

# Mountain Messenger

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



## Ronceverte City Council considers COVID relief, Make It Shine

By Bobby Bordelon

The Ronceverte City Council received updates on rent relief, water, Make It Shine, and much more during the Monday, Apr. 12 meeting. Although Mayor David Smith was remote due to an injury, the council met in person in City Hall for the first time following the remote meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by President Joe Biden, contained benefits to local governments throughout West Virginia. This includes \$690,000 coming to Ronceverte. City Administrator Pam Mentz explained the funds are currently expected, but not committed to any one project yet.

"Ronceverte did get a proposed amount that would be paid in two installments, we're waiting to see what the funding guidelines are for the use of these funds. The administration and City Council will look very carefully, when we do find out, at what we can do and what is needed. We do not take this funding for granted, so what we do receive, we will use [diligently towards] the city's best interest."

The March relief bill is not the only

assistance potentially bringing funds to the town - Councilmember Leah Sills provided an anticipated update for the Mountaineer Rental Assistance Program. This program was created in the December 2020 relief bill passed by Congress, and would provide rent payments to landlords where tenants were not able to make rent after Apr. 1, 2020.

"If you know anyone, tenant or landlord, that wasn't able to pay rent because of COVID, they can make an application," said Sills. "When I mentioned it last month, they were not yet accepting applications, they are now."

The rental assistance program was created in order to help both renters and landlords, after the Center for Disease Control issued a moratorium on evictions based on inability to pay rent alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. The moratorium also did not require the inability to pay be related to COVID-19 income loss.

Those looking for more information can see previous coverage of the program in the Mountain Messenger, or view and apply directly online at <https://www.wvhdf.com/programs/mountaineer-rental-assistance-program>.

See "Ronceverte" Page 3

## WSS Pool and Wellness Center opening set for May 28

By Sarah Richardson

The White Sulphur Springs City Council was excited to announce at their last council meeting that the new pool and wellness center will hold their grand opening on the first day of the Dandelion Festival, Friday, May 28.

"It's been seven years since the pool has been closed," said Mayor Bruce Bowling. "It's changed shape and we will have the fitness center, it's very exciting. We actually had it finished about halfway through the last season, but due to COVID we couldn't open. The fitness center is already basically done, and will be completely ready to open by May 28, as well."

The Dandelion Festival will run on May 28, 29, and 30 this year in downtown White Sulphur. This annual event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, but will be back in full swing for 2021. The last festival featured an art show, the yearly pageant, a cruise-in, and more. More details on this year's festival will be released as they are finalized.

In other news:

- City Council noted that the Big Draft Waterline Extension Project bid opening is set for Apr. 22 at 2 p.m. This will be a major step forward for the project, which aims to bring water connectivity to a chunk of residents north of town.

- Councilmember Audrey Van Buren said the parks have been heavily attended and enjoyed so far this year, and encourages residents to visit them.

- Recreation funding applications were approved to for youth girls softball, Spa City Soccer, and Pee Wee Basketball groups. Each was awarded \$1,000, which is allotted each year in the city budget.

- A special meeting was slated for April 20 at 8 a.m. to approve the levy estimate.

- City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day. Monday garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, June 1.

## Greenbrier Co. Grand Jury hands down April indictments

By Bobby Bordelon

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for a Greenbrier County Grand Jury to meet, that's exactly what it did last week, bringing over 140 charges against 40 individuals.

New escape charges have been brought against Kip Sears, who was placed in home confinement on bond for his alleged involvement with a shooting on Brush Road in January 2020, resulting in one victim being flown to Virginia in order to receive emergency medical care.

A majority of the charges relate to theft, including fraudulent credit card use, burglary, grand larceny, in

See "Indictments" Page 10

## WV marketing its unique outdoor advantages with Ascend WV Remote Worker Program

Donor says acceptance of diversity a key to success in attracting remote workers

By Don Smith, West Virginia Press Association

There are proven methods of encouraging remote workers to relocate to a state, according to Brad Smith, executive chairman of the board for Intuit, but he thinks West Virginia's biggest advantage is unique. "God tipped the playing field in our favor," Smith said of his native state.



Last week, West Virginia launched its "Ascend WV Remote Worker Program," aimed at recruiting outdoor-enthusiast professionals to the Mountain State. The program - what state officials are calling "the nation's premiere remotework program" - is supported by Smith and his wife, Alys. It would allow adventurers to move to West Virginia and enjoy world-class recreation, uncrowded spaces, and a low cost of living while staying fully connected to their jobs.

Why does Smith think West Virginia has an advantage over other states in trying to recruit the nearly 50 percent of all Americans who, with workplace changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, now have the opportunity to work remotely from home? Other states can't match West Virginia's outdoor recreational opportunities, he said during an interview on Friday. "You can't create the mountains that we have ... the water density that we were blessed with ... the top three ski resorts in the mid-Atlantic states - all in one state," Smith said. West Virginia also has the newest national park - New River Gorge Park and Preserve, Smith noted, adding, "And if you throw in ... world class mountain biking, why do you need to look any further than where the World Cup championship is being held ... in West Virginia."

The Smiths donated \$25 million to West Virginia University to get this program

See "Ascend" Page 2



## County Commission passes first reading for courthouse expansion process, considers civilian broadband counsel

By Bobby Bordelon

The courthouse expansion, a proposed broadband council, the Meadow River Rail Trail, emergency telecommunicators week, and more were considered by the Greenbrier County Commission during its Tuesday, Apr. 13, meeting.

After a year of COVID-19 precautions, remote meetings, and live streaming of meetings to Facebook, Commission President Lowell Rose opened the commission meeting on a happy note.

"Appreciate everybody coming out today, this is the biggest crowd we've had in a year," said Rose. "Actually, y'all wouldn't have been here a year ago or five or six months ago because we weren't allowing anybody in. Anyway, I appreciate everybody coming out today. We'll be opening up more and more this month as things seem to be changing."

Shortly before the commission meeting, the Greenbrier County Building Commission met, elected officers, and considered the upcoming courthouse expansion project. As a result of this meeting, the commission approved the first reading of the ordinance

See "Co. Commission" Page 3

## Alderson Town Council approves 1 percent B&O tax expansion

By Bobby Bordelon

The Alderson Town Council approved a 1 percent Business and Inventory Tax (B&O) on gross revenue for businesses in town during the Thursday, Apr. 8, meeting of council.

Mayor Travis Copenhaver explained that due to legislative changes, the town was operating at a deficit.

"This is the tightest, nastiest budget I've ever had to administer," Copenhaver said. "I'm ashamed of where we're at with what we're doing on the B&O Tax, but you all will remember it was the most backwards B&O Tax in West Virginia. ... We can assess the fines and costs, but we lost the ability to attach drivers licenses, income tax, anything the state of West Virginia gives you. That cut our budget \$37,000, over ten percent of what our

operating budget was. ... That's a police officer, that's the reality of where we are right now."

A few members of the business community voiced their concerns over what the tax could do to the local businesses already struggling during the past year of COVID-19.

"The problem is, right now, [that] it's been the worst year ever," said Sarah Alderson of The Alderson Store. "It just seems like the timing is bad and there are people on the edge waiting, and maybe not opening again. It may seem like a straw, but it's the straw that broke the camel's back. It's enough, to me, that it'll affect the little guys. I would feel much better if it were a tiered one, like in Lewisburg, like in White Sulphur."

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# Local artist celebrated as Tamarack Foundation Emerging Fellow

By Bobby Bordelon

Greenbrier County native and current resident Kelsie Tyson has made waves in West Virginia with her art. Recently, the Tamarack Foundation granted Tyson one of its 2021 Emerging Artist Fellowships for her work celebrating body positivity, fat liberation, and Appalachia itself.

Held each year by the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts, the fellowship looks to highlight “thriving early-career artists” that “demonstrate not only a superior level of mastery in their craft, but also the aptitude to become successful professionals leading well-managed creative enterprises.”

Tyson is a Rainelle native, a graduate of both Greenbrier East High School and Marshall University, current resident of Lewisburg and currently works for the Tamarack in Beckley. Her work highlights body positivity and Appalachia, showing both as something to be proud of and emboldened by.

“This is like the hardest thing,” Tyson joked after being asked to describe her art. “My work is all in the realm of fat liberation and body liberation. My research [also looks into] ... the history of labor in Appalachia

## Ascend

Continued from Front Page

started through the newly named Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. WVU said the donation provides initial funding for the remote worker program, a groundbreaking initiative designed to help individuals and young families prosper amid the challenges of the pandemic. The donation, Smith said, along with state support and participation, allows West Virginia to offer incredible incentives as part of the remote workforce recruitment program. Ascend WV offers a relocation package valued at more than \$20,000, which includes \$12,000 cash and a year’s worth of free outdoor recreation donated by more than a dozen outfitters from across the state.

State officials said West Virginia is the first and only state to promote its natural assets for talent attraction and retention. This comes when research shows Americans are spending more time in the outdoors than ever before. The program also provides free co-working space where remote workers will have modern amenities to stay connected. Additionally, participants will be invited to networking events with state business leaders, guided outdoor excursions, and have the chance to earn remote work certifications through WVU along with access to the university’s entrepreneurship ecosystem.

“What we do know is that \$12,000 plus one year’s worth of access to outdoor recreation for free is absolutely the richest program” in the nation, Smith said. However, Smith said the financial package is the easiest thing for other states to match, adding that West Virginia can’t get into a bidding war with other states or other cities. That’s why he thinks the outdoor offerings are the key. “What we have to differentiate on is not just dollars ... but what can we bring to the table that no one else can match.”

Smith said there are two other elements that will determine the success of West Virginia’s program. “We have to accept the fact these people will come from outside. They’re going to be a diverse group of people. They’re going to have different beliefs, whether they’re religious or political or ethnic or racial.... We have to embrace the diversity and accept them as our new residents and West Virginians,” Smith said, “That’s why I think the odds are stacked in our favor, because, as I’ve said, if my car broke down, I would try to break down in West Virginia because someone would be kind enough to help me.”

The other element is building the program out in a controlled manner. The initial phase of Ascend WV focuses on three cities: Morgantown, Shepherdstown, and Lewisburg. Those cities are preparing to welcome the first classes of remote workers. State leaders are already exploring ways to expand the program to additional communities.

