and am really happy to be part of the exciting place Lewisburg has become," said Fox. "When I started MerryWeather's, it was com-

Reward
\$10,000.00

Help get Justice for Danny and Daisy Foster, MURDERED in their own home and home set on fire on River Road April 2, 2020.

Information Call:
Lt. GR Workman or Dep. AL Workman at 304-647-6634

Reward paid for information leading to the Arrest and Conviction by WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

Reward increased in homicide investigation

As investigators have continued their investigation into the Apr. 2, 2020 homicide of Danny and Daisy Foster and subsequent arson of their home, corroborative information is being sought to aid in bringing those responsible to justice.

The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's office has increased the reward being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Individuals with information can contact Lieutenant G.R. Workman or Deputy A.L. Workman with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office at 304-647-6634 or the non-emergency 911 number, 304-647-7911.

Information may also be provided to Crime Stoppers of WV at www.crimestopper-sv.com or 304-673-9205.

Before Alderson vote, a look on B&O taxes in Greenbrier County

By Bobby Bordelon

With the Alderson Town Council considering enacting a Business and Occupation Tax (B&O), many Alderson residents are curious about how a similar tax operates in other Greenbrier County municipalities. Although many do have a B&O tax, the majority were created exempting small, local businesses.

Town Council already approved the first reading of the ordinance, setting the stage for the tax to become a new business standard in town. Mayor Travis Copenhaver points to a budget hole as the reason for the new tax.

"I'm proud of what we do," said Copenhaver. "But with the stuff that's been taken

See "Alderson B&O" — Page 3



MerryWeather's carries a little of everything from festival fashion, jewelry, stickers, and more.

pletely created to join our amazing regional music festival community as a vendor booth. The first application was accepted

in March 2020 - and we all know what happened next. So, here I am!"

"My approach to making is a very art-driven,

one-of-a-kind process, and I expect I will evolve into making other kinds of

See "MerryWeather's" — Page 2

Lewisburg in Bloom Fundraiser continues for 2021 with begonia sale

Lewisburg in Bloom is getting ready for spring and summer 2021 with the annual Red Dragonwing Begonia sale. Grow your very own official Lewisburg begonias as seen in the hanging baskets throughout downtown.

The sale benefits the Lewisburg in Bloom Committee, and it is the only fundraising they do all year. The Committee is a coalition of people dedicated to the improvement, betterment and beautification of Lewisburg.

The cost is \$6.50 for each 5.5 inch pot. Pre-order your flowers and then pickup at Shelter #2 at Dorie Miller Park on Friday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. To order, simply email Shannon Beatty at City Hall at sbeatty@lewisburg-wv.com, or call 304-6454-2080.



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www.mountainmessenger.com

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**Radio
Greenbrier**

**Thanks for making us your
local listening choice!**

**NEWS TALK
97.3**

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS / LEWISBURG

Greenbrier Valley's Talk
and News Headquarters

**103.1
THE BEAR**

**Today's HOT
Country!**

**OLDIES
93**

**Your Classic
Hits Station**

**ROCK
WRB 95**

**Today's
Rock**

Twenty plus Woodrum bills passed by Senate, other Greenbrier County legislative updates

By Bobby Bordelon

With the end of the Legislative session on the horizon, the number of Greenbrier County representative sponsored bills passing is increasing. This includes the near unanimous passage of over 20 Senator Jack Woodrum sponsored bills.

Although the Republican supermajority is considering several forms of income tax replacements or repeals, a large portion of the Greenbrier County representative bills have been approved in their respective houses.

Since last week, one such bill was approved by both the House of Delegates and the Senate:

- The Delegate Todd Longanacre sponsored H.B. 2260 sets new rules around procurement of child placing services, ensuring "performance-based payment methodologies must be used in child placing agency contracting" and the department "shall actively monitor the child placing agency's compliance with the terms of contracts." The bill passed in both the House and the Senate without a single nay vote.

- S.B. 275 relates to the WV Appellate Reorganization Act of 2021, creating an intermediate court in West Virginia. Introduced by Senator Stephen Baldwin on behalf of Governor Jim Justice, the bill has passed the Senate on Feb. 24 (19-15, nay Baldwin and yea Woodrum) and the House on Mar. 30 (56-44, nay Bruce, yea Longanacre).

An ample number of bills sponsored by delegates Todd Longanacre and Barry Bruce, as well as Woodrum and

Senate Minority Leader Stephen Baldwin, have passed through one chamber of the legislature, including:

- The Longanacre sponsored H.B. 3311, "requiring that the cost of obtaining a medical record may not exceed a fee consistent with HIPAA" and making technical changes, was unanimously passed by the House.

- The Bruce-sponsored H.B. 2017 is a massive rewriting of West Virginia's criminal code with dozens of subsections, dealing with penalties and definitions around numerous criminal acts, including larceny, assault, sexual crimes, financial crimes, and more. As covered by WV News, the bill would be one of the bigger criminal code rewrites in decades. Passed by the House 76-22-2, with Bruce and Longanacre voting yea.

- In the same vein, the Bruce-sponsored H.B. 3304 would create "a program of Reentry and Transitional Housing that will encourage reentering offenders to become responsible, productive citizens by providing transitional housing and access to resources within a community setting designed to help reintegrate formerly incarcerated persons," including assistance with academic education, social skills, education, self-discipline programs, substance abuse treatment, employment, vocational education and counseling. The bill was passed

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Meadow River Community Park upgrades planned in memory of Coach Whitlow

By Bobby Bordelon

A special request after the passing of Greenbrier West High School Coach Bud Whitlow last year is the spark behind upcoming renovations of the Meadow River Community Park.

In lieu of flowers, Whitlow and the family requested donations for the improvements of the Meadow River Valley, a request friends obliged.

"He passed away about a year ago, and when he did, his family asked people to donate to the Meadow River Community Park in lieu of flowers," explained Matt Ford, a local Meadow River Valley organizer. "We ended up getting a little over \$3,000 in donations."

Work on the Meadow River Community Park, including on a shelter and outdoor classroom, became the consensus, with one condition.

"I was talking to [his widow], trying to figure out the best use of this money, ... he had always been a supporter of the park," Ford said. "One thing he didn't like, and no one liked, [is that] right now that park has concrete picnic tables made out of old guardrail concrete. They are not going anywhere, but they're terrible to sit on and they look awful. Some of our shelters need replaced, so his wife said 'whatever you do, don't put concrete picnic tables down there, cause he hated those.'"

Greenbrier West High School offered to construct new benches for the park. Soon after, Mark Bowe and Cindy Lavender-Bowe toured the Meadow River Rail Trail and, upon hearing of the project, offered to build much of the needed infrastructure at cost.

"They found out about this project, the Rail Trail, and they wanted to help in some way," Ford said. "The stars aligned - we had a little bit of money, they wanted to help, and [we decided] to build a shelter in memory of Whitlow."

"The Meadow River is one of those places in West Virginia that you can't forget once you've seen it," explained Mark Bowe. "We have been blessed with the success of a hit TV show and this is a great way to give back to our community."

Ford estimates the project will come together over the summer, and will be reaching out to foundations and writing grant applications to bolster the donations.

"We need to have money for the concrete pad, put a roof on it, so we're in the process of raising money for that. It's probably around \$15,000 or \$20,000 total, ... that's probably about where it'll be. ... We're looking at doing that this summer, I'm pretty confident we'll be able to hit the fundraising goal. We're going to make it happen."

This is not the only project going up - the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is working on a river access point in the park throughout 2021. Because of the proximity to this project, and because of Whitlow, the shelter and outdoor classroom

"We were thinking we need to rebuild the shelter - it would have a fishing theme because it'll be near this boat access and [Whitlow] was a big time fisher in the Meadow River," Ford said.

If you would like to donate or request more information, please contact Matt Ford, President of MRVA at info@meadowriver.org.

GCC

the total stream restoration," Tinchler added. "There are four locations and sites that will be cleaned up. We're doing this through the West Virginia soil conservation and the Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation office. It's money available through the emergency executive order."

- Superior Pocahontas LLC, \$25,190
- LD Hanna and Son, \$18,560
- All Construction, \$29,799
- Lynch Construction, \$26,202

The bids will next be sent to the soil conservation office for further consideration.

PICK OF THE LITTER

BOJANGLES

Bojangles is a four-year-old male hound mix and weighs 60 pounds.



SILAS

Silas is a senior boy at 10 years old, and weighs 7 pounds. Can he come live out his golden years with you?



These and other animals are available at the Greenbrier Humane Society, located at 151 Holiday Lane off of Rt. 60 West in Lewisburg. They are closed Sunday and Monday, and are open from 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Their cat adoption fee is \$65 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first kitty vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim and flea treatment.

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

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

Local students place in WVDOH Bridge Design and Build competition

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has announced the winners for the 20th annual West Virginia Bridge Design and Build Contest. The event was held on Saturday, Mar. 27, and WVDOH was impressed by all 27 teams for their patience and diligence in competing virtually.

Locally, winning participants from the finals in the High School Division include:

- BridgeBridge, Andrea Miller, Greenbrier East High School, Third Place.
- Spartan Bridge, William Gabbert, Greenbrier East High School.
- Frankford Federalists, Malachi Crews, Greenbrier East High School.
- Swag Money, Justin McCullough and Jackson Hefner, Greenbrier East High School.

Frankfort High School and Midland Trail Middle School will be taking home the coveted traveling trophies this year; trophies that have not traveled since the 2019 competition, due to COVID-19. This year, the students impressed WVDOH with more than just their bridge-building skills; competing from their homes and classrooms, bravely calling in with their technical difficulties, and operating with a winning spirit in the toughest contest yet.

The contest pits teams of high school and middle school students from all over West Virginia against one another to see who can come up with the lowest cost bridge designs. The West Virginia Division of Highways sponsors the annual contest in hopes of inspiring a new generation of engineers through fun, hard work, and prize money. This year, BridgeWalk awarded free family tours of the New River Gorge Bridge to each of the 99 student teams who competed, including those who did not advance to the final competition. Every student who makes it to the finals receives \$100. First place winners take home \$500, second place winners receive \$400 and third place winners get \$300.

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MerryWeather's

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Owner Heather Fox creates a large portion of the inventory herself, including a unique line of tie dye pieces made using a shibori method.

things in the future, especially when the masks go away! I will also be showcasing talented local jewelry designers whose work will be available for sale."

She currently carries the work of two jewelry artists, Mickayla Pence and Aspen Prather. Pence is behind Mick's Media Jewelry and works mainly with resin using original collage art and botanicals. Prather is Aspen Tree Designs from Fayetteville who makes wrapped gemstone pendants. "I want to do more of this with other mediums in the future," Fox added.

While the store is currently open only for curbside service and appointments, she hopes to be officially open to the public beginning on April 15 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. She plans to expand her hours as the year continues.

Anyone wishing to make an appointment may call 681-318-3300, visit the MerryWeather's Facebook page, or shop online at www.merryweathers.com. They are located across the street from the Lewis Theatre, next to the Masonic Temple Building.

Contact Tracing

Continued from Front Page

with an event, we would feel responsible to contact that school system and notified them," Bryant said. "That's what we've received to state responsibility from the other school systems. We have found that to be consistent."

"Our athletic directors are so valuable in regard to that, and Sheryl Hulmes, our athletic director, has reached out to other teams when it's happened to us, when we've had an athlete positive," McCoy added. "She lets the other teams know."

