

# Mountain messenger

May 15, 2021

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

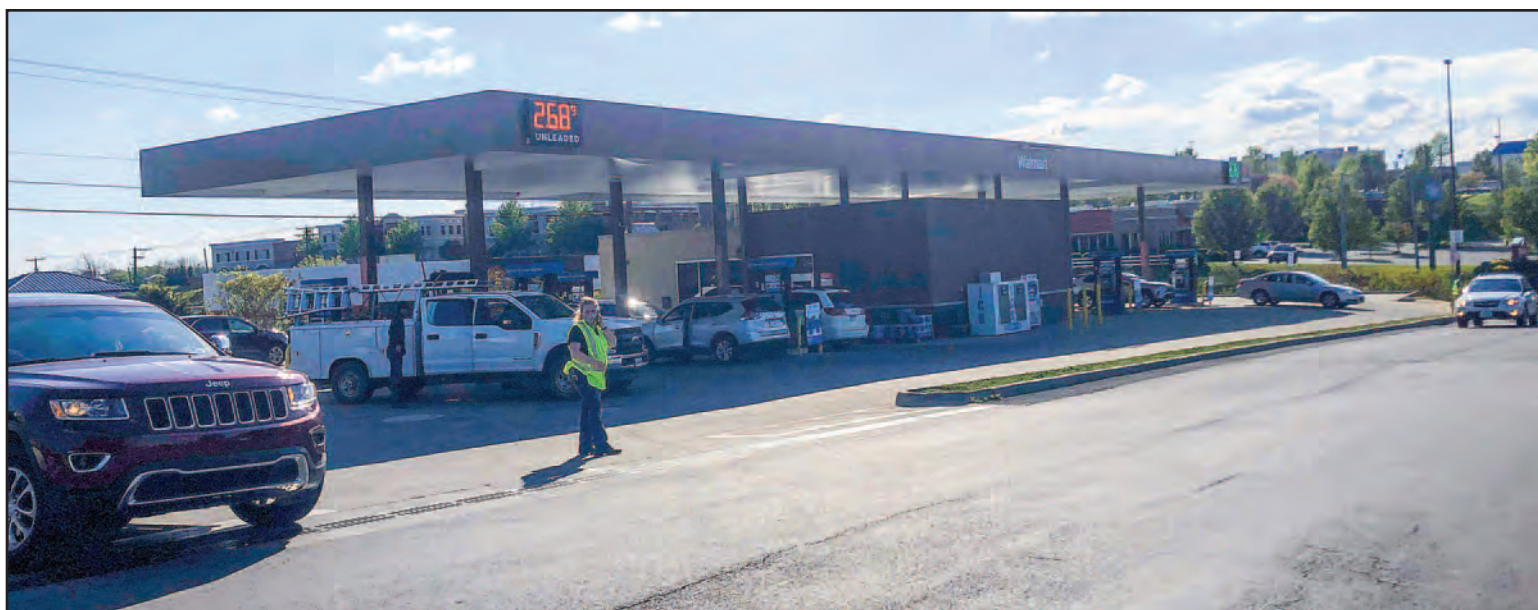
## Panic sales cause fuel outages

By Sarah Richardson

Excessive fuel purchasing caused many local stations across the Greenbrier Valley to run out of gas on Tuesday, May 11.

Long lines could be found across the county,

with the Shell located north of 219 in Lewisburg closing early Tuesday due to lack of fuel, and others quickly falling suit. The Shell in White Sulphur Springs, Wal-Mart gas in Lewisburg, the Lewisburg Go-Mart, the Alta Station, and more found themselves without fuel by the



Long lines at the pump were spotted across the Greenbrier Valley on Tuesday

end of the day. However, nearly all were able to reopen upon receiving their next delivery of gas on Wednesday or Thursday.

Senator Stephen Baldwin encouraged everyone to “take a deep breath” and specified that “The only way

we will experience gas shortages is if we cause them. If that happens, as it did today [Tuesday, May 11], local stations will be restocked in short order. But lines will form and prices will go up due to the unnecessary demand we create.” He added that essential employees

See “Long Lines” Page 4

## Ronceverte mayoral debate

Water, urban deer hunt, empty storefronts headline debate

By Bobby Bordelon

The four Ronceverte mayoral candidates gathered in the Clifford Community & Recreation Center on Monday, May 10, answering questions on how each would handle the various issues the city is facing, ranging from water shut offs and high bills, empty storefronts, and the Island Park. Mark Mengel, Eric Mercer, Barbara Morgan, and Deena Pack each provided their own perspective on how to move forward, with Pack and Morgan reflecting on their record in city government.

A prime focus of the night was the ongoing water improvement project, with near complete agreement from the candidates that the project had to be completed before anything could be changed about the water shutoffs or water bills. Due to the current issues with the Ronceverte water system as the city works to replace lines, the first question concerned the ongoing work. What can be done?

Morgan noted the lines were in the shape they were in because they were not previously taken care of - some

See “Ronceverte Debate” Page 2



The candidates answered questions presented by the public one at a time, each looking to help Ronceverte to move forward in a different way. Pictured: Barbara Morgan (left), Deena Pack, Eric Mercer, and Mark Mengel

## Inclusive park upgrades planned

By Bobby Bordelon

For Ashley Guet’s daughter, Winter, finding ways to communicate with kids her age can be difficult. The nine-year-old is mostly nonverbal, one of the ways autism presents itself in her life. Not being able to speak often brings complications when you’re trying to play with the other kids in Island Park, her favorite place to play. Despite this, Winter has managed on her own to an extent.

“Two summers ago, at the water mister,” Guet set the scene. “It was right after Winter discovered it, she’s a water baby and loves that thing. She was playing on it and another little girl was playing on it, and a third little girl came over. Not intentionally and not maliciously, they were edging Winter out and she was looking at me. I thought I was going to have to step

in, but Winter held her hand and put it out. Then it finally clicked to the little girl what Winter wanted. They just all had a blast and it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen because it was the first time Winter communicated on her own without me. ... I cried all the way home, I cried when I called my husband at work to tell him about it. She managed on her own to help these girls understand what she wanted. Once they realized she wasn’t just being rude by not talking, they realized she couldn’t talk, they accepted her and took her right in.”

Communication is key, and without being able to speak, how could Winter more directly communicate with the kids and adults around her, particularly when the device Guet uses does not have

See “Island Park” Page 2



Two nonverbal boards could soon be coming to Island Park, thanks to the efforts of a small team and the city. Pictured: Amy Yates (left), Deena Pack, and Ashley Guet

## Commission approves grants keeping the county running and progressing

By Bobby Bordelon

The Greenbrier County Commission approved a range of funding requests, projects, and proposals on Tuesday, May 11, including funding for the courthouse expansion, broadband efforts, Mountain Transit Authority, the Greenbrier Humane Society, and more.

Similar to the Tuesday, April 13, meeting, the commission approved both necessary documentation for the \$15 million Greenbrier County Courthouse expansion project and a civilian broadband council. While the courthouse expansion was approved unanimously, Commissioner Mike McClung was the sole no vote to the broadband council’s approval 2-1.

A number of prominent Greenbrier County organizations are represented by the broadband council, having sprung out of the Greater Greenbrier County COVID-19 Task Force. This includes 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 4-H Extension office, EDC, Meadow River Valley Association, Countrymen Communications, the Greenbrier Valley Airport, and several public representatives.

“We didn’t have any interest in recreating the wheel, you all created a good

See “Grants” Page 3

## Rainelle passes first read of ‘zero tolerance’ drug paraphernalia ordinance

By Bobby Bordelon

After consideration at the previous Rainelle Town Council, the councilmembers have agreed to move forward with a zero tolerance ban on drug paraphernalia in Rainelle on Monday, May 10. The ordinance would also bring an end to Harm Reduction clinics in Rainelle sponsored by the Greenbrier County Health Department and Seneca Health Services.