“Our vision for Ascend WV is that it will grow to become 55 counties strong,” said Alys Smith. “We know that each community in West Virginia has something unique to offer. Whether it’s proximity to outdoor recreation or warm small-town charm, our hope is that this program’s leadership team can grow Ascend WV’s reach to support more workers in more communities in the years to come.”

But Brad Smith knows wanting to host the program isn’t enough.

“We studied what has worked and not worked and every other program that was launched before us and most recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with ‘Tulsa Remote,’” Smith said of his program concept that started forming years before the COVID pandemic accelerated the public’s interest. “We discovered you have to have five things in place for the people who move there, or they will only stay for a period of time and then they leave.... The five things fall into major buckets like essential services such as broadband and affordable housing. They have to have vibrancy in their community. That means a diversity of restaurants, as well as an arts and entertainment scene. And it has to have access to something that’s differentiating it: In our case, it’s the outdoors.... We’re going to start with three cities that already have those things in place,” Smith said.

“We’ve put together a consulting arm as a part of this effort. It’s the West Virginia University Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. That’s what my wife and I have sponsored. We’ve prepared a community readiness playbook,” Smith said.

“All we’re saying is work with the consulting group that we put together. ... It’s our team. It’s West Virginia University. We will help you get the things in place and stack the odds of success in your favor. It’s not as simple as saying come and move here and let me give you some money,” Smith said.

“We’re working with every mayor and every local economic development group to say: How do we get you ready so that we can then bring cohorts of remote workers here? You will be able to check the boxes. They won’t just come in and then leave. We already have that

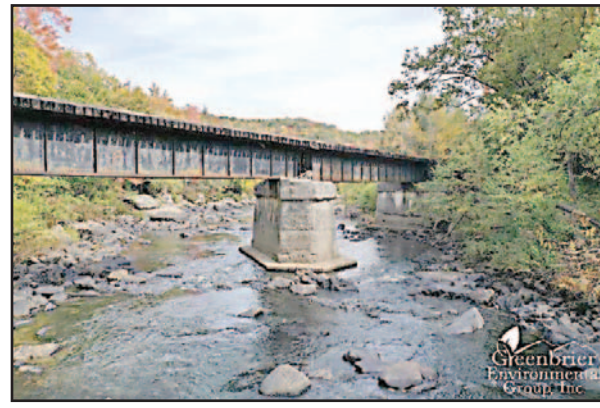
during the Industrial Revolution, specifically coal mining. People’s labor and their bodies were what helped, and still helps, keep things fast moving in other parts of the country, but then ... we have West Virginia full of coal miners [who] are stereotyped as these lazy, ignorant, uneducated, fat-in-a-bad-way people. My work is [to] let people change their context of the word fat as an adjective [into] something they can describe themselves as, and be comfortable with, instead of this thing that they feel bad about being.”

One of her previous exhibits, “God Is Coming And They Are Fat,” featured massive pillows, each filled with 50 pounds of stuffing, shaped into F, A, and T, and covered in body positive messaging. Tyson explained her favorite works are larger than life, filling entire rooms.

“Most joy that sparks when I’m working is when I’m working with [materials that are] my size or bigger. ... I think about my younger self and I want to make work that is a celebration of body, even if I don’t always like myself or like my body. This is going to be bright and colorful, and say ‘Feed Ur Belly,’ ‘Hug Ur Belly,’ ‘Squeeze Ur Belly’ because that touch, feel, and taking care of your body is a part of accepting and being okay with existing in yourself.”

Tyson hopes to get in touch with a locality in Greenbrier County to create a mural celebrating the same themes as her previous works.

“I don’t like the white wall gallery in a museum, I don’t think my art will actually be doing anything in those grounds. There has to be some kind of activism in it, some kind of community engagement, or it’s just serving a certain kind of person instead of everybody. ... Now what I want to be is creating a community of people who learn body acceptance and liberation and comfort in themselves. ... Fat liberation, queer liberation, black liberation, all of those things are interconnected because oppressions aren’t separate from one another. They’re all



## Key funding secured for Meadow River Rail-Trail

The Meadow River Rail-Trail is a 23.1-mile trail that traces its scenic namesake river in Southern West Virginia’s Fayette and Greenbrier counties. It runs from Rainelle to Nallen and may one day connect to the Gauley River National Recreation Area. The compacted stone trail will be ideal for hikers, bikers, fishermen, and possibly those on horseback.

Greenbrier Environmental Group recently wrote a grant request to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Abandoned Mine and Reclamation division on behalf of the Greenbrier County Commission for the 6.4-mile portion of the trail that starts in Rainelle. On Jan. 26, the DEP granted the request and will provide \$1.8 million in funding to continue trail development pending final approval at the federal level.

The project gives the Meadow River Valley and the surrounding region a huge boost to its outdoor recreation economy. Across West Virginia, this industry is responsible for more than 91,000 jobs, \$660 million in local and state tax revenue and \$9 billion in consumer spending.

The target completion date for the 16.7 miles of trail starting near Nallen is fall 2022. The 6.4 miles from Rainelle is expected to be completed by 2024.

program in place. Our goal is 55 counties strong. These are just the first three cities; they will not be the last,” he added. “I think we have an unparalleled alignment of interests. When I say that, I mean, we have West Virginia natives who come back and give back: Individuals like John Chambers, Ray Lane, myself, Jennifer Garner, Brad Paisley ... just people who say, ‘... I’ll never forget where I came from,’” Smith said.

“The second is you have our federal, state, local officials who work across the aisle. And even though they have good, constructive debates when they need to, they line up to do the right thing. And then you have university presidents and all of our higher learning institutions and K through 12 partnering. They may compete on Saturday, but they work together Monday through Friday,” Smith explained.

“All of that came together in a way that, quite frankly, I think other states are going to struggle to match because everyone lined up and said let’s do this and take advantage of this opportunity while the iron is hot.” Applications for Ascend WV are now open for the first 50 spots in the host city of Morgantown. Application windows for Shepherdstown and Lewisburg will be announced at a later date.

To learn more about Ascend WV, view the full incentive package, and to apply, visit [www.AscendWV.com](http://www.AscendWV.com).

## DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

The Greenbrier Humane Society is located at 151 Holiday Lane off Rt. 60 West in Lewisburg. They are closed Sunday and Monday, and are open from 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 304-645-4775 to make an appointment or for more information.



Kelsie Tyson with ‘God Is Coming And They Are Fat’ exhibit

related to the biggest thing, white supremacy.”

This even extends to the way people speak and write.

“I use a lot of slang words [in my work]. Instead of using to, I’ll use the number two regardless when I’m writing. Ur for your. A lot of it goes back to grad school - I had so many people [use big words] to describe things, but they don’t actually know what the words mean. ... I think people classify the way words are written, if they’re misspelled, with someone being uneducated or ignorant or dumb, but it’s not. Those ideas ... are part of how we exclude people from understanding what’s going on politically or what’s around them.”

During the interview with the Mountain Messenger, she explained that even as she knows and combats these “elitist” ideas about language, they still hold sway over her and the culture.

“Even now I’m not talking in my own voice because it’s an interview. I have this country accent and I taught myself to talk without it because I didn’t want to sound stupid, but then when I’m around my family, I talk like this,” Tyson said, the accent returning at the end.

As part of the fellowship, Tyson has been in touch with artists from across West Virginia. The Tamarack Foundation, and its executive director Renee Margocee, hopes the program will persuade more of the state’s youth to remain after graduation.

“It’s this big thing to help you make some work, network and establish yourself in West Virginia as an artist,” Tyson said. “I think Renee’s big vision is keeping young people and keeping artists in West Virginia. She just wrote this great opinion piece [in the Charleston Gazette-Mail] about how the arts are a way to save West Virginia.”

One major focus of the recently ended session of the West Virginia Legislature and Governor Jim Justice was seeking to keep young people in the state after they graduate, to build local communities. Margocee’s recent opinion piece highlights local art as one way to build these communities, a vision Tyson shares.

“Getting this made me realize how many people are working for that in West Virginia and it’s just a matter of us connecting together,” Tyson said. “It’s really exciting. I’m a first generation college student, so going to college was a big deal, then getting my Masters was a big deal, but I got these degrees in art. Most people want to be a doctor. ... It’s a reaffirmation that being an artist was a good choice.

A collection of Tyson’s work, including “God Is Coming And They Are Fat,” can be found on her [HYPERLINK “https://www.kelsietyson.com/”](https://www.kelsietyson.com/) [www.kelsietyson.com](http://www.kelsietyson.com), alongside a number of smaller items available for purchase, such as earrings.



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DF-CD-NP-Q221



# 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.

## Co. Commission

Continued from Front Page

approving the leasing of the courthouse to fund bonds.

“Authorizing the leasing of the courthouse as security for the financing of the renovation, rehabilitation project, and construction of the addition to the courthouse through the issuance of bonds of the building commission in the amount of not more than \$15 million,” explained attorney John Stump. “This methodology is the same process that we utilized to finance the construction of this annex that we’re in now many years ago.”

The Greenbrier County Building Commission had not “been active for quite some time because we haven’t done any building,” Rose noted, which required the election of officers before the commission could consider the project.

The proposal now goes to second reading before being finalized.

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A proposed civilian broadband expansion council brought a number of people to the County Commission meeting, hoping to boost service throughout the area.

“[We worked in] the Greater Greenbrier COVID Task Force over the past year, and we’ve had a couple of people and subgroups spring out of that,” explained Senator Stephen Baldwin, one member of the proposed council. “For example, when we knew folks were having a hard time knowing which food pantries were open or where can I get substance abuse help right now ... we put together a resource guide. ... We had one subgroup spring up last this winter on broadband. We’ve got business folks who are part of that, healthcare, education, nonprofits, and we all decided we wanted to do what we could to support ongoing efforts.”

Mapping the current broadband infrastructure has already begun in the county with the assistance of Greenbrier County Schools.

“We gave every student a device for grades six through twelve, we worked really hard to do that, but we quickly realized that a lot of parents did not have good internet where they lived,” explained Vicky Cline, Director of Technology and Testing at Greenbrier County Schools. “Even parents who could afford it didn’t have good internet. Broadband has been a huge issue for us.”