Once a positive case is established, contact tracing and quarantine begins.²

"When we have someone that connects with one of our schools test positive, we have to go back 48 hours before that positive test or before the development of symptoms, whichever came first," McCoy explained. "Whoever they were in close contact with during that 48 hour period. That's how it happened. Honestly we find out about someone being positive after they've played a game because they maybe develop symptoms the next day. That's the kind of situation where we've had to go back and notify other teams."

She encouraged concerned parents, family, and friends to be vigilant and encourage others to be as well, even as the vaccination program continues forward.

"I would just like to relay our appreciation for the support the parents have provided," McCoy said. "They've been concerned about the quarantine, they've adhered to it, they're doing the daily screenings on their students. If we're going to mitigate the risk of COVID in our school system, we're at the mercy of the parents to be honest with us and be forthcoming with information.

Anyone age 16 and over is now able to get a vaccine, and the commission urged those who want to get a vaccine to sign up through the state's website at vaccinate.wv.gov.

Rose also noted people who "signed up and haven't heard anything from the state or anybody," should "just go ahead and call the health department ... and get scheduled for next Thursday cause we're having a little problem with the state system. Sign up there, but go ahead

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Briefly

Organ Cave Community Center

will host a Flea Market Friday, Apr. 16 and Saturday, Apr. 17 from 7 a.m. until ? each day. Set up fee is \$10 and proceeds will benefit the community center. The community center will not be responsible for accidents. Call 304-645-6098 for information.

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 Dance on Apr. 10 features Midnight Special Band; Saturday Dance on Apr. 24 features Virginia Magic Band. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

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>

Alderson B&O

Continued from Front Page

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."

However, Copenhagen also pointed to "the other municipalities" as having a "1 percent" B&O tax "across the board for every business that is not a nonprofit." In Greenbrier County, this is not the case - amid the other municipalities, Alderson would become just a few with an "across the board" tax if this were enacted.

Currently, Ronceverte has no B&O tax implemented.

Lewisburg's B&O Tax was passed in March 2006, and since it has been updated once, adding contractors in May 2014.

"Yes, Lewisburg has a B&O Tax on retail sales and contracting," explained Recorder Shannon Beatty. However, this is not commonly paid by Lewisburg businesses - "B&O taxes are not paid on retail until after the first 15 million in sales."

White Sulphur Springs first considered, then later implemented, a B&O tax in 2019. City Attorney Fred Giggenbach wrote the tax with exceptions for anything under \$2 million in sales, with varying rates for different business types, analyzing 13 similar taxes enacted throughout the state.

Before its passage, WSS Mayor Bruce Bowling explained the guidelines for who the tax applies to and the city's intention to omit small businesses from paying the tax. Instead, the tax was designed before the pandemic and aimed to capture city revenue from large-scale manufacturing and the West Virginia Great Barrel Company.

"For small businesses, restaurants, the small shops in town, doctors, lawyers, service [people], people who are small businesses it won't really affect at all," Giggenbach explained. "Who it will affect are banks, contractors, manufacturing. ... The reason this thing came about is because of Tom Crabtree and the barrel plant. He sort of demanded we put in a B&O tax. He just wants to contribute to the town. ... The barrel company is expected to gross \$20 million a year. Of that \$20 million, it would pay \$60,000 in taxes. We would provide fire protection, police protection, water service."

In Rainelle, a number of different rates per \$100 are set for different types of businesses, such as:

- \$1.20 for electric light and power companies
- \$1.50 for contracting businesses
- 20 cents for gross income of retailers, restaurants, and "others"
- 6.8 cents for gross sales value of manufactured products
- 32.5 cents for Service and "all other business" not otherwise specified by the ordinance.

While this is not a comprehensive list for Rainelle, the diversity in rates is similar to how both utilities are handled in B&O taxes - in Lewisburg, water companies pay 4 percent, the same rate as light and power companies in White Sulphur Springs. These rates vary for each utility and specified business in each ordinance.

With the first reading of Alderson's B&O tax already approved, another reading and public hearing are expected in an upcoming Town Council meeting.

GCC

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and call the health department, if you're 16 to 100," if they haven't contacted you after signing up on the state website.

In a recent COVID-19 Task Force update, anyone who signed up and had not heard back could call 304-645-1787.

...

"On Apr. 1, 2021 all 2020 unpaid real and personal property taxes will be prepared for publication in the newspapers," reads a social media post from the Greenbrier County Courthouse. "A \$20 publication fee will be added to each unpaid 2020 ticket if not paid by Apr. 30, 2021. We will honor the Apr. 30, 2021 postmark for payments mailed to us for processing. However, your name will still be published in the newspapers if we have not received payment in the Greenbrier County Tax Offices by May 1, 2021."

Police Blotter

Former teacher sentenced after inappropriate conduct with student

By Bobby Bordelon

Michael Doolin faces four years' incarceration, five years probation, and more requirements after being sentenced by Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent on Tuesday, Mar. 29. Doolin previously pled guilty to distribution and display to a minor of obscene matter and felony offense of use of obscene matter to attempt to seduce a minor.

Content warning - this story contains information about a criminal offense of a sexual nature

In February 2020, Doolin was indicted on four counts of sexual abuse by a person in a position of trust. Doolin, then a 27-year-old teacher with the Lewisburg Baptist Academy, engaged with the 17-year-old victim in this case. However, as part of the plea agreement, the prosecution moved to drop these charges and introduced two alternate felony charges.

Doolin pled guilty to two counts brought in the information filed, and the four charges brought by the February grand jury indictments were dismissed.

The Tuesday sentencing hearing for this plea deal saw several individuals speak, including John Fillmore, a relative of the then 17-year-old victim in the case.

"[The victim] has experienced loneliness, alienation, and deep anguish due to Michael's actions," said Fillmore. "His lies of self preservation continue to divide our once close knit family, our once close knit church, our once close knit school. He has shamed his family, our family, the name of our lord, and we are not here today to seek revenge, but rather to seek justice, forgiveness, and the grace of god to turn the page on this unfortunate chapter in [the victim's] life. We trust you and we pray for justice in this matter."

Prosecuting Attorney Patrick Via emphasized that although a psychological evaluation in the sentencing report did not indicate a high risk of Doolin re-offending, a non-probation sentence would be in order in this case.

"I do think that, from the state's perspective, it's very important that an appropriate disposition of this be made, given the nature of the offense," Via said. "Doolin has expressed it, that it is an extraordinary violation of trust. This was no stranger interaction - the families knew one another for a considerable period of time. ... That trust was abused in a way that community, our society, and our laws deem to be strictly forbidden. That requires substantial punitive action by this court. ... In fact, so serious, that it is the position of the state that the only disposition for this matter is for Mr. Doolin to be sentenced for a determinate sentence of five years for each count and that those sentences be ordered to run consecutively."

Fillmore, while looking to forgive and heal his community, also emphasized the severity of the offense.

"When you trust another individual with your child and other children that you know and love, it's the ultimate responsibility," Fillmore said. "Michael knowingly, willingly betrayed that trust, causing pain and suffering to [the victim] and so many others along the way. ... Taking advantage of a young, teenage girl, using his position as a family member, a schoolteacher, a basketball coach, a school chaperon, to groom, seduce, and eventually assault [the victim] is the ultimate act of betrayal. Fleeing the state with total disregard for the consequences of his actions, leaving us here the past [16] months to deal with all of the lies that he had told. Upon open knowledge of his selfish act, he continued to blame her for his actions. Up to this point he has taken no responsibility for his own actions."

Before sentencing, Dent also turned to the psychological evaluation.

"In your account of the crime, in reference to the impact on others, you indicate that there was a lot of hurt," said Dent. " ... After reviewing everything, what the court comes away with is that you acknowledge the relationship with the victim, but I'm not sure, and it doesn't appear to me, that you have acknowledged the criminal conduct. You're here not because you had an affair, you're here because of the criminal conduct that you committed, which are the two felonies to which you plead, which involve the distribution and use of obscene matter to seduce a minor. That's why you're here and it is the seriousness of that offense that you fail to recognize, and to simply grant you probation would be to depreciate the wrongfulness of that conduct."

Doolin was sentenced to a determinate period of four years' incarceration for the distribution charge and two years for second charge, to be served consecutively. The second sentence was then suspended, with Dent placing Doolin on five years of probation, a \$5,000 fine, and court fees.

As a result, Doolin will serve four years, then be on probation for five, during which he must undergo an outpatient sex offender treatment program, followed by other requirements, such as enrollment on the sexual offender

See "Police Blotter" — Page 6

Tax Tip

- **Remember:** *Deadline to file both Federal & State taxes has been extended to May 17, 2021*



LIBERTYTAX
Need Help With Your Taxes?
Free E-file of Federal and State Returns
CONTACT OUR PROFESSIONALS
304-645-0006
in Lewisburg
[Across from Taco Bell]

Lory Mae Dale
BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE
Serving The Area Since 1986
Federal & State Forms
Arbuckle Lane, Lewisburg, WV
304-645-6037
Office Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Amanda L. Burdette, Rupert, no proof of insurance, NC, fine \$200

Jason M. Sherlock, Pt. Pleasant, speeding, fine \$28

Tamara Lee Cutlip, Rupert, illegal possession of wild-life, NC, fine \$75

Christopher Eric Holliday, Rupert, distracted driving - cell phone, NC, fine \$100

Andrew George Wolfe, White Sulphur Springs, domestic battery, NC, fine \$100, jail 6 months - suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation

Joseph L. McCoy, Gilbert, no seatbelt, fine \$25

Thomas D. Martin, Rainelle, reckless driving, NCP, fine \$100, jail 10 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation

Jason S. Hanna, Crawley, no insurance, fine \$200

Anthony M. Olney, Alderson, 1) shoplifting, NCP, fine \$50, restitution \$95.80 to be paid to Walmart Asset Protection Recovery; 2) shoplifting, fine \$50, restitution \$199.40 to be paid to Walmart Asset Protection Recovery

Derek Tutor, Meadow Bridge, DUI 1st offense, NCP, fine \$100, jail 90 days credit for 10 days time served - remainder to be served through Fayette Co. Day Report Program

Robert W. Bailey, Jr., Rainelle, assault on government employee, NCP, fine \$50, jail 45 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Christopher J. Adkins, Quinwood, seat belt violation, fine \$25

Robert B. Sipos, Alderson, hit & run - leaving scene, NCP, fine \$50

William D. Anders, Lewisburg, 1) defective equipment, fine \$15; 2) driving suspended, fine \$100

Joseph L. Lowe, White Sulphur Springs, seat belt violation, NCP, fine \$25

Carla J. Hedrick, Rupert, registration violation, fine \$50

Vale Schiff, Lincolnwood, IL, speeding, NCP, fine \$10

Public Meetings

Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

meets on the fourth 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.