The ordinance would make it “unlawful” for anyone to “have in their possession, any items designed or marketed for the use of controlled substances,” such as:

- Kits for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, or growing or harvesting any species of plant which is a controlled substance or from which a controlled substance can be derived.
- Kits for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, processing, or preparing controlled substances.

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## Carnegie Hall names Cathy Rennard CEO

The Board of Carnegie Hall, Inc. in Lewisburg has named Cathy Rennard as President/CEO effective May 10. Rennard succeeds Sara Crickenger, who has accepted a position at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. The two have been working closely together to facilitate a seamless transition of leadership.



**Cathy Rennard, new President/CEO of Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg**

"I am happy to welcome Cathy Rennard to the Carnegie family," said Jim Umberger, chair of the Hall's board of directors. "She brings a new, vibrant energy to the Hall, continuing our mission of 'Bringing the Arts to Life!'"

Rennard, who holds a bachelor of science degree from Liberty University, brings a comprehensive background of leadership, program development, and staff and volunteer management honed during her tenure as a member of the executive leadership team of Rhema Christian Center, General Manager of Power 95.3 Heart Healthy Radio, and owner of Designer Selections, Inc. and Cathy Rennard Interiors. Since 2016, Rennard has served West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WV VOAD) in spearheading disaster response and recovery from the historic "Thousand Year Flood" with oversight of case management, construction, volunteer management, data, and reporting. Most recently Rennard has been engaged in statewide pandemic response, grants management, and public relations as WV VOAD's Outreach Director.

The Greenbrier County native is an avid participant in community service and has served on multiple boards including the Greater Greenbrier Long Term Recovery Committee as Case Management Chair, Faith Broadcasting Corporation as Secretary/Treasurer, Main Street White Sulphur Springs as Vice President and is a Past President of the Shepherd Center of Greenbrier Valley. Rennard is active in the White Sulphur Springs chapter of Rotary International.

"While it has been a distinct privilege to serve the families of West Virginia in as they recover from disasters and a world-wide pandemic, the Greenbrier Valley is home, and I am excited to have the opportunity to return and build upon the proud tradition of Carnegie Hall," said Rennard. "I have always been an advocate for the arts and its significant place in enhancing education and enriching life in general. At this unprecedented time, nearly post-pandemic, I see tremendous potential for the arts as a vehicle in healing the stresses and strains people have experienced in the last year. I am eager to get started and be a part of delivering just that to the community!"

Carnegie Hall is a not-for-profit regional arts and education center located in historic Lewisburg, WV. Built in 1902 with funds donated by Andrew Carnegie, the Hall served as a classroom space for the Greenbrier College for Women until the college closed in 1972. In 1983, Carnegie Hall, Inc. was established to preserve the Hall and to provide arts and education programs serving the citizens of southern West Virginia. To learn more about the exciting programs offered by Carnegie Hall and learn how you can help Bring the Arts to Life, visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org).

e-mail news stories to  
[news@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:news@mountainmessenger.com)

## New signs installed along River Trail near Marlinton

By Sarah Richardson

In a partnership between the West Virginia State Parks service, the Greenbrier River Trail Association (GRTA), and the USDA Forest Service, a series of educational signs have been installed centering near Marlinton and the northern part of the Greenbrier River Trail. These signs are educational and cover a variety of topics for trailgoers.

The Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau said, "Making connections to surrounding communities and encouraging trail users to visit these communities is another important aspect of the signage project. In the coming months, wayfinding signs created by the State Parks sign shop will be installed along the trail to direct visitors to the amenities that can be found in Cass, Marlinton, and Seebert."

In total, 10 signs will be installed over this year.

However, this project is different than another signage project aimed to bring informational signs to the entirety of the river trail. GRTA Secretary Robert Gronan explained, "The signs installed near Marlinton are not part of the same project," and specified that the trail association is still in the design phase for the larger sign project. He estimates installation will begin in 2022 from Caldwell to Cass.

"We were awarded a \$40,000 grant to install interpretive signs on the whole trail," he said. "They will have a more general educational focus, including topics like the railway, the river, the lumber industry, and more." Other sections of trail will get signs discussing historical markers and former commercial operations.

## Ronceverte Debate

of the pipe in the ground is over 100 years old and is 50 years past its replacement date. Acknowledging the frustrations of the city, Pack said the water system improvement project was one of the first votes on City Council. The city's current water loss is huge, but not only will the project reduce this, it will add more than 50 shut off valves, giving city workers more specific control over where water is shut off in comparison to the one valve they have now.

Mercer applauded city  
See "Ronceverte Debate"  
Page 5



**Barbara Morgan (2nd from left), Deena Pack, Eric Mercer, and Mark Mengel participate in debate**

## Island Park

the internet it requires to work? Fortunately, a solution existed.

"Last year I was on Facebook and I ran across an article about a nonverbal communication board someone put up in some other state, I don't remember where it was, at an Elementary School. I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen. I realized this wasn't something new, this was something we hadn't caught onto yet."

Guet took the idea to Ronceverte Elementary School, looking to get a board installed in the school's playground, and was surprised to receive as much support as she did. Ronceverte Elementary School Principal Stuart, the Parent Teacher Organization, each "jumped right on in."

Despite this momentum, the same thing that interrupted everyone's lives also interrupted the project.

"Then COVID happened," Guet said. "Everything just kind of stopped. I had almost given up on it until I talked to Deena just a few weeks, few months, ago."

City Recorder Deena Pack had previously talked to Guet about the board during PTO meetings. The recent meeting between the two kickstarted the project again.

The boards were initially expected to be made by JCT Vinyl, but when the business sold, becoming River City Tees, its future was left uncertain. Pack's connection between Tim Doolan of River City Tees and Guet restarted the project, with Doolan agreeing to make them.

"I say Timmy but apparently now that he's an adult he goes by Tim," joked Pack. "I was over there and casually mentioned Ashley had this idea and she had been working with the previous owners. He hadn't been told anything. ... He was on board immediately too. [A family member of his] has Asbergers as well, so this project is special to him. Knowing that kids on the spectrum will be able to communicate better on the playground. He got a quote back to me."

Next, the project was brought to the Ronceverte Parks and Recreation Committee, where Pack presented the project. On the same day, Guet prepared to explain the boards to City Council. Fortunately, Pack's pitch to Parks and Recreation was successful enough for the project to be approved before Guet could speak.

"I thought they weren't going to do it," Guet said. "I thought 'they're going to laugh me right out of that building.' Then I started talking and [Mayor David Smith] goes 'they already approved it.' Then Kathy King asked how much they cost and said they could get additional funds and they could get another one. By the time I walked out of that building I was crying. We could end up with four of these, when all I wanted was one. I think it's gonna be a great project. Then, the very next day, Senator Baldwin reached out to me on Facebook

Continued from Front Page

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and said that he was willing to help however he could."

For Pack, the nonverbal boards are just one piece of the city's ongoing efforts to improve Island Park.

"I had been thinking what could we do to improve the Island?" Pack explained. "[City Administrator Pam Mentz] is working to get some wheelchair accessible swings. What started as a Facebook post about 'what can we do to make the Island more inclusive?' led to some comments that tore at your heartstrings. These kids just want to play like any other kids. ... We're also working on replacing the slide. There's a crack. Pam's looking at replacing the whole slide and that's more expensive than what you would think."

Guet hopes these initial boards at Ronceverte Elementary School and Island Park are the beginning of a trend for all of Greenbrier County, giving both kids and adults with autism a chance to speak.

"I would love to see it expand to all local parks because I know more than just my daughter could benefit from this. ... Most kids, when they run into somebody that's their age that doesn't talk, that isn't quite on the same mental development that they are, they don't know [how to act]. I didn't when I was their age. It's going to give children without a voice, a voice. To have a better way to say 'hey, I want to play' or 'I don't like that.' Even for the caregivers, if I don't have her speech device with me, or when they don't have internet, we've got that board."

## PICK OF THE LITTER

### LUTHER

Luther is a male Doberman mix and weighs 66 pounds. He is estimated to be one to two years old.