A number of prominent Greenbrier County organizations are also represented, such as WVSOM, the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Public Defender’s Office, White Sulphur Library, Open Doors, Robert C. Byrd Clinic, the WVU 4H Extension office, EDC, Meadow River Valley Association, Countrymen Communications, the Greenbrier Valley Airport, and several public representatives. Baldwin noted they have already been in touch with several individuals working on the county’s broadband plan.

“We didn’t have any interest in recreating the wheel, you all created a good wheel, so we spent some time learning from some experts ... about how we might be helpful as community members,” Baldwin said.

The commission agreed to more meetings with the group to determine how it could fit into the county’s ongoing broadband expansion efforts. Rose also noted frustration with some existing broadband providers for not further expanding existing infrastructure.

•••

Meadow River Rail Trail Coordinator Matt Ford gave the commission an update on the project before two agreements were signed, a promising development for much needed repairs to the trail. Ford brought a map, explaining that the red dots present along the trail were FEMA repair sites after the June 2016 flood.

“The agreements that you have today, one is for Treadway Dirtworks to complete the clearing and grubbing and the other is for Chapman Technical Group for the engineering services for the FEMA repairs,” explained Ford.

Tincher also noted the FEMA money funding these projects had been held by the Division of Highways until recently. Once the funds were back with the commission, the projects could move forward.

After the meeting on social media, Baldwin also complimented the trail work.

“Shoutout to Matt Ford and Commissioner Tammy Tincher for their hard work on the Meadow River Trail! Matt made a presentation to the Greenbrier County Commission today about the next step in the process. To say this project has been a bureaucratic/red tape nightmare would be an understatement...but Matt and Tammy persevere. We have all the parties working together towards the same goal. Great work, y’all!”

In other business:

• Greenbrier County 911 Director Mike Honaker approached the commission to request to fill an empty position in the office. He also explained “this week is emergency telecommunications week across the nation.

## 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.

### Renick Town Council

will meet Tuesday, Apr. 20, at 6:45 p.m. to hear and consider any objections and to officially adopt the levy rates for property taxation and approve the 2021-2022 budget. Immediately following the Budget/Levy meeting the council will hold their April Council Meeting. Agenda items include:

- Spring Clean-up
- June 1st Election
- Committee Reports
- Other Business

### Greenbrier County Commission

will meet Tuesday, Apr. 20, at 1 p.m. in Special Meeting in Greenbrier County Courthouse, Room 130. On the agenda:

- Consider setting the levy rate for the county

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Shawn R. Dolan, Ronceverte, assault, NC, jail 21 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation  
Dakota Lane Phillips, White Sulphur Springs, expired registration, fine \$10

## Connectivity issue resolved that caused delay in delivery of some unemployment benefits

On the evening of Apr. 12, WorkForce West Virginia experienced a connectivity issue that caused an Automated Clearing House (ACH) overnight transfer to fail as it was being transferred to an outside payment vendor. As a result, 4,432 people did not receive their unemployment benefits as scheduled.

The issue has been resolved and is not expected to occur again. WorkForce understands the importance of timely delivery of benefits and aims to keep recipients informed. All outstanding payments will be delivered to recipients within 48 hours and regularly scheduled payments will take place as normal.

“Our team worked diligently with the vendor to resolve this problem and prevent it from happening in the future,” said acting WorkForce WV Commissioner Scott Adkins. “If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to schedule a call with a WorkForce representative from our website.”

If needed, WorkForce recommends using the online scheduling option to get in touch with a representative. This option can be found at [workforcewv.org](http://workforcewv.org) by clicking the “schedule a live call” button on the home page.

More information about unemployment benefits and options available to claimants and recipients can be found at [workforcewv.org](http://workforcewv.org).

## Ronceverte

Continued from Front Page

In other business:

• Ronceverte’s annual Make It Shine day is quickly approaching, set for May 1 at 8 a.m. Councilmember Kathy King said “it’s open to anybody that wants to come down in their old clothes, bring a leaf blower, meet at the depo lot to find out what area you want to go to. Friends of Ronceverte is coordinating this, ... but it’s open for any group, any nonprofit, any club, anybody that wants to come and clean. Last year it was postponed because of COVID.”

• Due to engineering changes to one of the city’s water tanks during the ongoing water infrastructure project, approximately \$19,000 is no longer needed for the tank’s concrete foundation. These funds will instead go to fixing more lines within the city.

• Mayoral Candidate Eric Mercer approached the council seeking “bring the fun and personal back to Ronceverte” by creating a car show and craft fair in town on May 29. Smith noted there would need to be a nonprofit sponsor and insurance regulations met before the project could move forward.

• A lease agreement with Country Roads was approved for several police vehicles, taking three 2015 vehicles out of service.

• Council approved a \$1,200 funding request from Mountain Transit Authority.

• An audit of the city showed two findings, Mentz explained, with the budget not reflecting depreciation of equipment in the streets department and a higher than expected cost for streets due to a recent shift towards city workers mowing in the city, rather than contracting out the work.

• National Library Week was highlighted with a proclamation from Smith.

• Ronceverte has once again become one of the United States’ National Tree cities, with Smith noting this has been the case for approximately the past 15 years.

We’ll be having a luncheon for telecommunicators because of the great work they do and all the dedication to their work and sacrifice. It’s a particular pleasure to help them with some staff issues this week of all weeks. I read yesterday that there are 95,000 911 dispatchers in American and they take 240 million 911 calls a year. I think that speaks volumes about the work they do and the workload they have.”

• The deadline to apply for Greenbrier County Arts and Recreation grants is Apr. 30 by 4 p.m., the close of office hours. Applications can be picked up at the County Commission office, Greenbrier County Courthouse, downloaded at [www.greenbriercounty.net](http://www.greenbriercounty.net) or by calling the Greenbrier County Commission office at (304)647-6689.

## Alderson B&O

Continued from Front Page

The ordinance would apply to those selling tangible goods and manufacturing, but does not include some service-as-goods businesses, such as healthcare providers.

“Upon every person engaging or continuing within the municipality in the business of selling any tangible property whatsoever, real or personal, including the sale of food in hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, confectioneries and other public eating houses and wholesale sales from a rolling stockpile, except sales of any person engaging or continuing in the business of horticulture, agriculture or grazing, or selling stocks, bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness, there is hereby levied, and shall be collected, the tax shall be equal to ONE percent (1%) of the gross income of the business,” reads the ordinance.

Copenhaver acknowledged this could be difficult, but also noted they would have to cut services if more funding wasn’t raised from somewhere.

“I full well feel your pain as you, as a business person feel your pain,” Copenhaver said. “... I’ll turn it around - I can’t raise my prices. The municipality’s prices are regulated by the public service commission. If I raise your water rate right now, it does not fix this black hole because [we manage three budgets], water, sewer, and the general fund. ... I’m asking you, if we don’t do this, what do we do?”

The tax was passed on 3-2 vote by council, with Councilmembers Tod Hanger and Charlie Lobban voting against.

This is not the only budget concern however - a typo on an excess levy authorization has left 2021 without a portion of funding for the streets department.

“What it means is [we have to slash] a lot from streets to make this budget balanced,” Copenhaver said. “... What’s on the election calendar for this time is what should have been, but there was a mistake made previously. The auditor’s office didn’t catch it, we didn’t catch it, and we caught it this time in our budget for the auditor to approve.”

However, due to an upcoming street repair project, Copenhaver noted the effect this mistake could have had is diminished.

“In of itself, nothing is changing on face value,” Copenhaver said. “But [2022] was missed, and that year is coming. ... We’ve got a project coming up, so we’re going to tear the heck out of streets. We know the streets that need to be paved. We know I’m not going to worry about paving those streets because there’s no point if we’re just going to tear them up anyway.”

In other business:

• The liquidation of a city vehicle, a Durango, was approved.

• Zach Gain with Thrasher Engineering noted the possibility the town is working toward a new water treatment plant. Gain explained “there’s a flood mitigation fund that’s available for Greenbrier County and a few other towns. Region 4 came to the mayor and Thrasher to set up a meeting to discuss the use of those funds for some additional planning. ... We’ve got a budget of about \$800,000 to do plant upgrades and with the monies available, we believe that it’s a good time [to], instead of upgrading an old plant which in ten years might need additional upgrades, instead to build a brand new plant out of the floodplain that would have a 40 year life and [be] more favorable, from an operations standpoint.”

• An appointment to the library board was approved.  
• Mary Surbaugh with the Greenbrier Watershed Association spoke in favor of a Make It Shine day for Alderson, looking to provide supplies for volunteers cleaning up the city.

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# OPINION

## The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



It's done. The 2021 legislative session ended at midnight on Apr. 10. Here's a quick rundown of where several major issues landed.

**PERSONAL INCOME TAX.** The proposal to raise the sales tax to at least 8% and reduce the income tax failed in the House. Gov. Justice pledged to go on the road, taking his case directly to the people as to why it's a good plan. The supermajorities pledged to continue talking about options. I imagine there will be another effort to eliminate it in a special session this fall.

**BEST BILL?** Several folks asked me what the best thing passed this year was. That's easy for me - the veteran's nursing home in Beckley! We finally got it done. With the state funds in place, we gain access to federal funds. Now, our veterans will be able to stay in southern WV to receive the care they earned.

**BROADBAND.** Before the session, the supermajorities declared that 2021 would be the year of broadband. They pledged \$1 billion over the next ten years. When it was said and done this year, we passed one broadband bill and put no money in the budget for it. The bill, as I wrote last week, does some good things with consumer protections and mapping. But the best thing it did, requiring "open access" on fiber lines built with public dollars, was cut out at the last minute. Why? Because the companies who've had a monopoly over broadband in WV for years lobbied the supermajorities to remove it, since it would have broken their monopoly. They are a powerful lobby we must break through if we are ever going to build a real broadband network.