For the Record

Deeds

Jeffrey Ambler and Teresa Ambler to Billy Mitchell and Jennifer Sue Weaver, a parcel, Blue Sulphur District

Tim Murphy and Debra Murphy to Johnson and Johnson Investments LLC, Lots 9, 10, and 11, Block 36, Section 1A, Rupert Municipality

Cardan Enterprises Incorporated to Sharon Simmons and Stephen Simmons Jr., part of Lot 61, Ronceverte Corporate District

Kathy King and Belinda Bostic to Laura Drass, Lot 2, Barnett Subdivision, Ronceverte Corporate District

Curtiss Brammer and Paula Brammer to Alfred Buckmaster and Amy Buckmaster, 1.50 acres, Frankford District

Elyse Gerard to Appalachian Headwaters Inc, two tracts, Lewisburg District

Delbert Madison Hundley to Debra S. Bishop, 1.20 acres, Meadow Bluff District

Charles Harmon and Ruth Harmon to Samuel Stinson and Morgan Stinson, Lots 1 and 2, Section 17, Rainelle Municipal District

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OPINION

The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



The end of the session can't come soon enough! We will finish at 11:59 p.m. on Apr. 10. Until then, expect a furious pace of controversial bills. Here's an overview of this week's bills.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX. Gov. Justice proposed reducing the personal income tax in half by raising the sales tax and various other taxes. House Republicans proposed reducing the personal income tax over the next 12 years by making cuts and not raising taxes. Now, Senate Republicans proposed this week eliminating the personal income tax by raising the sales tax to 8.5%, raising the hotel/motel tax, reinstating the food tax, taxing professional services, raising the tobacco tax, and allowing recreational marijuana.

WILL IT PASS? With only 10 days remaining in session and major disagreements between these various unpopular income tax plans, I think it's unlikely that income tax reform will happen right now. It's possible, but it's more likely that the differences remain unresolved and are then taken up at a later time.

BUDGET. This week we saw the proposed budget for the first time. It contains cuts to WVU, Marshall, tourism, senior centers, substance abuse treatment, Communities in Schools, and a 1.5% across the board cut to all agencies. The governor's budget did not include any of these cuts. Why the difference? Because House and Senate Republicans need every dollar they can get for their income tax proposals...which also raise taxes.

STATE FINANCES. It's perplexing to me what legislative leaders are doing with our state finances. On the one hand, they are raising taxes. On the other hand, they are cutting the budget (colleges, tourism, senior citizens). Yet there's still a budget deficit...because they're spending money like there's no tomorrow on personal income tax, charters, ESAs, and more.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. If the trends hold, you will see no less than four constitutional amendments on your next ballot in 2022 - one for personal property taxes, one for disabled veterans property taxes, one for the right to bear arms, and one on term limits. They all passed the Senate this week and now must pass the House to be placed on the ballot. I voted in favor of placing them all on the ballot, because I think voters ought to have the choice. Below is an explanation of each one.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES. Probably the most complicated of all, SJR7 (actually, the House version HJR3 is the one that will be voted upon) essentially asks you, the voters, if you want to allow the legislature to set all personal property tax rates including tax rates on your vehicles, business inventory and equipment, and all other tangible personal property. To be clear, it doesn't automatically cut all these taxes; it just gives the legislature the freedom to cut them. Supporters say lower taxes is always a good thing. Opponents say this will blow a hole in county budgets which provide for schools, law

Commentary

Team approach to overcome opioid abuse

By Patrick Morrissey, WV Attorney General

Opioid abuse is a blight that has impacted thousands of West Virginians - a deadly scourge so large that beating it will require a holistic, team approach.

Every culpable actor must be held accountable. This includes the pharmaceutical supply channel, consulting firms and the government itself.

Whenever large settlements come to pass, people ask, and rightfully so, where the money will go.

I believe these monies should go toward fixing the actual problem. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the tobacco settlement. The money shouldn't go to random pork projects or exorbitant legal fees that do nothing to address the fundamentals of the opioid epidemic.

Attorneys need to get paid for the work they do, but we also must put West Virginia citizens first and make sure we use as much money as possible to help people.

That means financial support for recovery and treatment to help people get better in the head and in the heart, as well as money for education, prevention and enforcement. We have been discussing this with legislators, counties, cities, hospitals and others litigating this matter in hopes of reaching an agreement that will benefit all West Virginians.

It is my hope that our team approach will use all monies received through opioid litigation to fund the Governor's Substance Abuse Plan. Their advisory council will work with our office to ensure that no region gets left behind.

When you have a good plan, and you combine it with the resources and structural pieces that we're bringing to bear, it could be a crown jewel for our state and provide a funding stream that has long-term, generational benefits for West Virginia and her citizens.

In these settlement agreements, I have rejected formulas that calculate settlement amounts based upon a state's population alone. We do so because we want agreements that reflect the disproportionate harm done in West Virginia - in other words, severity.

Even if it's one state against 49 states, we're going to stand strong and put West Virginia first.

This fight cannot be won by one entity alone. It is an uphill battle in a war against senseless death, but we can work together to maximize settlement dollars to achieve the greatest benefit for the most people.

There is no amount of money that can wipe away the harm and death, but we must hold those accountable who fueled this epidemic and affect lasting change.

West Virginia, like many other states, must focus on recovery to avoid sending settlement dollars down a black hole or to pork projects.

Our team approach will utilize real experts with real experience, physicians, nurses and healthcare administrators. This will ensure appropriate spending and that the money does not run out in two, three or four years.

This money should last the test of time, and that's what I'm fighting for to help West Virginia reach her full potential.

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enforcement, and the like.

DISABLED VETERANS. SJR 9 authorizes the legislature to exempt up to 100% of the real estate property taxes for 100% disabled veterans. Personally, I think it should be for all veterans not just 100% disabled veterans, but I couldn't get them to pass that.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. SJR1 adds language to the constitution saying that counties and cities cannot regulate firearms, ammunition, or accessories by local laws that are any more strict than state laws.

TERM LIMITS. SJR10 limits WV Senators and Delegates to 12 consecutive years of service in the legislature. Someone could serve 12 years, take a break, and then return if the voters so choose. But everyone would be limited to 12 years at a time.

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

...

Sometimes the regular column just isn't enough room for a particular issue. Such is the case with the "American Rescue Plan." It's so big and so complex that it requires its own column.

WHAT IS IT? The most recent COVID stimulus plan passed by Congress is called the "American Rescue Plan." The scope of the bill is truly staggering. And whereas the last stimulus was sent to states without much guidance, this plan is specific.

HOW BIG IS IT? In total, West Virginia will receive well over \$4 billion in direct funding.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS? In addition to the well-known components of \$1,400 stimulus checks and an unemployment extension, the bill contains these other components.

SMALL BUSINESS AID: Reauthorization of PPP, EIDL, shuttered venue and restaurant assistance

BROADBAND: \$138 million in funding for broadband and \$2 million for hotspots.

STATE AID: \$1.25 billion in funding for WV state government, to be administered by the Governor and legislature.

VACCINES: \$11 million to WV in supplemental vaccine funding and on increasing vaccine doses.

EDUCATION: \$800 million for WV pre-K through 12th grade; \$190 million for WV colleges and universities.

CHILD CARE: \$260 million for WV child care and \$10 million for WV Head Start.

SENIORS: \$9 million for WV senior programs.

HOUSING: \$152 million for emergency rental assistance in WV and \$38.5 million for energy bills (LI-HEAP).

VETERANS: Approximately \$2.2 million for Veterans nursing homes

HOSPITALS: Millions in direct funding to help WV hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, health departments, home health, and long-term care.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Millions in direct funding to WV through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Health Service Administration.

FOOD ASSISTANCE: Direct funding to our most vulnerable West Virginians through federal programs

FIRST RESPONDERS: The Assistance to Firefighters and SAFER grant programs will receive additional allocations of \$100 million and \$200 million respectively; Firefighters and First Responders are also eligible for support under state and local government funds.

WHAT ABOUT LOCAL FUNDS? Cities and counties will also receive direct funds. Here are the amounts for the four counties I serve: Fayette County \$8.22 million, Greenbrier \$6.72 million, Monroe \$2.57 million, & Summers \$2.44 million. These towns will also receive these amounts: Alderson \$470,000, Fayetteville \$1.13 million, Gauley Bridge \$230,000, Hinton \$980,000, Lewisburg \$1.58 million, Meadow Bridge \$140,000, Montgomery \$630,000, Mount Hope \$530,000, Oak Hill \$3.37 million, Pax \$60,000, Quinwood \$110,000, Rainelle \$630,000, Ronceverte \$690,000, Rupert \$370,000, Smithers, \$310,000, Union \$220,000, White Sulphur Springs \$980,000.

HOW CAN THEY SPEND THESE FUNDS? The Treasury Department will send the rules for use in the coming weeks, but generally these funds can be spent for four purposes - COVID expenses, water, sewer, or broadband.

Commentary

Don't be an April Fool - Call before you dig

By Charlotte Lane, Chair

West Virginia Public Service Commission

April is full of surprises. Spring flowers pop up all around us. You may hear hungry little chirps coming from a nest near your porch. It's time to find and fix the wear and tear that winter has left behind on our homes and vehicles. Spring cleaning always reveals needed repairs we weren't expecting.

Of course, the month kicks off with surprises on April Fools' Day. Someone put sugar in the salt shaker or a plastic spider in the egg carton. It's all good fun until someone gets hurt. There is one April bombshell that is no fun at all; in fact, it's downright dangerous. And that is the surprise you will get if you accidentally hit a buried utility line while digging.

The Public Service Commission wants to remind you that April is Safe Digging Month. As the warmer days inspire us to dig post holes, plant trees or any other chore that requires digging, always call WV811 before you get started. It's not just a good idea - it's the law. Be aware that if you damage a utility line you can be held responsible for the cost of repairs. In addition, civil penalties can be assessed by the West Virginia Damage Prevention Board for line strikes, and those fines can be as high as \$5,000.

It's easy to avoid the risk by making a free call to WV811. Simply dial 811 or visit www.wv811.com and make your arrangements online. If you are a contractor or someone who frequently works with excavation, you can download the new WV811 app from the website to make contact even more convenient.

You must contact WV811 far enough in advance to give the utility companies 48 hours to respond, not counting weekends or holidays. WV811 will forward your request to all utility companies that have underground facilities in your area. Utility representatives will then come out and mark the position of those lines so that you can dig safely.

A broken water or sewer main will cause serious inconvenience. A snapped cable may interrupt phone, TV, or internet service. But a punctured gas line can kill you, and that's a surprise that can't be fixed.

Don't be an April Fool! Stay safe by calling WV811 before you dig.

FEDERAL FUNDS. Just to be clear, these are all federal funds. No state legislators voted on them. They were voted on federally and will be sent to states.

OPPORTUNITY. This represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us in West Virginia. If we utilize these funds in a coordinated, thoughtful manner, then we can literally build our future.

My advice to counties and towns is to take time to put together a plan about how to use these funds wisely. Folks will be knocking down the doors...soon. Get a plan together that best serves your people. Consider coordinating with each other! For example, what if a county and all their municipalities worked together to build a single broadband system?

The past year has proven tremendously challenging. But we are now in a position of unique opportunity to leverage these funds into a brighter future for West Virginia.

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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James Hayes



Lewisburg-James "Jim" Hayes, 90, was heaven bound Saturday morning Mar. 27, 2021, where he will rejoin his wife of 60 years, Janice Faulkner Hayes.

He was born to Clarence and Audrey Hayes of Renick where he spent his school years and began his own family. He often stated what he was most proud of in his life was his FAMILY.

Being hard working all his life he was a machinery operator for the WV Soil Conservation Service for approximately 20 years and then an inspector for the US Department of Agriculture another 15 years. Then he began his favorite job as a cattle farmer until 2019. As a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte for about 64 years, he served as usher and a member on numerous committees.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janice in 2013, his parents, and one brother Joe Hayes.