### JUNIOR

Junior is a male domestic short hair and is approximately one year old.



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

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

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

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

**DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!**



**Trail: Three state park employees including Droop Mountain Park Ranger Sam Parker (center) install a new sign at the Marlinton. The new sign contains information about depo, pictured here. (Photo Robert Gronan)**



# OPINION

## Commentary

### Stay informed and be heard

By Charlotte Lane, chair of the WV PSC

Public participation is an important element in cases before the Public Service Commission. When one of your utility companies requests a change that will affect your service or what you pay for that service, you have a right to know what is at stake and to voice your opinion to the Commission. And we want to hear from you.

I recommend three actions to keep you informed about PSC cases. The first is to sign up to receive notice when documents are filed in the case. On the PSC website: [www.psc.state.wv.us](http://www.psc.state.wv.us), click on Case Subscriptions under the Formal Case Information heading. You will need to create an account that will enable you to track as many cases as you wish. Then log in and follow the prompts to add a subscription. Once you do this you will receive an email update every time a non-restricted document is filed in that case.

Secondly, you should file a comment about the case. On the PSC website under the Inside the PSC heading, click on Submit a Comment. On the next screen select Formal Case and follow the prompts. In the Select a High Profile Case field, choose a case from the drop-down menu or enter the case number. Be sure to include the hyphen; for example: 21-0000. Then type what you want to say regarding the case.

If you prefer, you may send a letter to the Commission fully expressing your concerns or support for a particular case (be sure to reference the utility company and the case number).

Send your letter to:

Public Service Commission of West Virginia  
Office of the Executive Secretary  
201 Brooks Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Finally, you have the option of watching the hearing. Most hearings before the Commission involving large utility companies are live-streamed on our website. Under the Inside the PSC heading, click on Commission



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## Long Lines

Continued from Front Page

and first responders need access to fuel daily, and if gas hoarding continues that places EMS in a precarious position.

When asked if pipeline interruption caused any gas shortages in West Virginia, Traci Nelson, President of the WV Oil Marketers and Grocers Association, said, "Quite frankly, the problem is people going in and buying gas and hoarding gas," rather than supply issues stemming from the Colonial Pipeline.

On Saturday, May 8, the Colonial Pipeline announced they were forced to temporarily halt all operations after they experienced a major cyberattack involving ransomware.

"In response, we proactively took certain systems offline to contain the threat, which has temporarily halted all pipeline operations, and affected some of our IT systems," said Colonial in a press release on May 8.

The Colonial line contains over 5,500 miles of gas pipelines running through 13 states, and it provides nearly half of all fuel for the east coast. This quickly led to a state of emergency being declared in Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia as the states prepared to deal with potential fuel shortages while the issue was resolved.

While West Virginia was not directly impacted, fears over being left without fuel caused many to flock to the pump.

Nelson specified that a majority of West Virginia's gas comes from the Plantation Pipeline, which runs 3,100 miles from Louisiana to Washington, DC. Citing "consumer behavior" and "panic buying" as the reason for any localized fuel outages, Nelson explained that there is no shortage of fuel itself.

On Wednesday, Governor Jim Justice added, "The bulk of our gasoline that comes into the state of West Virginia does not come on the Colonial Pipeline, it comes on the Plantation Pipeline. But we're having some people hoarding gasoline anyway, and we are basically creating our own shortage right now. There is no real shortage of fuel right now in West Virginia, it's simply a transportation logistics problem and that, in essence, creates a shortage."

The Governor went on to announce that, at his request, West Virginia was added to the amended Regional Emergency Declaration by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which will allow easier transportation of fuel to affected areas.

"The best advice that I could possibly give you is to just stay calm," Gov. Justice said. "We are monitoring the situation up one side and down the other. We really are on top of it. We're in decent shape, West Virginia, and we will keep you abreast of the situation. But it's nowhere close to being as serious as a lot of people have

led you to believe."

At 5:10 p.m. Wednesday, after six days of closure, Colonial announced the pipeline had restarted operations. "Following this restart, it will take several days for the product delivery supply chain to return to normal," they explained. "Some markets served by Colonial Pipeline may experience, or continue to experience, intermittent service interruptions during the start-up period. Colonial will move as much gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel as is safely possible and will continue to do so until markets return to normal."

Patrick De Hann, Head of Petroleum Analysis at GasBuddy, said in an update on Thursday morning that as of 8 a.m., 55 percent of gas stations in Virginia were still without fuel, and six percent of stations in West Virginia.

Expert continue to dissuade panic-buying and recommend not buying fuel unless it is necessary, and to give stations time to get caught up after a hectic week of sales.

Drivers are also noticing a rise in fuel costs this month, but GasBuddy experts say this is due to the reopening of the country as COVID-19 vaccinations continue to lead more people to travel.

As the average cost of fuel tops \$3 per gallon for the first time since 2014, De Haan states, "While this is not a milestone anyone wants to celebrate, it's a sign that things are slowly returning to normal. In this case, rising gas prices are a sign Americans are getting back out into the world - attending baseball games, going to concerts, taking a road trip - basically staying anywhere but at home. This summer may see some blockbuster demand for fuel as well, as Americans find it very challenging to travel internationally, leading many to stay in the confines of U.S. borders, boosting some weeks to potentially record gasoline demand."

According to a press release from May 12, "GasBuddy previously prognosticated that gas prices may escalate past the key barrier in its 2021 Fuel Outlook released in January of this year. While many Americans are pointing fingers, they should be pointing at the same factor GasBuddy mentioned months ago: COVID-19 related recovery is pushing things back to normal and leading to rising gasoline demand."

It adds that, "GasBuddy expects summer gas prices not to set records, but settle down to levels more similar to 2018: the national average briefly rising above \$3/gallon but eventually falling back under and remaining in the upper \$2 to low \$3 per gallon range. Should any major refinery issues develop in the midst of the summer travel season, gas prices could become impacted in a large way, especially if the economy continues to see solid recovery and demand for fuels increases."

### OPED piece submission guidelines:

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

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

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

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

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

## Commentary

### Morrisey reaches settlement involving opioid withdrawal drug

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey reached a multistate settlement to resolve allegations that a pharmaceutical company falsely and aggressively marketed and promoted Suboxone, leading to improper use of state Medicaid funds.

The company, Indivior, will provide West Virginia more than \$5.2 million. The state will keep more than \$1.36 million, while the balance will reimburse federal Medicaid programs - a matter consistent with previous Medicaid settlements.

"Marketing a product using false claims - particularly claims regarding safety of a drug - can have dangerous outcomes," Attorney General Morrisey said. "This type of fraud also takes Medicaid resources away from those who need them most. We must never cease in our efforts to root out fraud, waste and abuse."

The settlement resolves allegations that from 2010 to 2015 Indivior promoted the sale and use of Suboxone to physicians that prescribed the drug without legitimate medical purpose and knowingly promoted the sale or use of Suboxone film based on false or misleading claims that it was less susceptible to diversion than Suboxone tablets.

The agreement also resolves allegations that Indivior submitted a petition to federal regulators in September 2012 fraudulently claiming the Suboxone tablet had been discontinued in an attempt to delay generic competitors entering the market.

Nationally, more than two-thirds of Indivior's \$300 million payout will go to the Medicaid programs.

The West Virginia Bureau of Medicaid Services will receive approximately \$583,384 of the state's share.

This is West Virginia's second settlement to resolve Medicaid fraud allegations related to the sale and marketing of Suboxone. The first, announced in late 2019, was valued at \$700 million nationally and resolved allegations against the maker of Suboxone, Reckitt Benckiser Group.

Indivior Inc., formerly a part of Reckitt Benckiser Group, split from Reckitt Benckiser prior to the 2019 settlement.

The West Virginia Medicaid Fraud Control Unit - absorbed by the Attorney General's Office in 2019 - receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling \$1,741,964 for the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$580,654 for FY 2021, is funded by West Virginia.