**50/50 CUSTODY.** One of the session's most contentious bills was HB2363. As originally introduced, it required a presumption of 50/50 custody in all family court cases and reopened all past family court cases for new custody arrangements. The Senate Judiciary Committee removed both of those provisions. Instead, they passed a bill which reinforces that all custody cases should be decided based on what's in the best interest of the child and that shared parenting is beneficial to children if circumstances allow it. The final bill did pass both houses just before midnight.

**REMOTE WORKERS.** In what I predict will be the only passed this session to recruit new people to West Virginia, the remote worker program is in motion. Lewisburg is one of three initial pilot cities for the program. Funded privately by WV native Brad Smith, the program pays people \$12,000 cash and grants them \$8,000 worth of outdoor recreational fees to move here and work remotely. While some criticize the program, population loss is a root problem for us. Until we have more people here, we will never get ahead.

**ELECTION REFORM.** A controversial election reform bill which I wrote about some six weeks ago died in the House. It would have, among other things, ended voter registration via the DMV, removed the final Saturday of early voting, and purged voter rolls every two years. I opposed the bill for those reasons, and House leadership chose not to let it die for those reasons.

## Attorney General Morrissey fights unlawful sales of fake vaccination cards

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey called on Twitter, eBay and Shopify to act immediately to prevent people from selling fraudulent vaccination cards on their platforms.

The bipartisan coalition of 45 attorneys general raised concerns about public health risks posed by the fake

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**BUDGET.** On the final night, we did pass a budget. Remember how I wrote a few weeks ago that the numbers just didn't add up? That's still the case. Consider these facts. One, we've had a good financial year in WV. We will end up with a surplus approaching \$300 million. Two, the budget we passed cut all higher education institutions including WVSOM, WVU, and Marshall. Three, the budget contains \$72 million in unappropriated funds. Why would we cut one of our best investments - higher education - when we have a surplus and unappropriated funds? It's kind of like letting your savings sit in a no-interest bank account; it just doesn't get you anything.

**TELL IT LIKE IT IS.** Tensions ran very high this year. As a lady at the gas station said to me this week, "It beats all I ever saw the way they came after you this year." It's the oldest political trick in the book. When the message isn't good for you, attack the messenger. No worries, friends. I'll keep telling it like it is, fighting the good fight.

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)*

cards in a Thursday letter to the companies' chief executive officers. Their concern specifically notes the marketing and sale of blank or fraudulently completed cards that bear the U.S. Centers for Disease Control logo.

"We are deeply concerned about this use of your platforms to spread false and misleading information regarding COVID vaccines," Attorney General Morrissey joined in writing. "The false and deceptive marketing and sales of fake COVID vaccine cards threatens the health of our communities, slows progress in getting our residents protected from the virus, and are a violation of the laws of many states."

Providers give legitimate vaccination cards when they administer the vaccine.

Those who buy fake cards can have their own information added to the card or add it in themselves, so it appears they have been vaccinated when they have not.

In their letter, the attorneys general ask the CEOs to:

- Monitor their platforms for ads or links selling blank or fraudulently-completed vaccination cards.
- Promptly take down ads or links that are selling cards.
- Preserve records and information about the ads and the people who were selling them.

West Virginia joined the North Carolina- and Tennessee-led letter with attorneys general from Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

### Your Opinion Is Valuable

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**Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon Wednesday**

## Commentary

### Open Letter to our citizens from Mayor White

Dear Citizens:

It's been another trying time again as I try to figure out why it's so difficult for people who are different are targeted with hate. Why Asian-American children are taunted as they walk home from Hollowell Park. Why our Fire Chief Thomas is blasted on Facebook because mental health providers asked to have a safe place to give out Narcan in order to save someone's child, when that next child may be yours.

Everybody is someone's child. How do you want your child to be treated? Please ask yourselves when spewing hate against those who don't look like you, what if that was your child? How would you feel if the non-white, LBGQT communities and others who don't look like you or love like you turned the tables and began behaving like you? What if they started making laws that made it more difficult for you to vote, or telling you that your couldn't wear your hair a certain way in order to be employed or play sports? What if you were told that someone won't rent a home to you or sell a home to you because of who you are and who you love? What if they refused to bake you a wedding cake or make a flower arrangement because of who you are and who you love?

While you are at it, take a look around your homes and take everything out that is not made in America. The very people that are being targeted supply a whole lot of products to this United States of America.

Liberty and justice for all? Or just you? The right to live and breathe, only you?

Help me understand why your rights and privileges cannot be those of the people who don't look like you. Help be understand why those who are not you having those same rights and privileges bothers you so much that you will go to any lengths necessary to suppress those rights and privileges.

What are you really afraid of?

Help me understand how you explain to your children that God loves only them and not those who are different. Help me understand how you teach your children to live in a diverse world that is so different from what they are being taught at home and how you will answer them when the time comes.

Others being blessed does not diminish God's ability or willingness to bless you. God's goodness and mercy are unlimited and always available. The rights and privileges of others should be too.

I will say it again; our children are watching us and listening to us! What will they hear and learn?

Sincerely,  
Mayor Beverly White

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

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

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

- 1) OPED pieces may contain constructive criticisms, thoughts, or observations, which we publish on an individually approved basis.
- 2) No name-calling, hate speech, or other derogatory language is permitted. We do not publish letters containing "bashing," personal attacks, and the like. However, we do appreciate mindful concerns, assessments, and thoughts.
- 3) All letters must be signed by the author and include the city in which they reside.

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

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

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## WVSOM invites area residents to stress-reduction sessions

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in free stress-reduction sessions incorporating the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) protocol at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM).

The sessions will be offered through WVSOM's Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) and will take

place at 2 and 4 p.m., Apr. 17 and 18, on the WVSOM campus in Lewisburg. Face masks are required during the session and will be provided, and participants' temperatures will be checked at the door. Additional COVID-19 safety precautions will include social distancing, the use of sanitizer, and the wearing of masks and gloves by those performing the protocol.

The NADA protocol is a form of acupuncture in which small needles are placed into specific areas on the exterior of the ear. Stress reduction is one of many benefits of the technique, which also can be used to reduce cravings for drugs and minimize withdrawal symptoms, ease symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and improve sleep. The protocol has been in use since

the 1970s.

In the April sessions, the NADA protocol will be performed by new trainees. Deborah Schmidt, D.O., who chairs WVSOM's osteopathic principles and practice department and is a member of the West Virginia Board of Acupuncture, said the sessions are valuable to health professionals because they help them learn to administer the protocol.

"We appreciate the public joining us for these stress-reduction sessions because it helps in the training of NADA acudetox providers. The goal in training these providers in southern West Virginia is to offer an inexpensive, nonpharmacologic method to assist those struggling with addiction and recovery," Schmidt said. "Participants will have the opportunity to experience a simple, minimally invasive treatment that helps bring down stress levels and allows a chance to focus on well-being."

In West Virginia, individuals permitted to administer the protocol include physi-

cians and student doctors, physician assistants, registered professional nurses, practical nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, social workers, professional counselors, correctional officers and emergency medical services providers.

Individuals who want to receive stress reduction through the protocol may attend any of the sessions, which will be conducted in the WVSOM Student Center, and must preregister by 4 p.m., Apr. 15, with Jenna Hinkle at 304-793-6584 or [jhinkle@osteo.wvsom.edu](mailto:jhinkle@osteo.wvsom.edu). Attendees should park in the area beside the center's second-floor entrance and enter through the door marked "NADA training."

WVSOM's CRCH is presenting the sessions with funding from the State Opioid Response Grant through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities.

## OBITUARIES

### Betty Jane Runyon Holliday



**Alderson-**Betty Jane Runyon Holliday, 78, peacefully passed away Monday, Apr. 12, 2021, at her home in Alderson with her children by her side. God took her to her heavenly home to her beloved husband.

Born Sept. 13, 1942, in Lester, WV, she was the daughter of the late William and Allie Carr Runyon.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Charles William "Bill" Holliday; five brothers, Earl Runyon and wife Edith, Jack Runyon, John Runyon, Curtis Runyon, and James Arthur Runyon; three sisters, June Phillips and husband, Harlan, Bonnie Runyon, and Charlotte Runyon; brother-in-law, Charles Yates, and sister-in-law, Joan Fleshman and husband, Jim.

Mrs. Holliday was a secretary, having retired from the Greenbrier County School System after 30 plus years of service, where she immensely enjoyed the students, faculty, and staff. She was a member of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson and a member of the Alderson Chapter No. 119 Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Holliday enjoyed indoor and outdoor gardening, watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, reading the newspaper, and loved to spend time at the beach. She was a proud Aldersonian.

Survivors include her daughter, Tammy Lynn Holliday of Alderson; her son, Charles "Charlie" Holliday, Jr. and his wife Angela of Alderson; her brother, Damon Runyon and wife Ruby of Gauley Bridge; two sisters, Mозelle Yates of Oklahoma City, OK, and Mary Wolf and husband Tim Dayton of Chesapeake, VA; sister-in-law, Glenna Runyon of Hot Springs, VA; brother-in-law, John Robert "Bob" Holliday and wife Carolyn of Alderson; and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Funeral services will be Friday, Apr. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, with Pastor Derek Hall officiating. Burial will follow in the Phillips Family Cemetery on Muddy Creek Mountain, Alderson. Friends may call Thursday, Apr. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, and one hour prior to services at the church on Friday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC guidelines

will be observed, with mask and social distancing encouraged.

Serving as pallbearers will be Scott Ballard, Steve Keadle, John Fleshman, Fred Holland, Greg Holliday, Scott Pinnell, Chad McCallister, and Matthew Fleshman. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Bob Holliday, Dean Butler, Toby Fleshman and Robert LaRue.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Marilyn Glaser, Amy Judy, and the wonderful staff at Home Care Plus who attended her so faithfully.

For those wishing to show an expression of sympathy, contributions may be made in memory of Mrs. Holliday to the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Alderson, WV 24910.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the Holliday family at [www.lobbanfh.com](http://www.lobbanfh.com).

Arrangements by Lobban Funeral Home, Alderson, WV.

### William R. Jones



**Lewisburg-**William R. "Bill" Jones, 81, passed away Tuesday, Apr. 13, 2021 at the Peyton Hospice House, Lewisburg.

Born Aug. 12, 1939, in Ramey, PA, he was the son of the late Ralph Jones Sr. and Bernice Loughhead Jones.