Cherishing his memory and the example he leaves behind, are daughters, Gay Hayes Sebert and husband David of Fairlea as well as Lynda Hayes Ambler and husband Aaron of Lewisburg. Being abundantly blessed with girls besides his wife and two daughters, he had six granddaughters, Krista Sebert Jett (John) of Pittsboro, NC, Kara Sebert Parker (Shaun) of Stephens City, VA, Kacey Sebert Hunter (Joel Aaron) of Lewisburg, Olivia Ambler, Ava Ambler and Norah Ambler of Lewisburg; as well as six great-grandchildren. He is also lovingly remembered by one brother, Edward Hayes (Sandra) of Christiansburg, VA; one nephew, one niece and several cousins. He was especially grateful for his numerous very dependable, loyal friends.

As dedicated as he was to living a long and productive life, he is now blessed with joy, comfort, and peace abundantly bestowed by our HEAVENLY FATHER.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Apr. 2, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Burial will follow in Morningside Cemetery at Renick.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until time of the service on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the STATE FAIR OF WV SCHOLARSHIP FUND for students involved with 4-H and FFA, c/o Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation at P.O. Box 1682, Lewisburg, WV, 24901.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Lloyd William Lightner, Sr.



Alderson-Lloyd William "Bill" Lightner, Sr., 67, passed away Monday, Mar. 29, 2021 at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Born May 6, 1953 in Hinton, he was a son of the late Godfrey William and Mary Catherine Bowden Lightner.

Bill was a member of the Griffith Creek Baptist Church, farmer, bail bondsman, 18-year former Summers county commissioner, Hinton Football Hall of Fame, Summers County Farm Bureau, Summers County Council on Aging, and various other organizations.

Bill is survived by his wife of 49 years, Betty Jane Lightner; daughter, Elizabeth Ann Copenhaver and husband Travis; son, Lloyd William "Billy" Lightner, Jr. and wife Pam all of Alderson; grandchildren, Brayden Lee, Peyton William, Bailey Elizabeth Copenhaver, Ally Renee Bowles, Emma Catherine Lightner, Lloyd "William" Lightner III and Cole Jacob Mattox; great-granddaughter, Alilah Blevins; brother, John Edward "Rocky" Lightner and wife Cynthia Ann of Rupert; numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 2, at the Alderson Community Center with Pastor Randy Burdett officiating. Burial will follow on the farm in the Lightner Cemetery.

Visitation will be Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Alderson Community Center.

In lieu of flowers donations of sympathy may be made to Please Save A Cat, P.O. Box 128, Maxwelton, WV 24957.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneral-home.com

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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.

Red Cross has urgent need for local disaster response volunteers

Every 8 minutes, the Red Cross responds to a disaster, most are local home fires. Last year, the American Red Cross Central Appalachia Region helped more than 1,110 families impacted by home fires. From offering a shoulder to cry on, to meeting any immediate needs for shelter or supplies, to connecting people with long term recovery services, Red Cross volunteers ensure that families don't have to face tough times alone.

The American Red Cross of Central & Southern West Virginia serves Boone, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming Counties. Last year, volunteers assisted 260 families who experienced devastating home fires in these counties.

"As a former Red Cross volunteer and now Disaster Program Manager, I know how important our volunteers are to fulfilling the Red Cross mission," said Angela Akers, disaster program manager of the American Red Cross Central & Southern Chapter. "We have an urgent need for Disaster Action Team volunteers to help us effectively care for our communities and be the light in someone's dark day after facing a disaster."

90 percent of the Red Cross



work force is volunteers, and the Red Cross provides all the training needed to become a Disaster Action Team (DAT) member. Compassionate and committed DAT volunteers respond day and night to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors. When a home fire leaves a family stranded on the street, local Red Cross volunteers provide emergency financial assistance, emotional support and recovery help for their next steps. During COVID-19, volunteers often deliver this support virtually by working with the local fire department to connect with affected residents by phone or video

call. "Just knowing that someone is there to lend a helping hand during these trying times provides a light of hope for our neighbors," said Erica Mani, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Central Appalachia Region. "Please join us by resolving to help as a Red Cross volunteer and ensure no one faces life's emergencies alone."

To join the Red Cross Disaster Action Team, you can sign up at www.redcross.org/volunteer or email CARVolunteerServices@redcross.org or call (304) 340-3650 for more information.

Knights to serve 'Fish Dinners to Go' at WSS Church

The Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus will be entering their fourth decade of serving Tilapia dinners on six Fridays, this year beginning Apr. 9.

Each dinner includes Tilapia, scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, a hard roll, home baked dessert, bottled water, sauces, and a utensil package plus a rough map of White Sulphur Springs showing picnic tables and shelters available to the public. The Knights encourage the use of these park areas for meeting friends and family members.

The "to go" dinners will be prepared by a volunteer staff of chefs who have or currently are serving from the kitchens of The Greenbri-

er resort. They include Sue Moats from Pocahontas County; Paul Cicora, banquet chef at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; Debra Fabrey, retired from The Greenbrier; Carrol Herrick, pastry chef, and Sue Cicora, candy shop chef, both at The Greenbrier.

We are very lucky and pleased to have the continued support of the experts from The Greenbrier and WVSOM and with the map showing picnic areas, our "to go" dinners can still maintain the fellowship our supporters have become accustomed.

Dinners will be served in the parking lot at Emmanuel United

Methodist Church on Dry Creek Road in downtown White Sulphur Springs from 4 to 7 p.m. Only fried Tilapia will be served and each dinner will be \$10. Cash or good bank check.

The Greenbrier Valley Council was previously known as the Alleghany Highlands Council and has members in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, eastern Fayette, counties in WV and Alleghany and Bath County, VA.

For further information, telephone 304-536-1813, the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley, or 304-645-1373, the Knights of Columbus, and leave a message.

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Legislature

by the House in a nearly unanimous vote, 98-1, with yeas from both Bruce and Longanacre,

In the House, Both Bruce and Longanacre sponsored a bill seeking to ban transgender athletes in secondary schools from competing with their gender, H.B. 3293, mandating they compete with their gender assigned at birth.

The bill was passed 78-20, with yeas from Bruce and Longanacre, and is currently in the Senate Education committee. In a social media post, Bruce explained “keeping men out [of] women’s sports and protecting the girls rights to have a fair advantage in female sports” was the goal of the bill.

In addition to potentially requiring a physical in order to determine gender for anyone accused of not “being” their gender, the bill would also mandate transgender boys and teenagers play on women’s teams.

Though far from the only reason the text of the bill is inaccurate, it also fails to consider that upon the beginning of Hormone Replacement Therapy, transgender boys hormonally and physically become average male teenagers. Aside from requiring the testosterone-deprived transgender women to compete against teenage boys, it would also guarantee transgender teenage boys, with the hormone levels and physiology to match, would be playing with teenage girls.

Both delegates also cited their religion for a basis for this law.

Longanacre decried critics of the bill, stating, “Despite being referred to as a ‘bully’ and a ‘bigot’ for sponsoring this Bill, I am confident that our young girls will not have to face what others around the country have had to deal with. ... This Bill would not discriminate against transsexual individuals playing sports as they may still play on the male teams.”

Presently there are no known transgender students competing in sports in Greenbrier County.

•••

In the Senate, three bills cosponsored by Baldwin and Woodrum passed, including:

- S.B. 613, also sponsored by Baldwin, would add classification and base salaries of certain civilian employees of State Police Forensic Laboratory. The bill was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B. 634, requiring criminal justice training for law-enforcement officers and

Police Blotter

registry, forbidden contact with the victim and their family, and a ban on being alone with underage girls.

During the hearing, both Doolin and his father both spoke on his behalf ahead of sentencing.

“First of all, I would just like to apologize to the victim and [their] family,” Doolin said. “I understand the severity of what I’ve caused for their family. I take full responsibility for my actions. I took advantage of my position and my age. Everything in the situation is on me and I just want them to know I’m sorry from the bottom of my heart and I hope they know [that] at some point in their life because I am sorry.”

Smith-Allen murder trial faces further delay

By Bobby Bordelon

The high-profile murder April murder trial against Edward Smith-Allen has been pushed back to April after Prosecuting Attorney Patrick Via announced a key witness had fallen “seriously” ill.

Smith-Allen was indicted by a grand jury in October 2019 for the murder of Alaisia M. Smith in Dorie Miller Park in Lewisburg. Previously, Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent pushed the trial from the original December 2020 date to April due to an outbreak

correctional officers regarding individuals with autism spectrum disorder, was unanimously approved on Mar. 29.

- S.B. 658, requiring sheriff’s departments to participate in the Handle With Care Program for trauma-inflicted children, was unanimously approved on Mar. 25.

Senator Jack Woodrum has sponsored over 20 bills over the past week that have been approved near unanimously by the Senate and are now being considered by the House of Delegates:

- S.B. 297, modernizing Board of Treasury Investments, was unanimously approved on Mar. 17.

- S.B. 361, extending supervision for conviction of soliciting minors and using obscene matter with intent to seduce minors, was unanimously approved on Mar. 27.

- S.B. 419, redefining “firearm” to match federal code, was unanimously approved on Mar. 27.

- S.B. 458, modifying and limiting the power of government entities regarding the possession of firearms and related products by individuals during a declared state of emergency, was unanimously approved on Mar. 27.

- S.B. 470, limiting release of certain personal information maintained by state agencies, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 485, creates a criminal penalty for any person who possesses a firearm while attempting to commit or committing a qualifying felony, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B. 486, relating to powers and duties of Chief Technology Officer, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 488, dealing with distribution of hotel occupancy tax to convention and visitor’s bureaus and prohibiting the authorization of a new convention and visitor’s bureau that does not satisfy certain requirements, was unanimously approved on Mar. 29.

- Woodrum is the lead sponsor for S.B. 508, relating to public records and increasing available funds in the Public Records and Preservation Revenue Account for grants to counties for records management, access, and preservation purposes. The bill passed unanimously on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 542, requiring that all public electric utilities maintain a contract for a 30-day aggregate fuel supply for the remain-

der of the life of existing coal-fired plants and provide advance notice of retirement, shutdown, or sale of electricity-generating units, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B. 543, establishing a medal of excellence in honor of Chuck Yeager, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 550, providing counties with authority to impose a county sales and use tax of one percent under certain circumstances, and would not apply to incorporated areas of the county, passed the Senate on Mar. 31, 28-5, with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

- S.B. 587 would prohibit government officials from entering contracts with certain conditions, such as clauses that indemnify or hold harmless any entity, agree to binding arbitration dispute resolution process, limit liability for direct damages for bodily injury, death, or damage to property caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of such person’s employees or agents. The bill passed unanimously on Mar. 26.

- S.B. 641, allowing counties to use severance tax proceeds for litter cleanup programs, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 657, permitting expressive activity on campus under certain conditions, allowing state institutions of higher education to maintain and enforce reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions under certain parameters, requiring state institutions of higher education to treat student organizations which are open to all students equally, and more, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 660, providing for cooperation between civilian law-enforcement agencies and military authorities for investigations, passed the Senate on Mar. 29, 32-1, with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.

- S.B. 663, providing for a fee for the processing of criminal bonds and the bail piece and requiring it be deposited in the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B. 668, creating the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, allowing per-

Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

Procter and Gamble appears to be promoting eco-awareness in two new initiatives. The first is a publicity campaign urging consumers to use cold water whenever washing clothes. They assert that their testing shows that Tide brand laundry detergent works as well in cold water as in warm or hot water and stress the amount of greenhouse gases eliminated by this action.