### Your Opinion Is Valuable

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## Sobriety Checkpoint scheduled in Charmco

The West Virginia State Police will conduct a sobriety checkpoint at U.S. Rt. 60 and WV Rt. 20 in the Charmco area on Friday, May 21. The checkpoint will be in operation between 6 p.m. and Midnight on Friday. The purpose of the checkpoint is to detect and deter impaired drivers, as well as to educate the public about the dangers of driving an automobile while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

The State Police urge the motoring public to assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to stop driving under the influence incidents by reporting impaired drivers.

# Ronceverte Debate

workers and noted his family was affected by the water outages. In addition, he looked to support those without water by getting in touch with Wal-Mart and Pepsi to provide it. Mangle referenced the history of the project, agreeing with all three candidates.

“The city is addressing a problem that should have been touched 50 years ago,” said Mengel. “It’s something we have to live with until the project is done.”

How and if the mayor can lower water and sewer rates was also addressed, with Pack pointing out that the Public Service Commission holds a lot of power over rates in the city. Once the water loss is under control and the expenses for water goes down, the commission could grant residents relief from the high bills. Mercer pointed to an 88 year old woman he knew that was getting a \$200 water bill while living on her own, and pushed for the mayor and City Council to make the rate changes. Mengel, echoing Pack, noted the city had to have all operating costs, which is the reason for the current bill, including the losses, repairs, and more. Morgan agreed, stating that if it had been worked on before, it would not be a problem for the current administration to fix.

Next, the questions asked each candidate how they would make marginalized communities feel at home in the city. Mercer stated he would like to reach out to them and welcome them on behalf of the city, explaining the response he got from the city is part of why he chose to stay. Mengel already considers Ronceverte to be a welcoming community with a feeling of family, open to all. Morgan noted she wants to represent all of Ronceverte and she wouldn’t do differently tomorrow as she would today. Pack highlighted the importance of representation, of kids being

able to see people like them working in the city. She pointed to a local hotel, citing its role in desegregating the county, and would like to see more types of people get involved.

How to best use the Greenbrier River and Island Park was considered next, each candidate asked how they plan to use the river access to the city’s advantage. Mengel began, stating that they could promote the park and the riverfront, “it’s one of the best parks around,” but didn’t see the city making money directly off of it. Morgan pointed to the Riders of the Flood show, the River Festival, and sports events as ways for the city to profit and grow. Pack, after speaking with local organizers, thinks the amphitheater is drastically underutilized, and could be the home of a music festival or have a movie night over the river. If they can get people down there, the local businesses could use that to their advantage. Mercer asked why the concession stand was not open more often, and highlighted a program from Greenbrier East High School for graduation credits to staff it. He also supported reopening the pool and bringing in horseshoe and disc golf.

And what does each candidate plan to do to clean up Main Street and Edgar Avenue’s storefronts? Morgan looked back at her record on City Council, noting the buildings that have been torn down, the new streetlights put in. Pack agreed, and pointed both Make It Shine and to local property and business owners for making strides. In addition, Pack said the city is currently working on new ordinances to give it more teeth against dilapidated properties, but were delayed by COVID, keeping away the WVU professor they were working with. Mercer believes the city has “neglected” to use the current code and wants to work with business owners to

get grants for storefront improvements. Mengel noted the empty buildings throughout downtown, citing that as part of the reason they were having a hard time attracting businesses.

The final question dealt with urban deer hunting. For the past two years, urban deer hunting has not been allowed in the city. In 2019 the program was voted down on the recommendation on then Chief J.R. Byers due to the administrative costs compared to the 20 people that used the program. Then in 2020, the program was considered by council, but no motion to bring it back was made.

Mercer joked he would be fine with the program if the hunters would bring him some steaks. He supports the program, noting that he had never hunted with a bow before, and would like to bring it back if the food is used or donated to a food bank. Mengel said he was opposed until a chance encounter before a City Council meeting months ago. After speaking with two urban hunters about the program, his mind was changed and he would be on board, as long as it’s safe. Morgan said she would fight for it because it allows people to feed their families. Pack agreed if its safety could be assured, like it is with the requirements for hunters in Morgantown. She would consider it, she said, after explaining the past two years of the program’s history.

In order to get a feel for each candidate, here are lightly edited versions of each candidates’ introduction:

“I’m so proud to see everyone here,” said Barbara Morgan. “I’ve been in Ronceverte all my life, I’ve been on City Council for years, and I’m running for Mayor because I love Ronceverte. Anything I can do to help Ronceverte I’m going to do. I appreciate all the support I’ve been getting from friends and family and the people of Ronceverte and I’ll do everything I

can for Ronceverte. ... This is a very impressive time for Ronceverte. It’s history really.”

“I’m happy to be here with you all tonight,” said Deena Pack. “First I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event and Ashley Vickers for agreeing to moderate. I’d like to give a special thanks to my husband Jeff and our kids, Nathan and Jayma, and also to my mom, friends, and family who have been nothing but supportive since the moment I decided to run for mayor. Most of all I want to thank the citizens, who have given me the opportunity to serve on the Ronceverte City Council for the past three years. I started as a councilmember and recently I was voted into the position of City Recorder. I have taken my responsibility very seriously and I believe that I have made decisions that were in the best interests of the citizens. As Barbara said, I grew up in Ronceverte and I love the city very much. I want to see only good things. I believe that my record over the past three years shows my commitment to the city, and I believe I’m the right person for the position of mayor because I have proven results. I have a four-part plan to capitalize on the excitement and momentum that’s surrounding Ronceverte right now. I think that if we all work together, that the sky’s the limit. But I would like to say that the Mayor does not serve as a king or queen. The mayor has to work with City Council, the police department, the fire department, city employees, and local nonprofits. We all have to work together and, by doing this, we can achieve great things. I’m very excited to see what happens next.

“I grew up here in Greenbrier County, up here in Ronceverte,” said Eric Mercer. “I went to Ronceverte Elementary and Greenbrier East. In the 90s I served on the roster of the Ron-

ceverte Volunteer Fire Department, where I then left. I moved away to several states, then came back after 15 years of being in Colorado, making a life for myself. My wife, children, and I said hey, let’s go back home to where we can call it home. Being here, I came back, and I love Ronceverte. I see the condition of Ronceverte right now and it’s time for someone to stand up for the people of Ronceverte and make it right. They need to bring Ronceverte back to life, we need to make Ronceverte great again. I’m not trying to be like another politician, but I have a lot of hopes and dreams to bring Ronceverte back to life. We need to work, not only with the city officials, the fire departments, but we also have to have an open ear to our citizens. The citizens have expressed to me, many times, what they would like to see and have been ignored. Now it’s time for someone to stand up for them and represent Ronceverte. Not as a dictator, but as a friend, a companion, and also as a leader to make Ronceverte great again. When we moved back out here, we bought a house on Greenbrier Avenue. It’s a beautiful house, it’s a beautiful neighborhood, and I want Ronceverte to make it.”

“I’d like to thank you all for coming out this evening and showing your interest in what’s going on here,” said Mark Mengel. “I’ve been in Ronceverte for about ten years now, I’ve been involved with the Ronceverte River Festival for the last five. Those of you who know me, and I see some familiar faces, probably have only seen me in a t-shirt, sweatshirt, jeans. I figured I’d dress up tonight to show you that I can, and the reason for that is I believe that the mayor of Ronceverte becomes the face of Ronceverte. The representative for this town. I thank you for the opportunity to do this.”

# Rainelle

- Devices used to increase the potency of any species of plant which is a controlled substance.
- Testing equipment designed for use in identifying or analyzing the strength, effectiveness, or purity of controlled substances.
- Scales and balances used, intended for use, or designed for use in weighing or measuring controlled substances.
- Diluents or adulterants used in cutting controlled substances.
- Segregation skins and sifters designed for use in removing twigs and seed and otherwise cleaning or refining marijuana.
- Blenders, bowls, containers, spoons, mixing devices used, intended for use, or designed for use in compounding controlled substances.
- Capsules, balloons, and other containers marketed for use or designed for use in packaging small quantities of controlled substances.
- Hypodermic syringes, needles, and other objects marketed for use or designed for use for injecting controlled substances into the human body.
- Paper of colorful design with names oriented for use with controlled, dangerous substances. Tobacco oriented paper not specifically designed for use with controlled substances in not covered.
- Types of clips that are used in con-

nection with a controlled substance.