Bill was a graduate of Elkins High School and Davis & Elkins College. He worked in insurance all his life. He was a partner of Arbuckle Insurance Agency in Lewisburg until retiring in 2013. Bill was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Lois Moore.

Survivors include his loving wife of 58 years, Judy Phares Jones; daughter, Kim McMillion (Jeff) of Lewisburg; granddaughter, Dr. Allie Hinson (Mark) of Lewisburg; sisters, Judy Vandenberg (Dave), Janet Shears, and Irene Lothes; brother, Ralph "Bud" Jones; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held later.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Bill's memory to Clifton Presbyterian Church, 16512 Seneca Trail North, Maxwelton, WV 24957 where he was a longtime member.

Online guestbook can be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

## Multiple donation opportunities upcoming:

### Give blood during National Volunteer Month

With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential for hospital patients in need of transfusions. During National Volunteer Month this April, the American Red Cross is celebrating the blood, platelet and plasma donors who help fulfill its lifesaving mission and urging healthy individuals to join them in giving.

Nearly 2.6 million Red Cross volunteer donors step up every year to ensure blood is on the shelves when patients need it. The generosity of these heroes has been especially impactful over the past year as they helped the Red Cross continue to meet patient needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Red Cross continues to urge healthy indi-

viduals, especially those with type O blood, to give blood to ensure hospitals can meet patient needs. Schedule a donation appointment by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a special thank-you, those who come to give by Apr. 30 will automatically be entered for a chance to win one of five \$1,000 e-gift cards to a merchant of choice. Additional details are available at [re-blood.org/Gift](http://re-blood.org/Gift).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

- Frankford: Apr. 17: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Henning Church of God, 3599 Vago Road
- Lewisburg: Apr. 26: 12

noon to 6 p.m., Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street

• Union: Apr. 30: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monroe County Public Library, 303 South Main Street

### Health insights for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Plasma from routine blood and platelet donations that test positive for high levels of antibodies may be used as convalescent plasma to meet potential future needs of

COVID-19 patients. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood product collected from COVID-19 survivors who have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is also screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive antibody test and sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

## 'Tilapia To Go' Dinners Continue this Friday

The drive thru "Tilapia to Go" dinners by the Greenbrier Valley Council of Knights of Columbus will begin at 4:30 p.m. this Friday according to an announcement by Perk Berry, Jr., the Grand Knight of the Council.

"We served 160 meals this past week and are cooking more this week so we don't run out," Berry announced, but he cautioned, "We cannot serve any before 4:30 p.m. due to congestion on the parking lot."

The dinners consist of fried Tilapia, cole slaw,

scalloped potatoes, hard roll, home baked dessert, bottle water, sauces, lemon slice, and utensil package including salt, pepper and napkin and a rough map of the picnic tables and shelters in White Sulphur Springs' nine city-maintained parks.

Proceeds from the \$10 per meal go to community, youth, charity, church and Council projects.

Special guest volunteer this Friday will be Father Harry Dunn, a retired priest from Wheeling who is substituting for Father James Conyers at St.

Charles Borromeo and St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Churches this weekend. Father Dunn has formerly served as pastor at the Catholic churches in Hinton, Rainelle, and Sprngdale among other locations throughout the state.

For additional information on the dinners, contact the Office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus at 304-645-1373.

## CMA plans ride May 1

The Lewisburg Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclist Association (CMA) would like to invite motorcycle riders to ride with us on May 1 for our annual Run for the Son fundraiser. We plan to meet at Hardee's in Lewisburg at 9 a.m. with the ride leaving promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The plan is to ride 140 miles from I-64 to Rt. 92 to Rt. 28 to Watoga for a packed picnic lunch. We will have a group prayer and bike blessings. The ride will be shorter in the event of inclement weather and will go to the The Swinging Bridge for lunch in Paint Bank instead.

There is no fee but for donation. All donations received by each CMA chapter nationwide will go toward furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the USA and abroad. The

funds help purchase Bibles, transportation for Pastors abroad and the Jesus film in many languages. Funds also furnish reading materials given to bikers at bikers rallies across the country introducing riders to God's amazing grace and love for us.


We hope you will support our ride and fellowship with us. We would love to bless your bike and pray for whatever you may need. For more information or to confirm that you are coming you can text Donna Jones at 304-661-6410.

## Healthy Grandfamilies Education and Support Group to hold series

WVU Extension Service, along with WV State Extension, Greenbrier County BOE, and several local agencies are hosting an eight-session educational series for grandparents raising grandchildren. Raising children in today's world is much different than 20 years ago. Each week will focus on a different topic such as: Parenting in the 21st century, social media and technology, legal issues, nutrition and picky eaters, medical records and child illness, navigating the school system, and dealing with addiction.

The program is free and open to all grandparents, relatives or foster parents who have custody. The program will be held at the WVU Building at the State Fairgrounds on Monday evenings. You must pre-register by Apr. 27.

Contact WVU Extension Service at 304-647-7408 or email [andi.hoover@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:andi.hoover@mail.wvu.edu).



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## HELP WANTED

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## NOTICE

**BRICK HOUSE ANTIQUES BACK ALLEY SPRING SALE,** April 16 to 19, featuring vintage fixtures from Lewisburg True Value closure. Masks and distancing required. See listing at estatesales.net for more details and pictures.



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# GONE OUT OF BUSINESS AUCTION

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**(Motorcycle By Owner Confirmation)**

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**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+.  
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# ASP seeks summer service projects

This summer Appalachian Service Project (ASP) will again bring volunteers to Greenbrier County. These dedicated volunteers complete projects - at no cost to homeowners - under the supervision of trained ASP staff to make homes warmer, safer and drier. In the light of COVID, volunteer teams will be smaller with a focus on exterior repairs. Volunteers will be here for seven weeks this summer, working on 7-10 homes in the county.

The average repair cost per home is \$4,000 to \$6,000 but may be more if a subcontractor is needed. Local funding and grants will ensure that as many people are served as possible.

For those interested in contributing financially or volunteering may contact the main ASP office at 423-854-8800. Volunteers may also email: local@asphome.org. Project referrals can be made by contacting the main office or using the online application.

# Solar panel program available for MRV residents

Bethlehem Farms is a service organization that engages in a lot more than farming! Their mission is to "transform lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices."

Located near Alderson, they serve Summers, Monroe and Greenbrier counties with resources and services for home repair, refurbishment and even solar panel installation. Mar. 31, 2021, brings to close Bethlehem Farm's first grant cycle for increasing sustainability in Greenbrier Valley via the installation of solar panels. Their generous program has been renewed for an additional year of funding, and they are still accepting applications.

The ideal applicant is a low-income homeowner of Summers, Monroe or Greenbrier county who is interested in reducing their reliance on the electric company while increasing sustainable practices. The program is designed specifically to benefit low-income households. Although you may think you cannot afford solar power, with the help of Bethlehem Farms you might be able to!

Visit the Bethlehem Farm website for additional information or call and ask for Gemma Stanton at 304-445-7143.

# WV Small Businesses: We are here to help you navigates COVID-19 financial relief options!

**By: Karen Friel, SBA WV District Director**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to make its impact known on small businesses, employees, and Mountain State residents as a whole. There are many financial relief options available to help businesses remain open and employees to continue to receive their paychecks. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) remains by far the largest financial relief program ever endeav-

ored by the United States. And there is still time to apply.

For the average business owner, trying to understand the program and eligibility requirements can seem daunting. My team at the U.S. Small Business Administration's West Virginia District Office is here to help. We are West Virginians with a total of more than 150 years of federal and financial experience ready to help the Mountain States'

small businesses navigate and understand the different financial relief options available. I want to explain what is available through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

PPP offers loans for small businesses to pay operating expenses and to keep employees on payroll. The loan can be forgiven, meaning you won't have to pay it back, if at least 60 percent is used for payroll and the remaining 40 percent for allow-

able business expenses: mortgage interest, rent, utilities, COVID worker protection (gloves, masks, screens), uninsured property damage costs caused by looting or vandalism in 2020, and certain supplier costs and expenses for operations. If not used correctly the loan has a one percent interest rate and a two-year maturity date if received before June 5, 2020, and a five-year maturity date if issued after

**See "Relief" Page 8**

## Indictments

addition to a high number of charges emerging from lying on official documents (uttering, forgery).

The April 2021 Greenbrier County indictment list is as follows, with the defendant's name, location, birthday, and charges brought, listed respectively:

- Christopher Allen Reed, Rainelle, 6-04-91, Breaking and Entering (x3), Petit Larceny
- Derrick Adkins, Rainelle, 7-04-92, Breaking and Entering(x3), Petit Larceny
- Daron G. Allen, Lewisburg, 7-09-66, Escape
- Erin Willey Ambler, Pence Springs, 2-11-80, Shoplifting - Third or Subsequent Offense
- Charles C. Arbaugh, Alderson, 1-22-90, Grand Larceny
- Levi Michael Arnold, Rupert, 7-22-93, Grand Larceny Driving Revoked for Driving Under the Influence - Third or Subsequent Offense, Attempted Grand Larceny, Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm
- Larry Sherman Ayers, Charmco, 8-20-71, Burglary, Grand Larceny, Fleeing from an Officer While Driving Under the Influence of a Controlled

Substance, Reckless Fleeing From an Officer, Destruction of Property, Attempt to Disarm an Officer, Obstructing an Officer Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer

- Gary Ray Blankenship, Ronceverte, 7-02-86, Escape
- Michael Shawn Bostic, White Sulphur Springs, 2-24-91, Child Abuse Resulting in Bodily Injury
- James Carl Burr III, White Sulphur Springs, 1-25-56, Sexual Assault in the Second Degree (x3), Sexual Abuse in the First Degree
- Sarah Elizabeth Cook, White Sulphur Springs, 11-30-94, Grand Larceny
- Wiley Jack Dorsey, Hines, 10-04-67, Fraudulent Use of an Access Device (x14)
- Wiley Jack Dorsey, Hines, 10-04-67, Fraudulent Use of an Access Device (x12)
- Joseph Keith Forren, Williamsburg, 2-23-98, Fraudulent use of an Access Device
- Joseph Forren, Lewisburg, 2-23-Feb-98, Escape
- Haymond Jacob Hanshaw, Lookout, 10-29-78, Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm
- Melvin Leroy Honaker, Ronceverte, 4-27-67, Grand Larceny, Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny
- Kayla Hughes, White Sulphur Springs, 9-08-90, Grand Larceny, Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny
- Joshua Howard, Neola, 9-25-84, Malicious Wounding
- Richard A. Kavazanjian,