Concerned Recycler

Dear Concerned Recycler,

Thanks for the information on the two Procter and Gamble (P&G) initiatives. Their Sunday’s advertising slick gave the same information, as well as information about their eco-boxes for Gain, Downy, Dreft, and Tide. With compact packaging, these boxes use 60% less plastic. Kudos to P&G for caring about the environment, working towards sustainability, taking steps to lower the number of carbon emissions used and creating eco-boxes. All of this is great news for the environment.

Dear Recycle Lady,

The second Procter and Gamble initiative is from their oral care department. By filling out a form found on the internet, you receive a postage paid UPS label. The label can be applied to a box or padded envelope containing discarded toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and caps, empty dental floss containers and some additional oral care products. Accordingly, the P&G program urges consumers to collect a large number of items before using the mailing label. I was happy to find these easy solutions to some difficult to recycle items and hope maybe you can use these tips.

mitted psychologists to practice across state lines, passed Mar. 30 in a 33-1 vote, with Baldwin and Woodrum voting yea.

- S.B. 677, relating to miners’ safety, health, and training standards, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- Woodrum was the lead sponsor on S.B. 684, relating to the State Library Commission and adding the Curator of the West Virginia Division of Arts, Culture, and History as an ex officio voting member. The bill was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 713, clarifying that inmates in the custody of the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation receive basic good time unless expressly excluded, and more relating to inmate good time, was unanimously approved on Mar. 29.

- S.B. 714, the Physician Assistants Practice Act which would limit rule-making authority, revise licensure requirements and practice requirements, eliminate practice agreement requirements, and more, was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

- S.B. 715, creating the State Recovery and Hope Office in order to offer “several programs to assist the citizens of West Virginia battling substance use disorder,” was unanimously approved on Mar. 30.

Four Baldwin sponsored bills have also passed the Senate:

- S.B. 335, revising the WV Invests Grant Program for students at accredited community and technical college, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B.464, requiring composting of organic materials and commercial composting products comply with WV Fertilizer Law, was unanimously approved on Mar. 31.

- S.B. 586, providing WV veterans discounts on fees and charges at state parks, was unanimously approved on Mar. 23.

- S.B. 610, providing tuition and fee waivers at state higher education institutions for volunteers who have completed service in AmeriCorps programs in West Virginia, passed Mar. 25, 32-1 with yeas from Baldwin and Woodrum.



Dear Reader,

I definitely will use these tips and so will many readers. Crest & Oral B, which are part of P&G, are sponsors of the Recycle on Us program. They have also created a new “Chic Toothbrush” that uses 60% less plastic. According to their website, https://recycling.oralb.com/#less_waste, “they will organize, sanitize, and recycle it all for you - giving recycled plastics entirely new life. That’s more school benches, new bottles, and even clothes!” In order to have a collection point for these toothbrushes, floss containers, toothpaste tubes and any other oral care products, the Recycle Center is designing a container that soon will be available. Please begin saving these oral care items now.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I want to recycle a large number of manila file folders and those larger brown folders that hold the file folders. Which place do I deposit them? Cardboard? Thanks.

Organizer

Dear Organizer,

Manila file folders can be recycled with either office paper or cardboard. The large brown folder can be recycled just with cardboard. Be sure to remove any plastic latches or elastic bands that may be attached to them before placing them in the recycle bin.

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.

cont. from Page 3

of COVID-19 in the county.

The motion to delay the trial was filed by Via after he was notified a key and necessary witness for the prosecution would not be able to come to the April trial.

“We have been notified of a problem with Dr. Mock, the state’s chief medical examiner and a witness in this case for purposes of an autopsy,” explained Via. “Due to concerns with privacy, I don’t have a great deal of detail other than to say Dr. Mock is currently suffering from what was described as a serious medical condition and would be unavailable to perform his duties until June. Additionally, as would be expected, there is no substitute for Dr. Mock with respect to the performance of the respective testimony in the case.”

Defense attorney Kristopher Faerber objected, but indicated he did not expect the trial to move forward with a key witness unable to testify.

“I don’t really question the basis for his continuance at all, but we are prepared to go to trial, so if you are going to grant this continuance, judge, it’s over our objection, which I understand you can do,” said Faerber.

Dent agreed, finding there is good cause to continue the matter into the next term of court and pushing the trial back to June.

Smith-Allen remains incarcerated after Dent denied both the first and the second motions for both.

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GREENBRIER VALLEY ADVERTISER

Monroe County Council on Aging (MCCOA) is accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director until April 14, 2021.

Applicants may provide a resume as follows:
Mail: MCCOA, PO Box 149, Lindside WV 24951
Email: mary@mccoawv.net

Preference will be given to applicants 60+.
MCCOA is an EEO employer.



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- Ability to read plans, specifications and contract requirements
- Attends building and project meetings as needed

Successful candidate will have a minimum of five (5) years' experience providing Clerk of the Works services, knowledge of OHFLAC and State Regulations, experience with projects over \$5,000,000 preferred, strong communication skills as well as be self-motivated and team-oriented.

Send resume along with three professional references to: Katie Brown, HR Director via email kbrown@pmhvw.org by 10 am on 4/8/21. EOE

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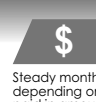
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- Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center
- Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick
- Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy
- Greenbrier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

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES
GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

The above named county board of education, having ascertained that the amount to be raised by a levy of taxes for the purposes and within the limits prescribed by statute or authorized by voters, does hereby propose to adopt the following levy rates to be laid on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of each class of property:

Class	Column E Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Current Expense Levy	
		Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ -	19.40	\$ -
Public Utilities	-	-	-
Total Class I	-	-	-
Class II			
Real Estate	964,775,810	38.80	3,743,330
Personal Property	3,159,728	-	12,260
Total Class II	967,935,538	-	3,755,590
Class III			
Real Estate	426,655,230	77.60	3,310,845
Personal Property	252,584,224	-	1,960,054
Public Utilities	112,911,594	-	876,194
Total Class III	792,151,048	-	6,147,093
Class IV			
Real Estate	161,504,200	77.60	1,253,273
Personal Property	67,015,691	-	520,042
Public Utilities	32,689,229	-	253,668
Total Class IV	261,209,120	-	2,026,983
Total Assessed Valuation and Projected Gross Tax Collections	\$ 2,021,295,706		\$ 11,929,666
Less Allowance for Uncollectibles, Exonerations and Delinquencies		3.50%	(417,538)
Less Allowance for Tax Discounts		1.00%	(115,121)
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing- see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)			(1,603,508)
Net Projected Tax Collections, before allowance for Assessor's Valuation Fund			9,793,499
Less - Allowance for Assessor's Valuation Fund (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)		2.00%	(195,870)
Projected Net Taxes to be Collected			\$ 9,597,629

SIGNED THIS 9th DAY OF MARCH, 2021, BY
Jeffrey Bryant COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES
GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Class	Excess Levy		Improvement		Bond Levy	
	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Class I						
Personal Property	11.475	\$ -	-	\$ -	6.20	\$ -
Public Utilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Class I	-	-	-	-	-	-
Class II						
Real Estate	22.95	2,214,160	-	-	12.40	1,196,322
Personal Property	-	7,252	-	-	-	3,918
Total Class II	-	2,221,412	-	-	-	1,200,240
Class III						
Real Estate	45.90	1,958,348	-	-	24.80	1,058,105
Personal Property	-	1,159,362	-	-	-	626,409
Public Utilities	-	518,264	-	-	-	280,021
Total Class III	-	3,635,974	-	-	-	1,964,535
Class IV						
Real Estate	45.90	741,304	-	-	24.80	400,530
Personal Property	-	307,602	-	-	-	166,199
Public Utilities	-	150,044	-	-	-	81,069
Total Class IV	-	1,198,950	-	-	-	647,798
Total Assessed Valuation and Projected Gross Tax Collections	\$ 7,056,336		\$ -		\$ 3,812,573	
Less Allowance for Uncollectibles, Exonerations and Delinquencies		3.50%	(246,972)		3.50%	-
Less Allowance for Tax Discounts		1.00%	(68,094)		1.00%	-
Projected Net Taxes to be Collected	\$ 6,741,270		\$ -		\$ 3,463,300	
Total Projected Net Taxes from Regular and Excess Levies	\$ 16,338,899					

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES
ALLOWANCE FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING
GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Class	Column C Roll Back Value Form	Current Expense Levy	
		Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Class I			
Personal Property	\$ -	19.40	\$ -
Public Utilities	-	-	-
Total Class I	-	-	-
Class II			
Real Estate	244,283,450	38.80	947,820
Personal Property	-	-	-
Total Class II	244,283,450	-	947,820
Class III			
Real Estate	81,522,490	77.60	632,615
Personal Property	-	-	-
Public Utilities	-	-	-
Total Class III	81,522,490	-	632,615
Class IV			
Real Estate	12,630,950	77.60	98,016
Personal Property	-	-	-
Public Utilities	-	-	-
Total Class IV	12,630,950	-	98,016
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 338,436,890		\$ 1,678,451
Less Allowance for Uncollectibles, Exonerations and Delinquencies		3.50%	(58,746)
Less Allowance for Tax Discounts		1.00%	(16,197)
Allowance for Tax Increment Financing			1,603,508



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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**
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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

**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022
LEVY ESTIMATE - BUDGET DOCUMENT**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
MUNICIPALITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

In accordance with Code § 11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current fiscal year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

REVENUE SOURCE	Amount
Unassigned Fund Balance	3,832,454
Property Taxes - Current Expense	969,994
Property Taxes - Excess Levy	494,895
Gas & Oil Severance Tax	7,000
Excise Tax on Utilities	200,000
Business and Occupation Tax	835,000
Wine & Liquor Tax	35,000
Animal Control Tax	900
Hotel Occupancy Tax	400,000
Fines, Fees & Court Costs	25,000
Licenses	30,000
Building Permit Fees	42,000
Miscellaneous Permits	1,200
Franchise Fees	35,000
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	69,000
Municipal Service Fees	438,000
Off Street Parking	240
Rents, Royalties and Concessions	16,800
Fire Protection Fees	273,800
Contributions from Other Entities	600
Gaming Income	18,000
Interest Earned on Investments	5,000
Reimbursements (Explain type of funds & amounts being transferred)	1,000
Recycling Program	3,200
Video Lottery (LVL)	11,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	26,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND)	\$ 7,771,583
COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND	
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 1
Coal Severance Tax	5,101
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND)	\$ 5,101

ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES	General Fund	Coal Severance Fund
Mayor's Office	29,184	-
City Council	12,000	-
City Manager's Office	63,331	-
Treasurer's Office	49,245	-
City Clerk's Office	57,166	-
Police Judge's Office	54,754	-
City Attorney	35,000	-
City Auditor	15,500	-
Community Development (Housing)	86,971	-
Rehabilitation of Property	22,000	-
Regional Development Authority	1,700	-
Building Inspection	66,669	-
Planning & Zoning	142,775	-
City Hall	931,890	-
Other buildings	2,000	-
Contributions / Transfers to Other Funds	500,000	-
Parking	2,800	-
Contingencies	300,000	-
Police Department	1,771,404	-
Fire Department	1,060,866	-
Fire Fee Distribution	223,129	-
Streets and Highways	506,192	-
Snow Removal	41,689	-
Sidewalks	868,458	-
Public Transit	3,000	-
Recycling Center	64,464	-
Storm Sewer	56,703	-
Parks & Recreation	389,986	5,101
Visitors Bureau	200,000	-
Arts & Humanities	50,000	-
Library	55,800	-
Beautification Programs	106,907	-
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,771,583	\$ 5,101

**MUNICIPALITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
Regular Current Expense Levy
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

CLASS I	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Personal Property	\$ 0	12.50	\$ 0
Public Utility	0	-	0
Total Class I	\$ 0	-	\$ 0
CLASS II			
Real Estate	\$ 125,521,250	25.00	\$ 313,803
Personal Property	0	-	0
Total Class II	\$ 125,521,250	-	\$ 313,803
CLASS IV			
Real Estate	\$ 99,169,670	50.00	\$ 495,848
Personal Property	34,175,875	-	170,879
Public Utility	10,035,718	-	50,179
Total Class IV	\$ 143,381,263	-	\$ 716,906
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 268,902,513		\$ 1,030,709
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes		3.00%	30,921
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)		1.00%	9,998
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)		-	0
Total Projected Property Tax Collection			\$ 989,790
Less Assessor Valuation Fund		2.00%	19,796
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes			\$ 969,994

**MUNICIPALITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
Excess Levy
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

CLASS I	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Personal Property	\$ 0	6.25	\$ 0
Public Utility	0	-	0
Total Class I	\$ 0	-	\$ 0
CLASS II			
Real Estate	\$ 125,521,250	12.50	\$ 156,902
Personal Property	0	-	0
Total Class II	\$ 125,521,250	-	\$ 156,902
CLASS IV			
Real Estate	\$ 99,169,670	25.00	\$ 247,924
Personal Property	34,175,875	-	85,440
Public Utility	10,035,718	-	25,089
Total Class IV	\$ 143,381,263	-	\$ 358,453
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 268,902,513		\$ 515,355
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes		3.00%	15,461
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)		1.00%	4,999
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy for Budget Purposes			\$ 494,895

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF GREENBRIER
MUNICIPALITY OF LEWISBURG
I, Shannon Beatty, Recording Officer of said municipality, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of the orders made and entered by the council of the said municipality on the 16th day of March, 2021.

Shannon Beatty
Recording Officer
(Official Title of Recording Officer)

LEGAL

Public Meeting Notice

The Town of Rupert will hold a public meeting at the Town Hall in Rupert located at 528 Nicholas Street, Rupert WV 25984, on April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The public meeting will be to discuss filing an application with the West Virginia Development Office for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Funds. The public comment period will be open 10 days after the meeting and closing at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2021. Should anyone wish to make comment regarding this project after the meeting, you may do so by contacting the Town of Rupert at 304-392-5682 or by email at jbkaker@reg4wv.org.

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to discuss and receive citizens input in relation to community development, the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, and provide citizens with information concerning the Community Development Block Grant Program.

All persons having an interest in the housing and community development needs and needs of low- and moderate-income persons of Rupert are encouraged to attend the meeting or express their views to the Town of Rupert by the above date. Provisions for the disabled may be made by contacting the Town of Rupert in advance of the meeting date. The Town of Rupert is an equal opportunity employer and takes steps to affirmatively further Fair Housing. Should you have any questions, you may contact the Town of Rupert at 304-392-5682.

Steven Baldwin, Mayor

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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 20-1040-E-CN
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
and WHEELING POWER COMPANY
public utilities.

Application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the internal modifications at coal fired generating plants necessary to comply with federal environmental regulations and surcharge.
NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, AND
EVIDENTIARY HEARING

On December 23, 2020, Appalachian Power Company (APCo) and Wheeling Power Company (WPCo) (collectively Companies) filed a duly verified Application for a Certificate to make internal modifications at coal-fired generating plants in Putnam, Mason, and Marshall Counties.

According to the Companies, the proposed modifications are necessary to comply with federal environmental regulations at the Companies' Amos, Mountaineer, and Mitchell plants. The Amos plant is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Charleston, West Virginia, on the Kanawha River. The Mountaineer plant is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, on the Ohio River. The Mitchell plant is located approximately 12 miles south of Moundsville, West Virginia, on the Ohio River.

The Companies provided construction estimates for several alternative projects. The estimate for APCo and WPCo construction costs necessary to allow all three plants to remain open until 2040 (Alternative 1) is approximately \$317 million. The estimate for APCo and WPCo construction costs necessary to allow Amos and Mountaineer to remain open until 2040 and Mitchell to remain open until 2028 (Alternative 2) is approximately \$286 million.

The construction will be phased-in over a four year period beginning in 2021. For Alternative 1 the Companies requested approval of the following surcharges in retail rates for the initial phase-in year from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022:

Tariff Schedule/Contract	Alternative 1 ECS Rates September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022	
	(C/kWh)	(S/kW)
RS	0.041	
RS TOD On Peak	0.087	
RS TOD Off Peak	0.007	
SWS	0.037	
SGS	0.027	
SS	Secondary	0.101
	Primary	0.168
	AF	0.027
GS TOD On-Peak	0.045	
GS TOD Off-Peak	0.015	
GS	Secondary	0.099
	Primary	0.099
	Subtransmission	0.067
	Transmission	0.209
	AF	0.027
LCP	Secondary	0.175
	Primary	0.126
	Subtransmission	0.112
	Transmission	0.105
IP	Secondary	0.175
	Primary	0.126
	Subtransmission	0.112
	Transmission	0.105
OL	0.004	
SL	0.004	
Special Contract A		0.061
Special Contract B		
Special Contract C	0.068	
Special Contract D		0.110
Special Contract G		
Special Contract I		0.089
Special Contract J		0.025
Special Contract K		0.074

These rates represent the following project-related increases per year:

	(\$) Increase	(%) Increase
Residential	2,140,000	0.32
Commercial	1,020,000	0.31
Industrial	1,632,000	0.35

The Companies' only resale customer in West Virginia is Black Diamond Power Company.

The average residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month would experience a rate increase of \$3.38 monthly or \$4.57 yearly under the Companies' proposal.

The proposed phase-one increases will produce approximately \$4.8 million annually in additional revenue, an overall increase of 0.33%. If approved, the surcharge will increase gradually each year during the four year phase-in of the plant upgrades.

The project completion is expected to be achieved in 2025/2026. At that time, the Companies project that the capital costs for the Alternative 1 project will result in a total annual revenue requirement of \$23.5 million. The projected surcharge rates upon substantial completion are projected to be as follows:

Tariff Schedule/Contract	Alternative 1 ECS Rates After Completion of Four Year Construction Phase-in	
	(C/kWh)	(S/kW)
RS	0.202	
RS TOD On Peak	0.426	
RS TOD Off Peak	0.034	
SWS	0.182	
SGS	0.133	
SS	Secondary	0.493
	Primary	0.824
	AF	0.133
GS TOD On-Peak	0.221	
GS TOD Off-Peak	0.074	
GS	Secondary	0.492
	Primary	0.488
	Subtransmission	0.329
	Transmission	1.028
	AF	0.133
LCP	Secondary	0.857
	Primary	0.621
	Subtransmission	0.550
	Transmission	0.518
IP	Secondary	0.857
	Primary	0.621
	Subtransmission	0.550
	Transmission	1.518
OL	0.020	
SL	0.019	
Special Contract A		0.298
Special Contract B		
Special Contract C	0.338	
Special Contract D		0.538
Special Contract G		
Special Contract I		0.438
Special Contract J		0.121
Special Contract K		0.365

The proposed increased rates and charges related to the project will produce approximately \$23.5 million annually in additional revenue, an increase of 1.62%, on substantial completion of the project.

The application is on file with and available for public inspection at the Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, in Charleston, West Virginia. It is also available on the Commission web docket found at www.psc.state.wv.us. Select "Case Information" on left side of page, and type the case number above to view the Application and other documents filed in this case.

Because of the pandemic, a public comment hearing will be held by videoconference only on June 2, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. Directions to enter the public comment hearing will be posted on the Commission website, www.psc.state.wv.us, under the Hot Topics section by May 27, 2021.

The Public Service Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing in this case on June 3, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continuing to June 4, 2021, if necessary. The evidentiary hearing will be held in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of the hearing, the entire evidentiary hearing may be held by videoconference. The Commission will issue further instructions regarding this matter at a later date. The evidentiary hearing may be viewed live by videostream at www.psc.state.wv.us.

Anyone desiring to intervene in this proceeding should file a written petition to intervene by 4:00 p.m. May 4, 2021. Failure to timely intervene can affect your right to participate in the proceeding. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. Anyone desiring to make written comment should file it at any time prior to the start of the evidentiary hearing. Electronic comment may be made at the above website using the case number for this case. All comments and requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the comment or intervention. All comments, except those submitted electronically, or requests to intervene should be addressed to Connie Graley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P. O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

LEGAL

**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022
LEVY ESTIMATE - BUDGET DOCUMENT**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
MUNICIPALITY OF FALLING SPRINGS (RENICK), WEST VIRGINIA

In accordance with Code § 11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current fiscal year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

REVENUE SOURCE	Assigned Fund Balance	Unassigned Fund Balance
Property Taxes - Current Expense	19,216	
Tax Penalties, Interest & Publication Fees	38	
Gas & Oil Severance Tax	250	
Excise Tax on Utilities	1,413	
Business & Occupation Tax	240	
Wine & Liquor Tax	82	
Animal Control Tax	15	
Licenses	150	
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	1,630	
Parks & Recreation	500	
State Government Grants	500	
Other Grants	1,500	
Gaming Income	15,839	
Video Lottery (LVL)	600	
Miscellaneous Revenues	190	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND)	\$ 85,649	
COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND		
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 1,107	
Coal Severance Tax	300	
Interest Earned on Investment	1	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND)	\$ 1,408	

ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES	General Fund	Coal Severance Fund
Mayor's Office	1,350	-
City Council	2,250	-
Recorder's Office	2,250	-
City Attorney	6,629	-
Regional Development Authority	90	-
Elections	1,400	-
City Hall	22,530	-
Fire Department	500	-
Dog Warden / Humane Society	500	-
Ambulance Authority	500	-
Streets and Highways	11,000	-
Snow Removal	4,000	-
Landfill / Incinerator Department	1,000	-
Parks & Recreation	5,000	-
Fair Associations / Festivals	6,000	-
Beautification Programs	1,500	-
Capital Projects - Street and Transportation	19,000	-
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$ 85,649	\$ 1,408

**MUNICIPALITY OF FALLING SPRINGS (RENICK), WEST VIRGINIA
Regular Current Expense Levy
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022**

CLASS I	Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
Personal Property	\$ 0	12.50	\$ 0
Public Utility	0		0
Total Class I	\$ 0		\$ 0
CLASS II			
Real Estate	\$ 2,293,570	25.00	\$ 5,734
Personal Property	0		0
Total Class II	\$ 2,180,364		\$ 5,734
CLASS IV			
Real Estate	\$ 877,050	50.00	\$ 4,385
Personal Property	559,778		2,799
Public Utility	1,628,509		8,143
Total Class IV	\$ 3,065,337		\$ 15,327
Total Value & Projected Revenue	\$ 5,358,907		\$ 21,061
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectable Taxes	5.00%		1,053
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate)	2.00%		400
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable)			0
Total Projected Property Tax Collection			\$ 19,608
Less Assessor Valuation Fund	2.00%		392
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes			\$ 19,216

**MUNICIPALITY OF FALLING SPRINGS (RENICK), WEST VIRGINIA
Greenbrier
FALLING SPRINGS (RENICK)**

I, Melinda L. Workman, Recording Officer of said municipality, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of the orders made and entered by the council of the said municipality on the 24th day of March, 2021.