- Roach clips, meaning objects used to hold burning materials such as marijuana cigarettes.
- Miniature cocaine spoons and cocaine vials.
- Bong.

The ordinance also noted that if a court makes part of the ordinance invalid, the rest of the ordinance is valid without the invalid provision.

Acting Mayor Bill Bell voiced opposition to the Harm Reduction clinics, in particular the needle exchange program.

“It does attract people that come to your community, I would say that’s a given,” Bell said. “It enables current drug use, whether or not you agree that it does. It does affect the drug use of the entire community, as a whole. I’d have to think that if you have that many needles out there and that many [40 percent] are not getting returned, it’s increasing use somewhere. ... these are the concerns of the people in our community and we have to listen to them.”

Councilmember and mayoral candidate John Wyatt questioned why Seneca hosts the Harm Reduction programs in Rainelle, rather than opening a clinic directly in the city. He continued on to say the program is looking to the Town of Rainelle to do its job.

“If you’re in that program, you have to

drive to Lewisburg, Beckley, or cross the state line,” Wyatt said. “There’s a whole lot of questions I have about how these programs are run, how they’re taken care of, or where they choose. Why do they choose downtown Rainelle and not downtown Lewisburg or Ronceverte or White Sulphur Springs?”

Recently, Seneca Health Services hosted a Narcan distributions in Rupert, White Sulphur Springs, Alderson, and in Lewisburg.

One guest speaker, nurse and recovery coach Alyssa Marshall, pushed back against this characterization and spoke in favor of the Harm Reduction clinics.

“Everyone has someone in their family that struggles with addiction,” said Marshall. “If you don’t, they may be hiding it very well or are in denial. ... The Harm Reduction program distributes disease prevention material, educational material, they check for HIV, Heitatis A and C.”

Marshall questioned if nurses and other authorized people with these items would be pulled over or face law enforcement action for having the correct equipment for doing their jobs. Bell confirmed this would not be the case.

“Our officers are well trained and I think they would be able to judge if you had someone abusing it,” agreed Councilmember Martha Livesay. “They’re not going to pull over an elderly person or a

nurse, they’re smart enough to know the difference.”

Marshall also touched on how laws like this affect perceptions of people using these items for legitimate purposes.

“Recently I had a young patient whose diabetes was out of control. He ended up in the hospital in a coma. During the conversation, he mentioned he hadn’t been checking his blood sugar. He was embarrassed, he would go out with friends and he didn’t want to check his blood sugar before going out into a restaurant. He said ‘how would you feel if you saw me sitting in a vehicle, giving myself a shot? You wouldn’t know what I was doing, you would automatically think I was living in addiction because I’m a young person.’”

In addition, she pushed back on something Bell allegedly told her in a previous conversation.

“As I was speaking with the mayor, he referred to those living with addiction as dope heads and deadbeats,” Marshall said. “I don’t appreciate that. I’m sorry but I would expect someone elected to officer to serve all the people and be willing to see them all for people, and not judge in any way.”

Wyatt addressed the Harm Reduction program and the people trying to get help for those with addiction.

“I know they are well meaning and wonderful people and have compassion for the addict, as well as I do, but our community,” Wyatt said. “We have to think about our community and figure out how to address these problems. ... Even though we have empathy and sympathy for those that are in addiction, our first line of defense is for the community.”

The first reading of the ordinance was passed unanimously and will be taken up again, with a public hearing, in a future Town Council meeting.

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# CLUB

## Frankford Ruritans recognized



Debra Bowman, Lower WV Zone 7 Governor, and Robert Shetterly

Lower WV District Zone 7 Governor Debra Bowman had the honor to attend the Frankford Ruritan meeting in April and present several awards.

Frankford Ruritan member Robert Shetterly received recognition for "Outstanding and Meritorious Service to the Frankford Ruritan Club" presented on behalf of Lower WV District Governor Blaine Cecil. The club received certificates from Ruritan National Foundation for their participation in the Birthday Fund.

The club was presented with certificates from Ruritan National to Club President Joe Bogucki for Community Service as follows: Social Development - Gold; Environment - Gold; Business and Professions - Gold; Citizenship and Patriotism - Gold, and Public Service - Silver.

Zone Governor Bowman thanked the members for their service to the community. She pointed out that many hours are worked to earn these certificates and that it was quite an accomplishment for the club. Frankford Ruritan Club also participates in the Build Your Dollar Scholarship from Ruritan National, recently participated in the Adopt A Highway, and brings donations to the food pantry.



Lower WV Ruritan Zone 7 Governor Debra Bowman and Frankford Ruritan Club President Joe Bogucki

## Church Bulletin

### Woodland Cemetery meeting set for May 29

The annual meeting for the Woodland cemetery will be held Saturday, May 29, at 10 a.m. in the Woodland community room. All members of the community, past and present, are urged to attend.

### Final 'Tilapia to Go' dinner postponed until May 21

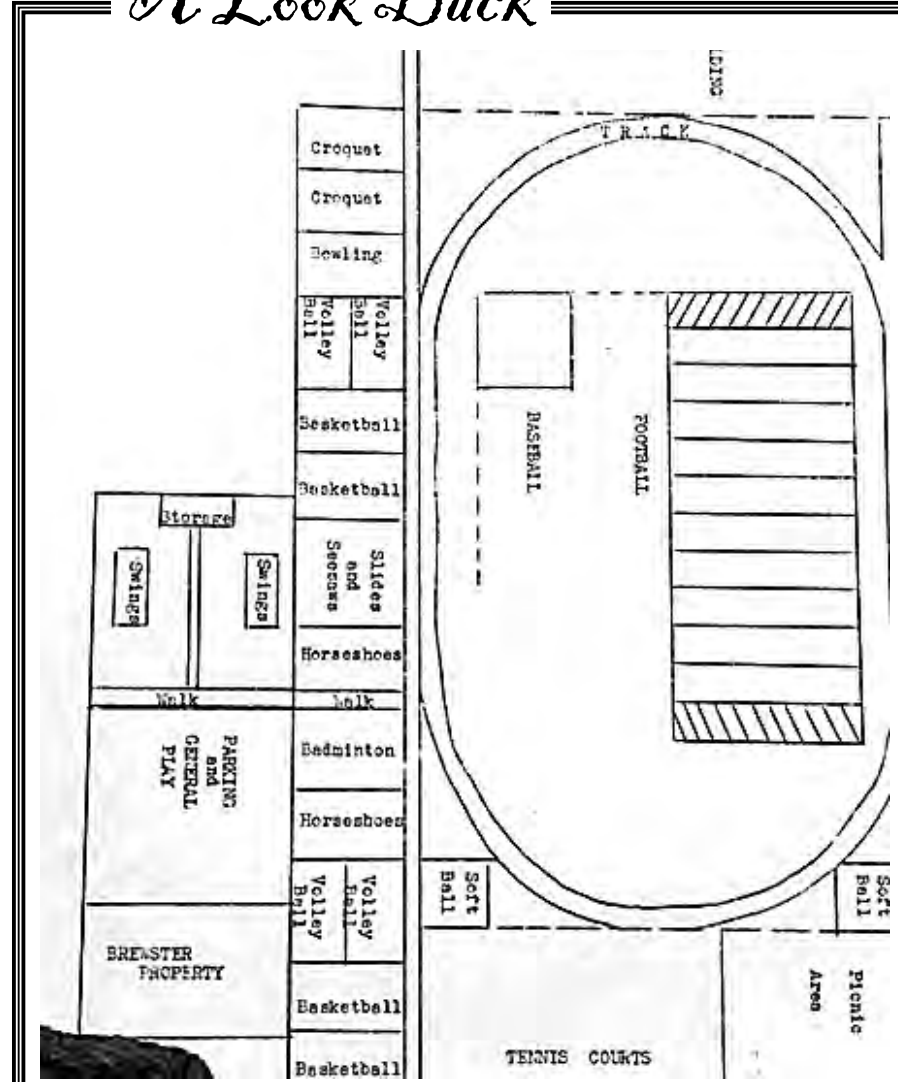
The final "Tilapia to Go" dinner has been postponed until Friday, May 21 at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church parking lot. Serving time will be 4:30 to 7 p.m. at a cost of \$10 per dinner.