Ronceverte, 4-03-64, Failure to Register as a Sex Offender or Provide Notice of Registration Changes (x2)

- Brandon Keeney, Frankford, 8-24-87, Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, Petit Larceny
- Julie Ann Oney Keeney, Frankford, 8-22-86, Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, Petit Larceny
- Lynn Houston LaGrange, Rupert, 12-22-73, Driving Under the Influence, 3rd Offense
- Jade Ashley Loudermilk, Rainelle, 11-03-83, Forgery, Uttering
- Michael Eugene Loudermilk Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina, 6-10-83, Attempted Grand Larceny, Robbery in the Second Degree, Driving While License Revoked for DUI - Third or Subsequent Offense
- Charles Telford Mentz, Union, 9-01-78, Reckless Fleeing From an Officer
- Charles Telford Mentz, Union, 9-01-78, Reckless Fleeing from an Officer
- Jeremy Wade Morgan, Renick, 11-01-90, Driving Revoked for DUI, Third Offense
- Delmas Ray Parsons Jr., Rupert, 7-09-70, Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance - Methamphetamine, Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm
- Christina Marie Perkins, White Sulphur Springs, 5-20-85, Reckless Fleeing From an Officer

cont. from Page 1

- Kip Aaron Sears, Caldwell, 7-15-88, Escape
- Jason Paul Smith, Alderson, 2-19-82, Burglary, Grand Larceny
- Jason Paul Smith, Alderson, 2-19-82, Burglary, Grand Larceny
- Jason Paul Smith, Alderson, 2-19-82, Forgery of a Credit Card
- Jason Paul Smith, Alderson, 2-19-82, Burglary, Grand Larceny, Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny
- Avery Lewis, Frankford, 7-09-94, Burglary, Assault
- Avery Lewis, Frankford, 7-09-94, Burglary, Assault, Assault
- John T. Smith, Rainelle, 8-04-85, Forgery (x3), Uttering (x3)
- Eric Jason Stone, Rupert, 8-22-72, Forgery (x6), Uttering (x6)
- Sabrina Tincher, Union, 8-27-75, Grand Larceny
- Codie Allen Walton, Rainelle, 4-25-96, Breaking and Entering, Petit Larceny
- Codie Allen Walton, Rainelle, 4-25-96, Forgery (x10), Uttering (x2)
- Amanda LeighAnn Beiler, Rainelle, 5-15-90, Uttering, (x5)
- Timothy A. Wickline, Fredricksburg, Virginia, 7-19-93, Uttering (x3)
- Michael Watson, Sinks Grove, 5-31-1975, Embezzlement
- James Whitt, Ronceverte, 12-16-1973, Retaliation Against Police Officer
- Robert Wilson, Asbury, 4-17-1989, Burglary
- Raymond A. Zambrana, Lewisburg, 5-21-1980, Strangulation

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION**  
Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 206 and 430. The auction will end on 4/21/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). These auctions will run until April 21, 2021. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

## LEGAL

**MEETING NOTICE**  
Region 4 Planning and Development Council will have an Executive Committee Meeting on April 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting. The Region 4 PDC Office is located at 885 Broad Street, Suite 100, Summersville, WV 26651. Please call 304-872-4970 for further information regarding attending this meeting online.

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION**  
Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail East, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24925, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 66. The auction will end on 4/21/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). The auction will run until April 21, 2021. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

## LEGAL

**Notice of Public Meeting**  
May 6, 2021  
Via Teleconference due to Covid-19 Pandemic.  
For information on how to participate, please contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080  
The City of Lewisburg Planning Commission will meet by zoom conference on May 6, 2021 at 7:00 to hear the following application.  
**1. Agenda:**  
**2. Approval of the Minutes:** (April 1, 2021)  
**3. Comments from the Public:** (5 Minutes)  
**4. Public Hearing:** Colin Rose, 951 Washington Street West, conditional use permit  
**5. Comments from Zoning Officer:** Marsha Cunningham  
**6. Communications from the Members:**  
**7. Adjournment:**  
The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Planning Commission will be June 3, 2021 with a deadline of Friday May 14, 2021.


## LEGAL

(Cert. No. 132040 Daniel W. Johnson)  
To: H&R FARMS LLC, SUTHERLAN MICHAEL L ET UX, SUTHERLAN TAMYRA L ET UX, TEPHABOCK RANDY T, SUTHERLAN TAMYRA L ET UX - REGULAR MAIL, TEPHABOCK RANDY T - REGULAR MAIL, SUTHERLAN MICHAEL L ET UX - REGULAR MAIL, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.  
You will take notice that Daniel W. Johnson, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certificate No. 132040, located in MEADOW BLUFF District, 0.017 (FEE) INT. OF 60/32 & 20/1 SEWELL MT (DARBY) which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of H&R FARMS LLC, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on 01/07/2021. Daniel W. Johnson requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 06/07/2021, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 06/07/2021 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 06/07/2021	\$ 309.36
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 06/07/2021	\$ 0.00
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 06/07/2021.	\$ 579.31
Additional Statutory Fees with interest to 06/07/2021.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to <b>The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff of Greenbrier County.</b>	\$ 888.67

You may redeem at any time before 06/07/2021, by paying the above total less any unearned interest. Given under my hand 4/9/2021  
**G. Russell Rollyson Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of Greenbrier County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division  
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Questions please call 1-888-509-6568



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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.**

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**Government budgets**

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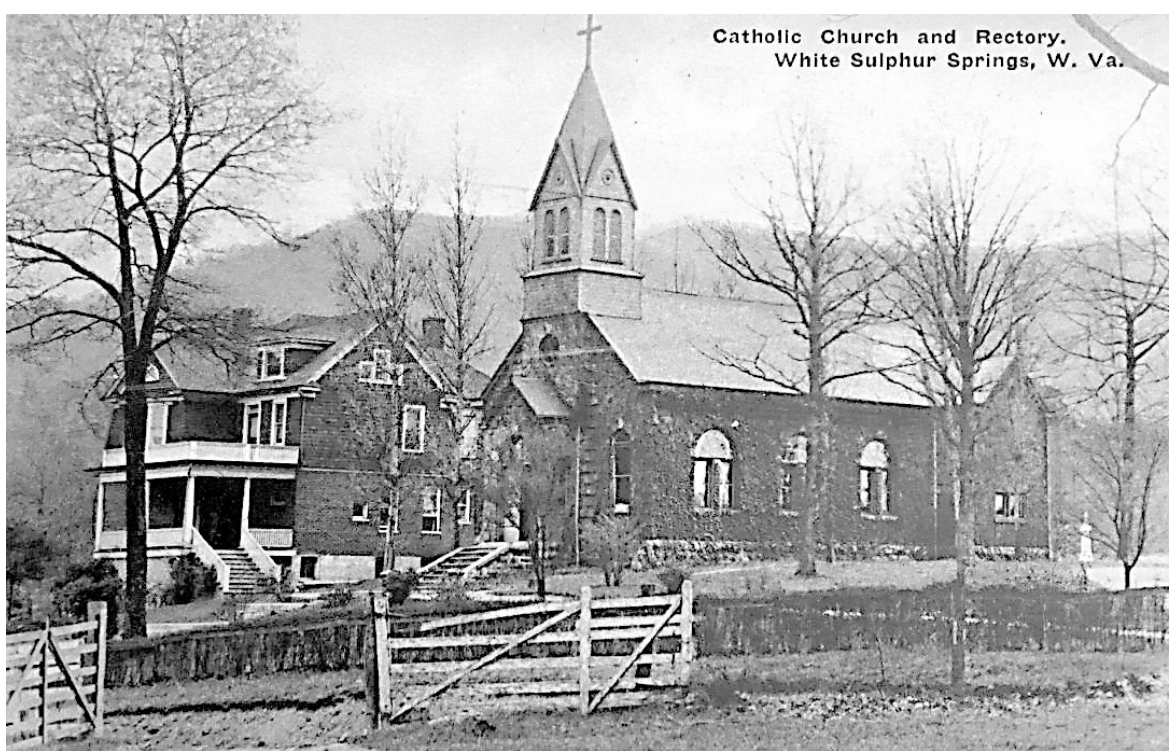
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\$10 Each

Tilapia, Cole Slaw, Scalloped Potatoes, Hard Roll, Dessert, Bottled Water, Sauces, Butter, Utensil Package, Rough Map Of White Sulphur Springs – Picnic Tables Available –

Knights Of Columbus

# A Look Back



Catholic Church and Rectory, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

By William "Skip" Deegans

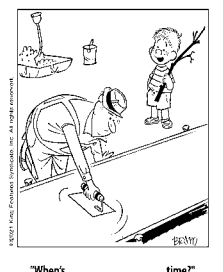
This week's hand-colored photo of the old Catholic Church and rectory in White Sulphur Springs is from a 1924 post card. The contemporary St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church was built in 1959-1960 at a cost of \$225,000. The new church was built with a seating capacity of 256 and included a crying room for babies and their parents. The church was dedicated on November 16, 1960 and blessed by Archbishop John J. Swint. A celebratory ban-

quet in The Greenbrier's Mural Room followed.

Bishop Swint (1879-1962), a native of Pickens, WV, was known as "God's Bricklayer." During his tenure as Bishop, 100 churches, 5 hospitals, 43 elementary and secondary schools, one college, and one preparatory seminary were founded. Swint drew national attention in 1948 when he threatened a contestant in the Miss West Virginia beauty contest with excommunication if she did not drop out. She refused and was

indeed excommunicated. Swint considered beauty pageants to be "immoral, indecent exposure, and totally pagan." The Miss American Beauty Pageant pushed back and said its beauty pageant was "not based on nakedness, but on intelligence, talent, charm, good breeding and other factors that make up the typical American girl."