Melinda L. Workman
(Signature)

Town Recorder
(Official Title of Recording Officer)

LEGAL

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 20-1012-E-P
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

Petition for Implementation of an Experimental Infrastructure
Investment Tracker and Surcharge

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION, PUBLIC
COMMENT HEARING, and EVIDENTIARY HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company ("the Companies"), public utilities, have on December 14, 2020, filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 467,295 customers in cities, towns, villages, unincorporated municipalities, and rural areas in their service territories in the counties of Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne and Wyoming.

The proposed increased rates and charges will produce approximately \$49.8 million annually in additional revenue, an increase of 3.4%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$5.26	3.71%
Commercial	\$12.37	3.52%
Industrial	\$5,686.63	2.92%
Other	\$0.84	4.42%

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

Because of the pandemic, a public comment hearing will be held by videoconference only on June 8, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. Directions to enter the public comment hearing will be posted on the Commission website, www.psc.state.wv.us, under the Hot Topics section by June 3, 2021.

The Public Service Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 8, 2021, or immediately following the public comment hearing, and to continue if necessary on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission Building, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of the hearing, the entire evidentiary hearing may be held by videoconference. The Commission will issue further instructions regarding this matter at a later date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene by 4:00 p.m. May 4, 2021. Failure to timely intervene can affect your right to participate in the proceeding. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written or electronic protest at any time up to the start of the evidentiary hearing. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of this tariff, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following office of the Companies: 500 Lee Street, East, Suite 800, Charleston, WV 25301. A copy of this tariff is also available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents on the website of the Companies: www.appalachianpower.com/account/bills/rates/APCORatesTariffsWV.aspx. Any customer wishing to receive a reduced-size copy of the tariff can telephone toll-free 800-982-4237, request such a copy and provide the necessary mailing information, and a copy will be mailed to the customer. A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

On April 1, 2021 all 2020 unpaid real and personal property taxes will be prepared for publication. A \$20.00 publication fee will be added to each unpaid 2020 ticket if not paid by April 30th, 2021.

We will honor the April 30, 2021 postmark for payments mailed to us for processing. However, your name will still be published in the newspapers if we have not received payment to the Greenbrier County Tax Offices by May 1, 2021.

Bruce A Sloan
Sheriff of Greenbrier County
P.O. Box 347
Lewisburg, WV 24901
(304) 647-6609



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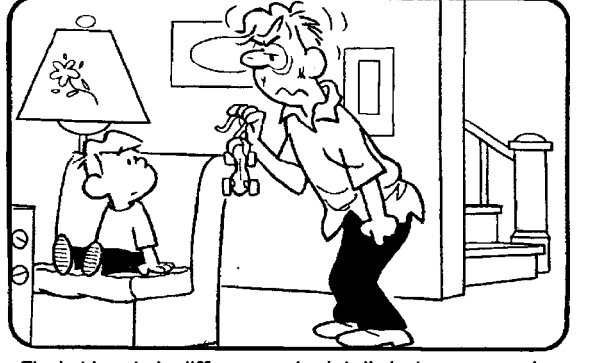
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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1. Lamp is different. 2. Child is missing. 3. Child is missing. 4. Parts are different. 5. Skate wheel is missing. 6. Frame is thinner.

A Look Back



Photo courtesy of the Greenbrier Historical Society.

By William "Skip" Deegans

This week's photo is a mystery, and we are seeking help identifying it. I believe the shot may have been taken in Ronceverte at one end of the covered bridge that

spanned the Greenbrier River. The tractors appear to be International Harvester gas-powered models from about 1910. The small sign hanging on the corner of what may be a garage is for the Goodyear Service Station. The

last two letters on the sign above the garage door are "CK." If anyone has clues as to the name of the business and identify any of the men in the photograph, please send them to wedegans@mac.com.

Super Crossword POWER USERS

ACROSS	56 Syringe fluid	97 Eternally, poetically	DOWN	35 "How — you?"	75 Restaurant rendezvous
1 It may follow "Co."	57 "Touched" actor Beatty	98 Make thrilled	1 Steel girder	36 "My Way" lyricist Paul	78 Crank's cry
4 Give a hug	58 Suffix with Midwest	100 Be really successful	2 Measurable in microns	38 Wee devils bard	80 2001 title role for Audrey Tautou
11 Fave buds	59 Like dweebs	103 — de corps	3 Cow carrier on rails	39 Prior to, a bard	82 Guide for a DIYer
15 Location	60 Sleep lab study	106 Spanish wife	4 With 24-Down, organic cotton garb, maybe	40 Pack animal	83 Nobel winner Sadat
19 Sheep sound	63 Ocean route	107 Ozeki's sport	5 Drone, e.g.	41 Material carried away in a deluge	85 Sauna alternative
20 Flan topping	65 Expectation	108 Tiny garden pest	6 Dudes	42 End-of-list abbr.	86 Remarkable events
21 Smell — (be suspicious)	66 Airport uniform inits.	111 Mothers	7 Demand from a kidnapper	46 Soda insert	87 Lawn locale
22 — -pedi	69 Peddle stuff on the street	114 Witty writer	8 Gallic friend	48 Bar furniture	89 Kit — bar
23 Groups with queens and workers	73 The, in Cannes	117 Spanish coin	9 Fair grade	49 Flee to marry	90 Graceful bird
25 Talk wildly	74 Apple product	116 Showoff's cry	10 Golfer Ernie	50 Monica of the court	91 Slangy refusal
26 Lickety-split	76 View lustfully	118 Basis of this puzzle's theme	11 Brand of root beer	52 Sine — non	92 From — B
27 — IRA	77 Really clean	122 Part of QED ladies' gp.	12 German wife	54 Perceives	99 Unmoving
28 Ending for host	79 Whole bunch	123 Deli dish	13 — bean (risotto bit)	55 Purchaser	100 Drone, e.g.
29 Nitric acid, old-style	81 Patriotic ladies' gp.	124 Ouzo	14 Tennis great	57 Unaided vision, with "the"	101 Most docile
31 Knife incision	82 "I told ya!"	125 Walk — (small parts)	Edberg	61 Nita of silent films	102 Litigant
33 Best Actor awards, e.g.	84 Hoarse	126 — terrier (dog breed)	15 Mobile device worn on the wrist	62 Lamb's mom	103 — Park, Colorado
37 Blood vessel	88 Rival of Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield	127 Wallet bills	16 Adhesive in an art class	63 Stage array	104 Fire initiator
38 Dairy Queen treat	91 Petroleum distillate used as fuel	128 Items in the classifieds	17 Broadcasting	64 Curved bit	105 March 14, to math lovers
41 Freshen up	93 "Death Be Not Proud" poet	129 Word that can follow the starts of nine answers in this puzzle to make the names of 118-Across	18 Buzzed	66 Unassertive	106 Stores safely
43 Apple product	94 Pro vote		24 See 4-Down	67 — Gyra (jazz group)	109 Pack animal
44 Tax-taking org.	95 URL letters nameplates		29 "How — you?"	68 Hank of baseball	110 Gulf nation
45 Razor-billed seabird	96 Ocean east of N. Car.		30 Salem's state	70 Speechify	112 Location
46 Made a lap			32 Victory	71 — a soul (nobody)	113 Storage site
47 Xenon and neon			34 Suffix with land or moon	72 Excess amount	115 Org.'s kin
51 Some nameplates					118 Logger's tool
53 Certain recyclable					119 Spanish "a"
					120 Dowel, e.g.
					121 Figs. on a masthead

Committee on Aging seeks donations for senior food programs

During the past year of COVID-19 those who are essential workers have provided life giving services to our communities. The Greenbrier County Committee on Aging is one of those agencies that has continued to provide assistance to senior citizens throughout the county. Because of safety reasons, the senior centers in Fairlea and Rupert have been closed to gatherings and activities for seniors. However, services to seniors have continued.

The Committee has continued to provide transportation for medical appointments, in-home services such as homemaker, personal care and respite. All seniors in Greenbrier County are eligible for services from GCCA.

One of the most important programs provided by GCCA is the Nutrition Program which helps feed seniors five days a week. The program has two facets - Meals on Wheels and the Grab n Go meals. During COVID19 the Committee has provided over 3,500 Meals on Wheels and 370 Grab

n Go meals. Meals on Wheels are delivered to the individual home while Grab n Go meals are picked up at the Fairlea or Rupert site by the senior. These programs provide more than meals to seniors. They decrease isolation of seniors who have contact with someone as a meal is delivered or picked up and may mean that other issues are identified, such as, an illness or a need of the senior. The programs also foster independence as they help seniors remain in their own home and the nutritious meals mean that seniors receive good food, well-prepared.

The Nutrition Program of the Committee is always in need of financial assistance. GCCA is accepting donations specifically for these programs. \$5.75 provides one meal for a senior; \$28.15 provides a week of meals. A donation in any amount will go toward assisting this program. Donations can be sent to Greenbrier Co. Committee on Aging, P.O. Box 556, Rupert, WV, 25984. For further information you may call 304-392-5138.

SCRAMBLERS

Use 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!

Cover RELAY

Warning RINSE

Belt PARTS

Furnish REACT

TODAY'S WORD

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

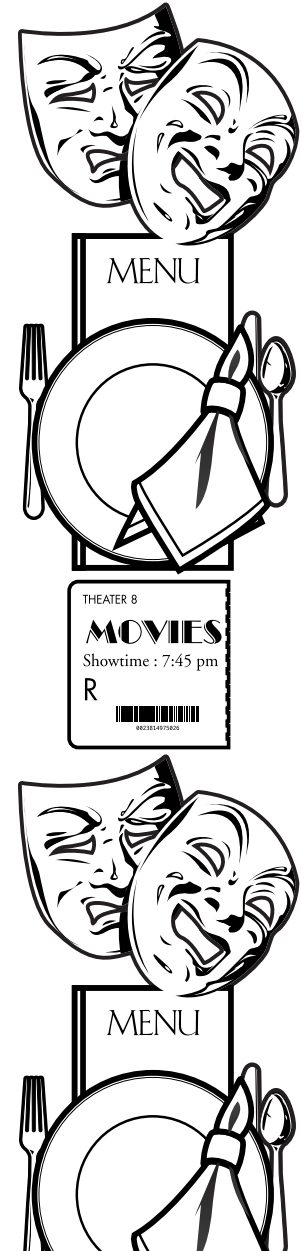
	3		6						5
8				3		2			
		4			2		9		
	2				7			8	
		7	3			6			
4				9				1	
		8		1					4
	9		5					3	
7					6	1			

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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Girl Scouts meet throughout March



The following scouts were at the Mar. 15 Girl Scout Troop 37400 meeting: Front Row: Quinn Sears (left), Ember Huffman, and Iris Huffman; Middle Row: Maddie Sears (left), Alexandra Desmond, Luna Huffman, and Tonya Martin; Back Row: Marley White (left), Sorinea Harris, Jessalyn Desmond, and Alea Harper.

Girl Scout troop 37400 has had a busy month in the month of March. On Mar. 9 the troop met to earn their animal badges. The girls discussed ways to help extinct animals, to raise awareness to others about animals, to respect wildlife and their habitats, and more. As an added bonus, the girls were able to make terrariums to take home to remind them about what they learned about.