Originally scheduled for this Friday, the dinner was moved to accommodate the Lifeline Mobile health unit to sit up in the parking area on Friday.

The May 21 "Tilapia to Go" will be the final one for this spring, but Perk Berry Jr., grand knight of the Greenbrier Valley Council Knights of Columbus, noted the Knights were looking forward to re-establishing the sitdown dinners with choices during the Lenten season in 2022.

The Knights are indebted to the White Sulphur Springs Community Center as well as the Emmanuel UM Church and the team of volunteers for their assistance in making the change of date possible.

## A Look Back



By William "Skip" Deegans

In 1940, Lewisburg's Hollowell Park was a sloping cow pasture. Lewisburg High School football games were played on a small portion of the eleven-acre field that belonged to Miss Pat Mathews. The community really wanted to acquire a small part of the pasture for a football field, but little had been done about it.

Dr. John Montgomery, who was Superintendent of Greenbrier County Schools and chairman of the Lewisburg Parks Commission, asked "Miss Pat" for a meeting at the pasture. The grass was wet from rain the night before, so Mathews and Montgomery wore high boots. As they walked over the pasture, Montgomery began to share his vision of how the community could use the field in addition to football - baseball, softball, volleyball, tennis, lawn bowling, swings, seesaws, slides and horseshoe pits. As they walked and Montgomery talked, Miss Pat said, "Sounds like you would

like to have the whole field." Shortly after their walk, Miss Pat agreed to sell 10.5 acres of the eleven. Shown in this week's photo is the initial plan for Lewisburg Recreational Center for Whites.

The Parks Commission moved forward with establishing the Recreational Center for Whites at the same time it established the Recreational Center for Colored. The Commission began raising funds for both parks. At a 1945 meeting of the Commission, the words "whites" and "colored" were dropped from the names of the parks. The names changed again as the colored park became Dorie Miller and much later the white's park was renamed Hollowell Park. Eventually, as Greenbrier County schools were integrated, and so were Lewisburg's parks.

Sources: Dr. John F. Montgomery's papers courtesy of Mary Montgomery Lindquist, Beckley Post-Herald, The Greenbrier Independent.

## Lewisburg celebrates Drinking Water Week



Laura Izzo (left), Autumn Crowe, and Mary Surbaugh pictured with a number of rain barrels that were given away.

The City of Lewisburg, in partnership with the Greenbrier River Watershed Association, WV Rivers Coalition, and communities throughout the U.S. proclaimed May 2 through May 8 as Drinking Water Week. Drinking Water Week is an opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

To kick things off, Mayor Beverly White issued a proclamation and helped lend a hand with the Community Rain Barrel project. The Greenbrier Watershed, with funding from WV Rivers Coalition and Mountain Resource Conservation and Development, purchased 50 rain barrels to distribute to the community. Rain barrels help to reduce storm-

water pollution, improving the quality of water in the Greenbrier River, which serves as the drinking water source for the communities of Lewisburg, Ronceverte, and Alderson.

"Clean Water is not only the responsibility of the water utility; it takes the entire community to make sure we are working together to protect our drinking water source" says Autumn Leah Crowe, Staff Scientist with WV Rivers Coalition and board member of the Greenbrier River Watershed Association.

To commemorate drinking water week, water drinkers are encouraged to learn more about the importance of keeping our water sources clean, visit [www.wvrivers.org](http://www.wvrivers.org) or [www.greenbrier.org](http://www.greenbrier.org) to get involved.

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# MOUNTAIN STATE SPOTLIGHT

## Flush with cash, WV wants to fix its internet. But how?

**Legislators killed their own plan at the last minute. Now, consultants are being brought in to figure out how to spend more than \$200 million.**

By Lucas Manfield  
for Mountain State Spotlight

This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. For more stories from Mountain State Spotlight, visit [www.mountainstatespotlight.org](http://www.mountainstatespotlight.org).

More than a decade ago, West Virginia officials faced a gargantuan problem without enough money to fix it. They earmarked \$5 million toward fixing the state's slow, unreliable internet, then spent years bickering over how to spend it with little progress made on the problem.

But now, they'll have another chance - with a lot more money and much, much higher stakes.

While the pandemic has exacerbated the impacts of West Virginia's digital divide, it's also loosened purse strings. Thanks to federal coronavirus relief, the state now has over \$200 million earmarked for broadband expansion. That doesn't count the additional billions that federal agencies and local governments could potentially spend to address the state's broadband issues in coming years.

Now, West Virginia officials find themselves in an unfamiliar place when it comes to broadband: awash in cash, leaving legislators and other state officials scrambling to figure out how to spend it.

Unlike many of its peers who were experimenting with innovative ways to spur - and often supplement - private investment in broadband infrastructure, West Virginia doesn't have a state grantmaking program.

"We have not developed a state program because we never had state funding," explained Kelly Workman, a director at the state's newly-formed Office of Broadband, at a meeting with state leaders earlier this month.

This influx of cash creates a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said, and added that it was "imperative we get started immediately."

But there's no guarantee the money will fix the state's connectivity issues. Robert Morris Jr., chairman of the state council that - in one iteration or another - has overseen the state's broadband strategy for much of the last decade, warned his fellow council members at a recent meeting that just throwing money at the problem isn't enough.

"There's no doubt [the money] can be spent, but does it actually improve service?" he said.

Second chances

A decade ago, West Virginia handed Frontier Communications a monopoly

over its rural telephone service in exchange for a promise that the company would repair the state's decaying copper wire phone network and use it to provide internet access to a vast majority of the state.

It was a horrible deal. Frontier sucked up profits - and, when its service began to decline, more financial assistance - from the state. Instead of improving its service, the company invested in a series of calamitous coastal expansions that ultimately sent it into bankruptcy.

At one point, federal regulators demanded the state return millions of dollars that it had given to Frontier after the company admitted to wasting it. Frontier declined, and is still mired in litigation brought by a local competitor, CityNet.

The result is that West Virginia's internet continues to lag behind the rest of the country, falling this year to 48th in rankings of high-speed internet access.

Now, regulators want Frontier to help clean up the mess.

The Federal Communications Commission announced late last year that it planned to give the company another \$250 million, and West Virginia regulators decided to allow Frontier to continue operating in the state post-bankruptcy - after the company promised to spend an additional \$200 million to fix its broken network.

State lawmakers, however, aren't so keen on giving Frontier a second chance. They've made clear in a series of letters to the FCC that they don't want Frontier getting any more federal assistance. And they passed an omnibus broadband law this year designed to encourage competition among internet providers - in other words, competition with Frontier - as they race to put federal subsidies to use, building out the new, expensive fiber networks that can deliver the high-speeds now expected by Netflix-loving customers.

New money

State broadband money began stacking up last year when Gov. Jim Justice promised to allocate \$50 million of federal coronavirus relief to improving internet - a response to the many West Virginians trying to work and study at home with bad internet. Nearly a third of that money remains unspent. The second round of federal relief in March added another \$138 million. And state lawmakers also approved \$50 million for broadband in next year's budget, which takes effect July 1.

And that's just the money that the state controls directly. The Federal Communications Commission has already com-

mitted to spending over \$350 million in West Virginia over the next decade. This includes the money promised to Frontier, but the number will likely rise significantly as the FCC spends the remainder of its \$20 billion fund and Congress debates adding up to \$100 billion more in broadband assistance.