Sources: Beckley Post-Herald, Hinton Daily News, The Leader (Hinton), WV Encyclopedia.



### SCRAMBLERS

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

Distant METEOR \_\_\_\_\_  
Truly QUIET \_\_\_\_\_  
Shiny SAINT \_\_\_\_\_  
Edge FINGER \_\_\_\_\_

When's \_\_\_\_\_ time?  
TODAY'S WORD \_\_\_\_\_

### Relief

June 5, 2020. The maturity date is simply the date when the loan is due.

There are two types of PPP loans: first draw and second draw. Businesses that haven't received a PPP loan before will apply for a first draw loan. Cer-

tain businesses that previously received a PPP loan are now eligible to apply for the Second Draw.

For First Draw, you may qualify as a sole proprietor, independent contractor, or self-employed; a small business according to SBA's size standards; certain 501(c) nonprofit organizations, 501(c)(19) veterans' organizations, or tribal business concerns; or any business with a North American Industry Classification (NAICS)

beginning with "72" (Accommodations and Food Services) with more than one physical location and employing fewer than 500 per location. A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP loan, if the borrower previously received a First Draw and will or has used the full amount for only authorized uses; has no more than 300 employees; and can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts (all revenue in any

cont. from Page 7

form received or accrued) between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

While the SBA oversees the program, decisions on whom to lend to and when to submit paperwork is in the hands of approved PPP lenders as prescribed by Congress. The Paycheck Protection Program ends May 31, 2021 or until funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

You can first reach out to the lender you do business with to see if they are a guaranteed SBA lender making PPP loans. If they aren't, don't worry, SBA Lender Match can help connect you with a lender. You can also view all lenders near you on a map.

Hopefully, this cleared up many of your questions, but remember you're not alone in this journey. The SBA and the SBA resource partners are here to help. Sign up for the SBA email updates at [www.sba.gov/updates](http://www.sba.gov/updates). These emails will give subscribers helpful information and access to SBA West Virginia's free training webinars and the latest SBA information as it is released. Visit [www.sba.gov/wv](http://www.sba.gov/wv) for a full list of the trainings including detailed training on applying for a PPP loan and apply for PPP forgiveness. You can contact our office at [vvinfo@sba.gov](mailto:vvinfo@sba.gov).

If you need one-on-one counseling the SBA resource partners are ready to assist. Their business coaching services are free and confidential. Visit [sba.gov/localassistance](http://sba.gov/localassistance), enter your zip code and find the resource partner nearest you. You can also contact the WV Small Business Development Center directly at 888-WVA-SB-DC, WV Women's Business Center at 304-825-5000, and SCORE at 304-347-5463.

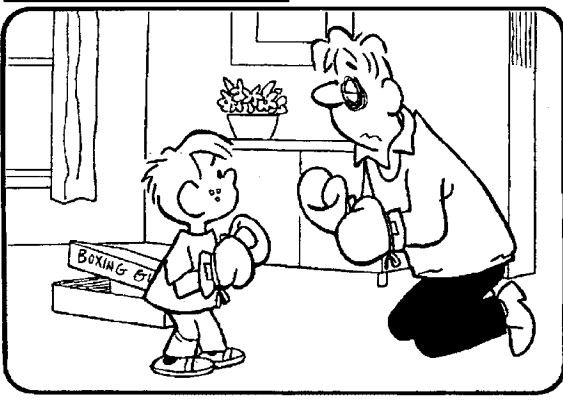
## Super Crossword HIT SINGLES

**ACROSS**  
1 Insurance giant  
6 Italian side dish  
13 Govt. media watchdog  
16 Once lived  
19 Cheek makeup  
20 Put out of memory  
21 "Impressive!"  
22 Skiing peak  
23 "Glamorous" singer who's a member of the nobility?  
25 Dodgy  
27 Not disproven  
28 "This Old House" airer  
30 Hot and heavy  
31 Size above med.  
32 Kind of camera, for short  
33 "Raise Your Glass" singer being scandalous?  
36 Cheese working as a variety  
38 With 82-Across, Tour de France, e.g.

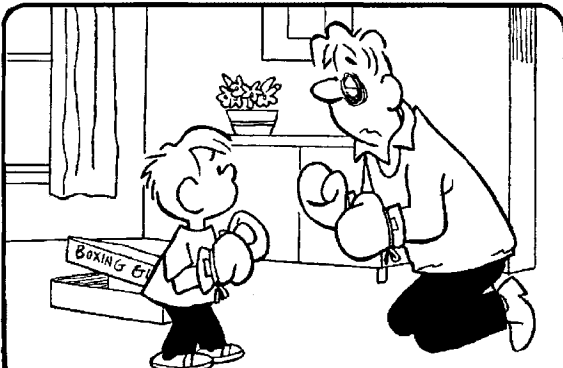
**DOWN**  
39 Resident doctor  
40 "Kiss From a Rose" singer  
44 Inits. on an ambulance  
45 — Romeo  
48 "Marat/Sade" playwright  
49 With 35-Down, short, easy  
50 Cup edge  
51 Lowly  
53 Hostelry  
54 Tilted text: Abbr.  
56 "Material Girl" singer of high birth?  
58 "— chance!"  
59 Neither's partner  
60 Bit of dust  
61 Galena, e.g.  
62 Ending for peer  
63 "Every Breath You Take" singer  
68 — -TURN (traffic sign)  
71 Suffix with mountain  
72 Writer Haley  
73 Clutch sitter  
74 Moby Dick's pursuer  
78 "Have You Ever?" singer doing commercials for Mac computers?  
81 Brazilian soccer great  
82 See 38-Across  
83 Make an exit  
84 Negatives  
85 In the style of  
86 Readily bent  
87 — -deuce  
88 Needle hole  
89 "Yeah!" singer as a deacon?  
92 Cheese variety  
95 Co. leaders  
96 Cry of pain  
97 "Hot in Herre" singer on edge?  
100 Vehicle navig. aid  
101 Bar bill  
104 UFO pilots  
105 Outer: Prefix  
106 Decided by ballot  
109 Deviate  
111 "You Were Meant for Me" singer whom everyone treasures?  
114 "Sort of" suffix  
115 Sharp bark  
116 Most ethereal  
117 Popular font  
118 No longer active: Abbr.  
119 Ocean  
120 Frightful flies  
121 Shabby  
124 "Wake Up Little —"  
126 Hitter of high notes  
129 Revealing, as a bikini  
133 Dial or Coast  
134 Actor Linden  
135 See 49-Across  
136 Africa's Guinea —  
137 ER workers  
138 Not fake  
140 Bed size  
141 Nevada city  
142 "— I a stinker?"  
143 Ringo who was knighted  
144 Downy duck  
146 Air blowers  
147 "Ah, me!"  
150 Kind of paint  
151 Nautical  
152 Shangi-la actress  
154 Seeing red?  
155 "— is human ..."  
156 — -dovey  
157 Super 8, say  
160 Sculpt  
164 At no time, to bards  
165 Lake craft  
166 Crop off  
167 Too gaudy  
168 Not a thing  
169 Big oil gp.  
170 Northeast, on a map  
175 Doth own  
176 It's a pain  
177 Lager, e.g.  
179 Time between flights  
180 "Do I have a volunteer?"  
181 In addition  
185 "Hey, sailor!"  
186 Filmmaker Jean- — Godard  
188 Nav. rank  
189 Cartoon pic  
190 Cowardly evasions  
191 Shucks  
193 Fiscal sums  
194 Oz resident  
195 Leachman of "Phyllis"  
197 Lowest point  
198 "Beloved" actress Kimberly Yank in Europe, say  
199 Yank in Europe, say  
200 Skein bird  
201 "Namely ..."  
202 Really got to  
203 Tummy  
206 Connections  
207 Open a bit  
208 Lynn or Miles  
210 Hot tub site  
212 Afore  
213 Op. — (kin of "ibid.")

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Curtain is wider. 2. Flower is missing. 3. Frame is smaller. 4. Freckles are missing. 5. Pants are different. 6. Flowerpot is different.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# SCHOOL

## Communities In Schools of Gbr. County receives United Way of Greenbrier Valley Grant Award

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County is the proud recipient of the UWGBV's 2021 grant award.

The \$9,000 award will assist in the continuation of free services CISGC provides to Greenbrier County's at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Last year, nearly 4,400 students benefited from services CISGC provided county-wide.

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County is a 501(c)3 and relies on

the generosity and support of foundations and community members. CISGC could not carry out our mission "to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life" without partnerships such as this.

For more information about CISGC, please call 304-661-1018, email [director@cisgc.org](mailto:director@cisgc.org) or visit [www.cisgc.org](http://www.cisgc.org). You can also stay up-to-date through our Facebook page.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

When is Earth Day this year?

*Forgetful*

**Dear Forgetful,**

Earth Day this year is Thursday, Apr. 22. First held in 1970, this year will be the 51st Earth Day. Worldwide, it is estimated that there will be over a billion people participating in the largest secular observance in the world! Everyone can participate in Earth Day by just changing a few shopping habits. For example, by not using single-use plastic bags, buying plastic free alternatives, supporting local businesses or companies that ship plastic-free and supporting those companies that are working towards becoming carbon neutral. Earth Day is a good time to get your name off the mailing lists for all those unwanted pieces of mail. Over 100 million trees are cut down each year to produce junk mail, including catalogs. Opt-out is a term used to describe the desire to no longer receive unwanted mail from companies. The website, <https://www.wikihow.com/Get-off-Mailing-Lists>, lists all the ways you can get of mailing lists, including the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) or Mail Preference Service.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

What are boxes like cereal boxes considered when it comes to recycling? I know that they aren't considered cardboard.

*Need to Know*

**Dear Need to Know,**

Cereal boxes actually are considered to be cardboard. Check the inside of your cereal box. If it looks like cardboard, it recycles with cardboard.



**Dear Recycle Lady,**

I was looking for a place to recycle toys when I came across the LEGO recycle program at [lego.com/replay](http://lego.com/replay). They not only will donate your LEGO bricks to kids, they will send you a free shipping label.