On Mar. 7, members were encouraged to attend church services at

their churches in their vest to celebrate Girl Scout Sunday. On Mar. 12 some of the members met to pick up trash in White Sulphur Springs and to complete some outdoor challenges while also celebrating the Girl Scouts Birthday. Lastly, on Mar. 15, the troop met to earn their robotics badges. The girls learned all about robots and put together a solar powered robot to try out this summer and doodle bots that girls were able to take home.

Richlands Ruritans meet newspaper publisher



Clifford Gilliam (left), past President of the Richlands Ruritan club, and Scot Refsland, the featured speaker

The Richlands Ruritans club met on Wednesday, Mar. 10, at the Calvary Methodist Church in the Richlands community. The featured speaker was Scot Refsland, the publisher and owner of the West Virginia Daily News.

The WV Daily News was first published in 1859. With the exception of the Civil War years and March 2020 in the pandemic, the newspaper has been regularly reporting on the local community. Originally published in Ronceverte, the newspaper moved its facilities to Lewisburg in 1972. The new publisher is focused on community news and affairs. The newspaper has several smaller editions in various local communities such as White Sulphur Springs, Hinton, Lewisburg, and other locations. Refsland believes a local newspaper has a critical role to play in keeping people informed of the political and community activities that most closely affect them.

Refsland is a native of

Lewisburg and a graduate of Greenbrier East High School. He finished his college at University of Southern California. He has worked in the digital publishing industry for the last 30 years. Refsland bought the local newspaper in August 2020.

The 2020 president of the club, Clifford Gilliam, received his past president's pin.

The Richlands Ruritans club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a dinner meeting at the Calvary Methodist Church on Route 60W. The Ruritan Civic organization is a national network of clubs working together for a stronger America. The Ruritans' focus is to support community services in small towns and rural communities across America. The Ruritans were founded in 1928 in Holland, Virginia and celebrated their 92nd year last May. The Richlands Ruritans Club provides scholarships to local college students and 4-H campers and maintains Tuckwiller Park.

4-H Club members make blankets for seniors



Alisha Hedrick and Heidi Brown making blankets



Kiana McClung delivers a blanket to Mr. Hurd

Members of the Williamsburg Flying Falcons 4-H Club have adopted senior citizens in their local area to remember during COVID-19 pandemic. All club

members made a tie-knot fleece blanket for Christmas to give to their adopted person. Letters have been shared, Valentine cards mailed, goodies delivered,

and birthdays remembered. Club members are enjoying this community activity that will continue through June or maybe longer.

Williamsburg Community Shooting Matches resume

On Wednesday, Apr. 17, Williamsburg will reinstate the Shooting Matches as we have had in the past. The only changes we will be making will be for COVID-19 health restrictions, meaning spacing and face masks will be required when not eating.

The match starts at 7 p.m., but food concessions will open at 6 p.m. The match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns

only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond Original barrel. Barrel length 34" maximum.

First seven rounds: \$2 per shot. Eighth round 50/50: \$5 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first seven rounds in order to compete in the eighth round. 50/50 splatter

match is \$1 per chance between rounds. Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win!

Come early! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available. Families welcomed.

The match will be held at the Community Building on Sinking Creek Road next door to the fire department. We hope to see you all there.

Proceeds will benefit Williamsburg Community service projects. The match is sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action and the Williamsburg Ruritans. For more information and directions visit www.williamsburgwv.com

House and Garden Club installs new officers

The Lewisburg House and Garden Club met in a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, Mar. 24. President Suzanne Cronquist presided with 18 members participating.

The speakers for the meeting were Michael McGolden and Scot Lohrke of EcoChar on Soil Engineering for Home Gardeners. Their presentation was very informative and many questions were asked.

Following the program, new officers were installed: Jeri Banton Via as President, Rebekah Foster as the Second Vice President and Sharon Holladay as Corresponding Secretary. Cronquist symbolically passed the gavel to Via and the meeting continued.

President Via began with thanking Cronquist for her so capable guidance of the club the past two years. Carol Olson presented Cronquist with a President's pin and a certificate for life-long membership in West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. Each committee gave a report to the membership and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. A few days pri-



House and Garden Club: Suzanne Cronquist (left) and Jeri Banton Via

or to the Zoom meeting, former President Cronquist passed the gavel to President Via along with all the books and records of the club.

As a token of their esteem for leading the club through the pandemic year, former President Cronquist was presented with a lovely orchid plant. With warm weather returning, the club plans to begin in-person outdoor meetings in the future.

Democratic Women collect donations for MARVEL Center

The Meadow River Valley Early Childhood Learning Center was the recipient of the Greenbrier Democratic Women's Club community outreach in March. Known as the MARVEL Center, the nonprofit agency is an early childhood learning center, offering curriculum-based day care and after school programs. They provide resources and programs for parents, families, and the Meadow River Valley community.

Donations were gathered at the Democratic Headquarters in Lewisburg on Mar. 18. Among the various donations were healthy snacks and drinks for children age 6 months to 12 years, several boxes of new books, school supplies, paper goods, toys, and cleaning materials. Generous cash donations were also contributed by women of both parties.

The project was organized by the Democratic Women's Activities Committee. A number of volunteers collected the donations as they arrived, and Aaron Seams and Cathey Sawyer load-



Kathy Martin, Lynda Wykle, and Cari Harper

ed them into vehicles for transportation to the Center.

The supplies were delivered by Carol Evans and Kathy Martin to Lynda Wykle, lead teacher, and Cari Harper at their location in the renovated Rupert Elementary School.

"The Greenbrier Democratic Women's Club is happy to support the MARVEL Center. It is a strong program for healthy children and families and a great addition to our county," said Gloria Martin, Activities Committee member.

Carnegie Hall seeks submissions for annual Juried Art Exhibit

Carnegie Hall is seeking submissions for its 31st annual Juried Art Exhibit. This year's exhibit will be virtual, and all images must be taken by a digital phone. The theme is "Phonedemic: Scenes From a Lost Year." Selected works will be displayed online at www.carnegiehallwv.org from May 1 through May 31. The deadline for entries is Friday, Apr. 23, and an entry fee of \$5 is required for each submission up to three images (the maximum amount allowed per person).

Digital images must have been taken within the last year (between March 2020 and March 2021) and entries must denote the make/model of phone used. Images may be stylized with any phone app, and must be in JPEG format, sRGB color space, and less than 2MB.

Subject matter should consist of anything that encapsulates the pandemic or the triumph of overcoming and perseverance. The last year has been trying in so many ways. The exhibit hopes to allow participants to share their experiences to help overcome the trauma during the slow transition into the "new normal."

A jury of artists will judge entries based on composition, subject matter, and thematic depth. First Place (\$100), Second Place (\$75), Third Place (\$50), and Carnegie's Choice (\$25) awards will be announced on Apr. 28.

To enter and for a complete list of entry guidelines, please visit carnegiehallwv.org. Contact Allan Sizemore, Carnegie Hall Artistic Director, at 304-645-7917 or artistic@carnegiehallwv.org with questions.

Historical Society offers Black History Walking Tours

The mission of the Greenbrier Historical Society is to share the diverse history of the Greenbrier Valley. The Greenbrier Historical Society is focused on making sure that the history of the Valley is framed as inclusive and comprehensive, telling a story that includes the voices of Black people, women, and Native Americans.

Sunday, May 2, the Greenbrier Historical Society will offer a series of guided walking tours for groups of up to eight people. Black History Walks will consist of nine tours offered in 15-minute intervals, with the first beginning at 1 p.m. and the last tour beginning at 3 p.m. Guides will take visitors on a one mile walk

of downtown Lewisburg where they will learn about the vast Black history of the town. The tour will visit historically Black business buildings and churches while teaching visitors about the people who inhabited these places. Learn about entrepreneurs like Anthony Carter who rented various workspaces in the 1840s. Be inspired by Nancy Perkins Calendar who ran the popular Calendar's Restaurant for nearly 40 years, or hear the story of Mildred Bess, a well-known clairvoyant famous for telling fortunes in town. With 17 stops along the way there is a rich history of Black resilience in a town that was complicit in the institution of slavery and later

adopted Jim Crow laws and upheld segregation. Tours will last about 45 minutes and include walking up and down the rolling hills of downtown Lewisburg. Light refreshments and the opportunity to tour exhibits at the North House Museum will be provided at the end of each tour. In the event of rain, the walking tour will be held on Saturday, May 8. Black History Walks is sponsored by the Hebert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs.

Tickets may be purchased online at Events & Exhibits (greenbrierhistorical.org) or by calling the museum at 304-645-3398. Tickets may also be purchased at the North House Museum the day of the event.

A Glimpse of Blue Sky in Lewisburg Visitors' Center

The Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors' Bureau on Washington Street in Lewisburg has re-opened their art display area to local artists.

You are invited to come by during their regular business hours during the month of April to see the paintings done by Marietta Lyall.

Lyall is a member of Greenbrier Artists, the WV Watercolor Society, and a juried Tamarack artist.

A Glimpse of Blue Sky is the theme of the exhibit. After the 2020 shutdown of nearly every art and music venue in town, she is excited to

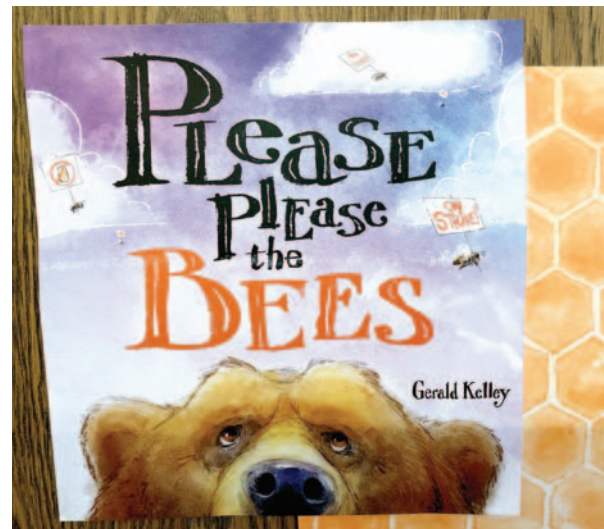
be able to showcase some of her work which was done during that time. A Glimpse of Blue Sky signifies a bit of hope for the upcoming year.

Marietta will exhibit a variety of art in watercolors, pastels, oils and acrylics. Most of her creations begin with a story, but are painted on canvas. She also currently has art displayed in the library and on Washington Street, East.

You are invited to an art exhibit by Greenbrier Artist Marietta Lyall through April at the Visitors' Center. This painting of a cat is entitled "It's Your Move."



StoryWalk returns to WSS



The White Sulphur Springs Public Library is celebrating National Library Week 2021 with a StoryWalk. This family friendly activity will be available to the public at all times from Apr. 3 through Apr. 15.

The StoryWalk will feature the book "Please Please the Bees" by Gerald Kelley. Pages of the book will be displayed in local businesses' windows. Families are encouraged to enjoy a stroll through town while reading the pages of the book.

The library has partnered with the local community businesses to encourage family reading and physical activity.

To read the story, visit each local business in the

following order:

Barnwood Living, Sweet Cedar Soap Company, M-White Sulphur Springs, ACE Hardware, Pinoy Store, Green River Academy, Tootsies, Greenbrier Glass and Mirror, Paw Spa, Hammer Cycles, Sugar Bears, The Village Wine Shop, Road Hogs Barbecue, White Sulphur Springs City Hall.

"The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson."

Please contact the White Sulphur Springs Public Library 304-536-1171 if you have any questions.

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