But West Virginia lawmakers haven't yet figured out to spend their portion of all this new money.

A bipartisan proposal - pushed by Sen. Robert Plymale, D-Wayne and Delegate Daniel Linville, R-Cabell - died in the Senate on the last day of the legislative session. It would have established four different funds for spending state broadband money, and required new fiber built entirely with public funds to be "open access" - meaning any company would be able to lease it and provide a competing service.

But the idea was swatted down - twice - after the state's existing internet providers objected.

In a fiery speech before his colleagues on the floor of the House, Linville blamed the proposal's failure on lobbying by telecommunications companies like Suddenlink and CityNet. "They think that because we need this so desperately, that they can write the legislation," Linville said.

In an emailed statement, Chris Morris, an executive at Bridgeport-based CityNet, said Linville's proposal would have had "negative unintended outcomes" and "would likely have resulted in a decrease in private investment."

He expressed frustration with the way CityNet, he felt, was being vilified.

"For too many years, we advocated for policies that would facilitate competition and broadband expansion and no one seemed to care," he wrote.

High-priced consultants

Meanwhile, lacking legislative guidance, the state's Broadband Enhancement Council is pressing ahead. The volunteer group tasked a consultant, the Maine-based company Tilson, with creating a proposal for a new "Broadband Infrastructure Funding Program." Tilson presented a "high-level" proposal to the council in early April.

Tilson's plan included new "mapping efforts" to determine eligible areas, assistance with "scoring and award recommendations" and compliance monitoring - all for a fee: roughly 2% according to a firm executive.

A Tilson consultant said the firm's proposal was based on their experiences with similar programs in other states. New

**See "Spotlight" Page 11**

# OBITUARIES

## Joan Schuyler Macfarlan Jost

**Lewisburg**-On Monday, Apr. 26, 2021, Joan Schuyler Macfarlan Jost was called to glory and into the loving embrace of our father, her husband, and her four-legged friends waiting across the rainbow bridge.

She was born in Ridgewood, NJ, on May 23, 1939, to Allen Dunlop and Helen Schuyler Van Ness Macfarlan.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Mathias Jost of Reading, PA.

She is survived by her loving son, John Michael Jost of Lewisburg; her siblings, Sandy and Nancy Macfarlan of Deltona, FL, Robin and Darrell Hatchett of Jacksonville, FL and Debbie and Robert Benz of Hobe Sound, FL.

Joan earned a teaching degree from Furman University and a Masters of Special Education from the College of Graduate Studies at Marshall University. She worked as a respected Special Education teacher in Greenbrier County

until her retirement. She was an avid ACC sports fan, strong supporter of animal rescue and transportation, and an active staff member for Camp Alleghany for Girls.


The family is grateful for all the prayers and heartfelt outreach during this emotional time.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Lantern Scholarship, PO Box 1682, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Checks payable to GVCF with CAAA Lantern in the memo or Greenbrier East Band Boosters, 273 Spartan Lane, Lewisburg WV 24901.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held at the river Saturday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)



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"Winter Farm Scene" drawing by John Coffey

## Carnegie Hall announces Summer Classes & Workshops; scholarships available for youth and seniors

As part of its commitment to lifelong learning, Carnegie Hall offers a series of classes and workshops to enlighten and inspire learners of all ages. Due to the high demand for the Spring Session classes, Carnegie Hall for the first time will offer Classes & Workshops in June 2021. Participants will have the opportunity to learn techniques in weaving, clay, drawing, music, painting, printmaking, science, and stained glass.

According to Carnegie Hall Education Director Leah Trent, almost all the spring classes sold out. "We realized that the folks in the community are very interested in learning new art forms . . . and getting out of the house," she added. "We also thought since Carnegie Hall isn't currently able to offer concerts, we should continue to be open to the public through our educational programming."

The course offerings include: weave a tall door basket; basic drawing; wheel throwing clay for adults; printmaking for kids & teens; harp for intermediate players; bowed psaltery for beginners; slime lab; clay for kids; clay for youth; open studio stained glass; beginning watercolor painting; weave a round basket;

and acrylic painting.

Teaching the summer courses are John Coffey, Amie Durrman, Harmony Flora, Sean O'Connell, Sandra Schmoker, Kathy Talley, Leah Trent, and Lynda Weischowsky.

Thanks to generous funding from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History, the Benedum Foundation, United Way of Greenbrier Valley, and the Mary B. Nickell Foundation, scholarships are available for youths 18 and under and seniors who live in Greenbrier County. The calendar of classes includes sessions for kids, teens, and adults.

The classes begin in May and June, with some courses continuing into July. Registration is extremely limited due to the small class sizes, so Carnegie Hall encourages participants to register early. To register visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org) or call 304-645-7917 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from Monday through Friday.

All participants will be screened for COVID symptoms at the door and must wear face coverings the entire time they are in Carnegie Hall. Participants will socially distance and will have individual sets of materials and tools.

# SCHOOL

## GEHS student among Top 5 Poetry Out Loud finalists

Notre Dame High School student Ben Long will represent West Virginia at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, which will be webcast on Thursday, May 27, at 7 p.m. at [arts.gov/poetry-out-loud](https://arts.gov/poetry-out-loud). Actor and writer Shaun Taylor-Corbett will host an evening of recitations by the top nine finalists, with live interviews with the students and the announcement of the 2021 Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Long won the West Virginia Poetry Out Loud championship in March,

with his video recitations of Istanbul 1983 by Sheila Black, An Autumn Sunset by Edith Wharton, and A Blessing by James Wright. As West Virginia's champion, Long represented the state at the National Poetry Out Loud Semifinals on May 2. Out of 55 state and jurisdictional champions who competed in the national semifinals, Long was named one of only nine high school students who will compete in the National Finals.

Rounding out the state's top five finalists were Natalea Johnson of Spring

Mills High School, Morgan Sprouse representing the Vintage Theater Company, and Blaine Yates of Greenbrier East High School.

The 2021 Poetry Out Loud National Finals will take place virtually with each finalist submitting video recordings of their recitations - selected from an anthology of more than 1,100 classic and contemporary poems - which will be part of the May 27 webcast. Judges will review and score the recitations based on criteria, including **“Poetry”** — Page 11

## New River CTC celebrates 2020 and 2021 graduates in 17th commencement ceremony

New River Community and Technical College will celebrate both the class of 2020 and 2021 at the college's seventeenth commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 15 at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.

New River CTC President Dr. Bonny Ball Copenhagen will welcome the graduates, their families and guests, and Board of Governors Chair Dr. Tom Lemke, Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Stacy Reikowsky and graduating students Aniesha Pickering and Melinda Price will address the attendees.

“It is always an honor to play a role in the lives of our graduates and see them walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, but this event will be extraordinarily special,” Copenhagen said. “Because of the pandemic, we

did not hold a 2020 ceremony, so this event has been one that many graduates have not only worked for but had to wait for. We are very excited to be able to celebrate both the class of 2020 and 2021 this year.”

Academic honors will be presented to 146 students from both the class of 2020 and 2021 graduating with at least a 3.4 grade point average (GPA). In addition, 17 graduates of the two classes are members of the Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society for associate degree students with at least a 3.5 GPA.

New River CTC is registering students for the summer 2021, fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022 semesters. For more information, visit [www.newriver.edu](http://www.newriver.edu), email [admissions@newriver.edu](mailto:admissions@newriver.edu) or call 1-866-349-3739.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
What is greenwashing?  
*Newspaper Reader*

**Dear Newspaper Reader,**

Greenwashing, also called green marketing, is a form of marketing used by companies to make their products appear to be more environmentally friendly and sustainable than they actually are. It is used to make a company appear to be green, and that a sustainable change has been made in their products. The Nielsen report found that “the majority of consumers take into account sustainable packaging when making purchasing decisions and companies’ bottom lines are positively affected by making sustainability claims.”

**Hello, Recycle Lady,**

My daughter has a question. Can she recycle her mousse spray cans along with her spray paint cans? Also, would you reprint the seed exchange information. I have many marigold and columbine flower seeds to share.