*Grandma*

**Dear Grandma,**

Congratulations on finding such a great website. The LEGO recycle service is called LEGO Replay. They not only will send a free shipping label, they also will wash, sort and donate your old LEGO bricks to charities that work with children. According to their website, they have recycled 300,000 pounds of donated LEGO bricks to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and Teach for America. What a wonderful way to reuse the LEGOs your kids and grandkids loved! And, you are giving other kids a chance to learn by playing. Visit [lego.com/replay](http://lego.com/replay) for more information and a free shipping label when you are ready to donate.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com](mailto:recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

## What's your summer job? Dr. Seuss, Bananas and Painting with Energy Express

**By Andi Hoover,  
WVU Extension Agent**

What does Dr. Seuss, bananas, and painting have in common? Summer fun at Energy Express! Greenbrier County has four Energy Express sites each summer as a reading program for children. The program is offered at Alderson, Frankford, White Sulphur Springs, and Rainelle. Energy Express is not only a reading and art program, but offers children two nutritious meals a day and plenty of recreational fun.

If you are 18 or older and interested in working with children, apply now for the Energy Express program. Mentors work with children in a classroom setting providing reading, art, drama and recreational activities. Each site will also hire a Community Coordinator, who recruits volunteers and keeps the community updated on the great things that happen at Energy Express.

The six-week reading and nutrition helps children entering Kindergarten-3rd grade overcome the "summer slide" that occurs when youths fall behind academically during the summers in between school years. Child applications for the program will be distributed to the elementary schools in early May, or contact the WVU Extension office 304-647-7408.

If you want to make a difference in a child's life, learn what it is like to be a teacher and serve your community, apply to serve at Energy Express this summer! Mentors or Community Coordinators apply online at <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/youth-education/energy-express/get-involved>. You must be 18 years of age by June 10, 2021 to apply. Contact the Greenbrier County WVU Extension office at 304 647-7408 or email [andrea.hoover@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:andrea.hoover@mail.wvu.edu) for more information.

## Volleyball 4 Autism raises \$5,500 for The Un-Prescription

Students in New River Community and Technical College's Browning Social Services Club raised \$5,500 for The Un-Prescription through the Volleyball 4 Autism fundraiser on Saturday, April 10.

"Our goal for the 2021 event was to raise \$4,000, and we are ecstatic that we were able to surpass that goal, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic," said New River CTC Assistant Professor of Social Services Dr. Kelli White. "We want to thank Memorial Baptist Church for the use of their gym, all of the businesses who sponsored the event and donated items for the silent auction, the volunteers who helped to bring everything together, the teams who played and all of those who came out on Saturday to support the event."

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

New River CTC's associate degree in social services prepares graduates for direct services positions and to continue their education. The program is one of more than 40 New River CTC programs that qualify for free tuition through the WV Invests Grant. Applications for the program are now being accepted for fall 2021.

Autism Health and the non-profit, The Un-Prescription, have helped hundreds of families by providing natural approaches to treat underlying medical problems that can cause difficult behaviors and aggression, sleep problems, constipation, delayed language and poor social skills. The center, based in Beckley, currently serves patients from 16 states, but funds raised through Volleyball 4 Autism help West Virginia families.

For information on admissions and programs offered at New River CTC, visit [www.newriver.edu](http://www.newriver.edu), email [admissions@newriver.edu](mailto:admissions@newriver.edu) or call 866-349-3739.

### NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:

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Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center  
Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick  
Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy  
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center • Greenbrier Valley Theatre  
Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital • The Heart Center-Thomas W. vonDohlen, M.D.  
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# Vaccination clinics succeed in Greenbrier County, but organizers urge continued precautions due to variants

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier County Health Department and COVID-19 Task Force are both celebrating and cautious of the current state of the pandemic. The department has hosted ample large-scale vaccination clinics, getting shots in arms to prevent the further spread of the disease. However, the arrival of new variants of the virus in Greenbrier County has health-care providers worried and urging caution.

"We are well over 20,000 [people in Greenbrier County vaccinated]," explained Dr. Bridgett Morrison, health officer for the Health Department. "That's not just what the health department has done, that's all of our partnered community members. ... We have vaccinated anywhere between 800 and 1,300 people during these vaccination clinics."

The clinics have helped get the first shot to over half of Greenbrier County already. The process can often take under an hour for those getting vaccinated, beginning with arriving on the fairgrounds, to getting the shot, sitting through the 15 minute waiting period, then going on with the day.

"We've gotten a lot of exceptional compliments from people who have participated and came through to get their vaccine," Morrison said. "Our biggest obstacle so far has really been the weather. ... There have been a few times with the weather where we couldn't have all the volunteers there, but it's not been hard to find them. We've been very blessed to have all the volunteers. Quite frankly, we have been very successful and we're starting to wind down with them."

Kayla McCoy of the Greater Greenbrier Long Term Recovery Committee is coordinating volunteers at the clinics. She began after the health department had "already completed six or seven of them" while each of the 15 full-time health department staff members did "the work of four people trying to make these large-scale clinics happen."

"At first ... I was incredibly overwhelmed by the scope of the operation," McCoy said. "Taking into consideration that the last time I saw that many people in one room was when the Long Term Recovery Committee was assisting Greenbrier County Schools with their nutrition program [in March 2020], so it's been almost a year since I've been in a room with more than maybe four or five people. I was absolutely in awe of them, completely in awe of every single person who works [at the health department] who



somehow managed to build this up into something that can vaccinate 1,000 people in a single day."

McCoy explained the clinic's mood is very different to other crises the Long Term Recovery Committee has helped manage.

"This isn't the first time I've coordinated a lot of volunteers in a crisis," McCoy said. "The big difference here is that normally people aren't happy to see me. They come in for help or they come in for cleaning supplies, they've just experienced a devastating loss, their home is flooded. This is completely the opposite, people who come in to receive their vaccines are so excited to be there. They are personable, interacting with volunteers in a way that is rejuvenating. ... I knew we were doing it correctly and I knew we were doing it in a way our community could be proud of when people started finishing their post-vaccine observation period and people would walk over to my table and say 'hi, I want to come help you, where do I sign up?'"

Although the numbers might be looking up, the pandemic is still far from over. Since COVID-19 emerged, killing over half a million people in the United States alone, the virus has mutated and evolved in several places. Although often these mutations are harmless, some can become more lethal, more contagious, or both. Two examples can be found in strains believed to have mutated in the United Kingdom and

South Africa.

"We know the South African variant is here in Greenbrier County too," Morrison said. "We have to continue to do what we've been saying to do for a year now - social distancing, the frequent handwashing, continuing to wear the masks, and being vigilant. We know it's here, we know it's more contagious, more easily caught than the other variants, and we know the vaccine helps."

"We can celebrate these successes and we can recognize the incredible work and we are hopefully nearing the point where we can put the large-scale efforts and relief behind us, but we can't let our guard down," McCoy said. "This is still a communicable disease, there are still variants popping up, there will continue to be variants popping up. The UK Variant is here right now, most of those cases are in children. We need to continue to wear masks, maintaining social distancing as best as possible."

Morrison also noted a number of younger individuals that are eligible did not want to be vaccinated, but the health department has reached out to the Greenbrier County Board of Education to push back on potential misinformation about the vaccine.

"It's a relief to know there are so many in our county that are vaccinated, but it's still scary because we're seeing a surge of cases," Morrison said. "We are encountering people that don't want to be vaccinated for vari-

ous reasons, and most of them say it's no big deal or 'I'm worried because it's an experimental vaccine.' ...The mRNA vaccine is new, but the technology behind it, the science behind it, has been out for twenty years. ... It's wonderful to be in the position that we're in ... but we're still fearful because of the rise in cases."

McCoy also pointed to the Greater Greenbrier COVID-19 Task Force formed shortly before the pandemic began last year. Led by Senator Stephen Baldwin, who regularly publishes summaries from their meetings to social media, the Task Force has played a large role in the local pandemic response.

"Establishing that Task Force is probably the best thing we could have done for our community," McCoy said. "We knew it needed to be done, we had no way of knowing the role it would play moving forward. ... Of course, [we should thank] the State Fair of West Virginia. There are communities across the state that would be able to rally the way we have and pull

something like this off on this scale, but they don't have the facilities or the infrastructure. ... Radio Greenbrier for giving us a radio station so we can call people into the building, that's genius. That's amazing. That Task Force is the reason we are able to identify and leverage these community resources."

McCoy also thanked Jennifer Mason for coordinating food for the volunteers, including from The Greenbrier, Amy's Market, Road Hogs, and The Corner Market, saying "it's been good, wholesome, delicious meals and I'm very grateful we don't have to worry about any of that."

Even with the clinics beginning to wind down, Morrison also emphasized that everyone should be vaccinated and encouraged those still waiting to reach out.

"There's no excuse - if you want the vaccine, you should be able to get it in a week. Call the health department, we'll get it done. Call any of the local pharmacies, Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Rainelle Medical Center. They all have the vaccine."

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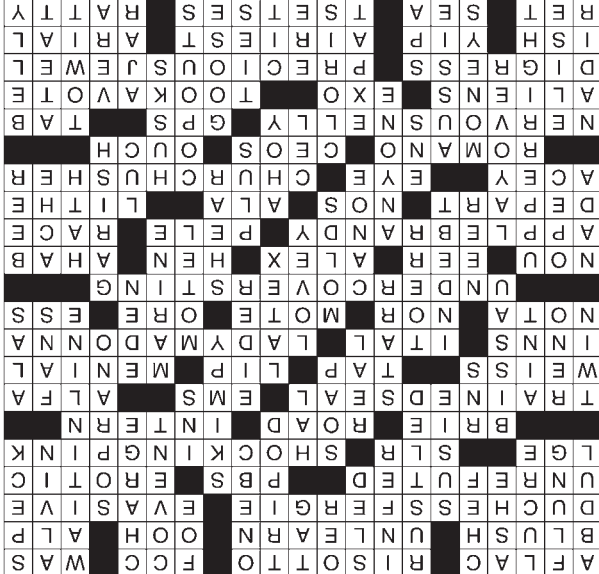
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# PUZZLE ANSWERS

## SCRAMBLERS

solution  
1. Remote 2. Quite;  
3. Satin; 4. Fringe  
Today's Word  
QUITTING



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