*Young Recycler*

**Dear Young Recycler,**

Good for you. We need the younger generation to join in and encourage their peers to join in also. Yes, your mousse spray cans may be recycled. Be sure to press the spray nozzle until nothing more comes out, toss the cap in the trash, and add your spray can to the steel can bin. The Master Gardeners are having their plant sale Saturday, May 15, at the fairgrounds. Perhaps you could take your seeds there.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

How many countries have banned plastic bags?

*Traveler*

**Dear Traveler,**

According to worldatlas.com, the first country to totally ban plastic bags was Bangladesh in 2002. Their ban came about because the bags were polluting the waterways and drainage systems. There are now 59 countries in the world that have a full or partial ban of plastic bags. Plastic bags have been around since 1933 when they were invented in England. In 1965, the one-piece plastic bag was designed by Sten Gustaf Thulin and patented by the Swedish company, Celloplast.

In 1982, Kroger and Safeway were the first supermarkets to use plastic bags, followed by other chain stores. Today over one trillion plastic bags are produced, and used, annually. They can be found almost everywhere humans are, as well as some very unusual places like in the polar ice caps and in the depths of the oceans. In 1997 Charles Moore shocked the world with the discovery of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch that is mainly plastic. Using a reusable bag when shopping instead of a plastic bag can help contribute to the elimination of these bags. They are threatening the existence of marine life and wildlife and littering the roadsides.

Don't forget the Pesticide Collection on Saturday, May 15 at the Recycle Center in Ronceverte. Help us help the birds, bees, butterflies and insects.

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.



## Despite pandemic, WVSOM students make community service a priority

Students at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) may have faced an uphill battle in continuing their education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year, but that doesn't mean they didn't make time to give back to the communities that help inspire them.

Students at the school completed more than 6,000 hours of community service activities - or T.O.U.C.H. (Translating Osteopathic Understanding Into Community Health) hours - throughout the academic year. The T.O.U.C.H. program is a national initiative of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents with the goal of encouraging students to engage in volunteer service throughout their communities.

Through the T.O.U.C.H. program, osteopathic medical students complete approved events in the community and submit their hours to a national database. Recognition at different lev-

els is given to students who achieve 50 hours, 100 hours or the most hours at a given school in an academic year.

Belinda Evans, WVSOM's director of student life, said students at the medical school showed selflessness by rising to the occasion during a difficult time.

“We're so used to seeing students all over campus, but this academic year has included challenges for all of us,” she said. “Our students faced those obstacles and made a lasting impact on their learning as well as showing their commitment to community service.”

As an example, Evans said, the Community Relations Committee of WVSOM's Student Government Association handcrafted more than 500 cards that were distributed in honor of National Letter to an Elder Day in February.

Since the start of 2021, the WVSOM student chapter of DOC has sponsored a feminine hygiene drive for the Lewisburg-based Family Refuge Center, a domestic violence shelter, and the student chapter of the National Osteopathic

Women Physicians Association raised \$250 for the center through a domestic violence awareness lapel pin sale. Last month, the center awarded Evans its annual Beacon of Hope award in the medical category, on behalf of WVSOM student organizations.

Additionally, the student chapter of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine sponsored a March Madness bracket event that brought in \$300 to benefit Central Greenbrier Little League.

Last fall, the WVSOM Pride Alliance sold LG-BTQ+ pride and Black Lives Matter lapel pins, raising \$450 for the Appalachian Community Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides support to grassroots organizations working to overcome the underlying causes of poverty and injustice in central Appalachia, Evans said.

As WVSOM's T.O.U.C.H. coordinator for the 2020-21 academic year, second-year student Marion White helped students connect with local organizations that needed assistance. She said being a physician requires

knowing the community in which you practice, and that students made a strong effort to do so this year, both through health care-related activities like helping to administer COVID-19 vaccines and through nonmedical activities like volunteering at food pantries or at the demonstration garden at the Clingman Center for Community Engagement.

At times, the realities of the pandemic required getting creative and modifying existing activities, White said.

“For example, one of our biggest projects is Communities in Schools, where medical students visit area elementary schools to serve as mentors and tutors,” she said. “This year we weren't able to do it exactly like we used to, but we were able to help virtually, and that made a difference to students who couldn't go to school. Through technology we were able to reach kids and help keep them on track with their school work. I'm proud that we were resilient and found ways to help the community despite the pandemic.”

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Stop/Location	Scheduled Arrival			PM Times in Bold							
1 Downtown	6:50	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:10	5:10
7 Caldwell	7:00	8:10	9:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	1:10	2:10	3:10	4:20	5:20
8 White Sulphur Springs	7:10	8:20	9:20	10:20	11:20	12:20	1:20	2:20	3:20	4:30	5:30
9 Food Lion	7:15	8:25	9:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	1:25	2:25	3:25	4:35	5:35
10 White Sulphur Springs	7:20	8:30	9:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30	4:40	5:40
7 Caldwell	7:30	8:40	9:40	10:40	11:40	12:40	1:40	2:40	3:40	4:50	5:50
11 N Lee Street	7:35	8:45	9:45	10:45	11:45	12:45	1:45	2:45	3:45	4:55	5:55
5 Walmart	7:40	8:50	9:50	10:50	11:50	12:50	1:50	2:50	3:50	5:00	6:00
12 Fairview Road	7:45	8:55	9:55	10:55	11:55	12:55	1:55	2:55	3:55	5:05	6:05
1 Downtown	7:50	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:10	6:10

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Stop/Location	Scheduled Arrival Time			PM Times in Bold							
1 Downtown	6:50	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:10	5:10
2 Fairlea	6:55	8:05	9:05	10:05	11:05	12:05	1:05	2:05	3:05	4:15	5:15
3 Ronceverte	7:00	8:10	9:10	10:10	11:10	12:10	1:10	2:10	3:10	4:20	5:20
2 Fairlea	7:10	8:20	9:20	10:20	11:20	12:20	1:20	2:20	3:20	4:30	5:30
4 Lewisburg	7:20	8:30	9:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30	4:40	5:40
5 Walmart	7:25	8:35	9:35	10:35	11:35	12:35	1:35	2:35	3:35	4:45	5:45
6 GV Airport	7:40	8:50	9:50	10:50	11:50	12:50	1:50	2:50	3:50	5:00	6:00
5 Walmart	7:45	8:55	9:55	10:55	11:55	12:55	1:55	2:55	3:55	5:05	6:05
1 Downtown	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:10	6:10



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# Appalachian Power, Wheeling Power file for adjustment in recovery rates

Appalachian Power, along with Wheeling Power, submitted Expanded Net Energy Cost (ENEC) and Vegetation Management Program (VMP) filings to the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC). The company is requesting an increase of \$73 million in the amount collected for ENEC, and a continuation of the current VMP rates, to take effect Sept. 1.

The ENEC reimburses the company on a dollar-for-dollar basis for coal and natural gas to fuel power plants and for purchased power. The VMP reimburses the company for right-of-way vegetation management. Filings for these essential components of generating and delivering electricity are made regularly to ensure the amount included in rates accurately reflects past and ongoing expenditures.

"The ENEC amount is mostly for dollars already spent but not recovered in last year's case when the financial impacts of the pandemic on our customers were most severe," said Chris Beam, Appalachian Power president and COO. "The pandemic has been difficult, and that's why we suspended disconnects for non-payment for most of 2020 and made it easier to get payment arrangements." Beam added that the company also administered \$12.7 million of Fresh Start tax savings toward erasing the debt of residential customers with past due amounts of more than 90 days and credited \$7.4 million received from the State of West Virginia CARES program

to eligible residential customers.

Beam said the company will continue to seek ways to help customers struggling financially from the pandemic. At the same time, the ENEC and VMP amounts included in rates ultimately need to reflect actual costs.

The company this week also requested a \$5 million increase in rates to recover the approved cost of its energy efficiency and demand response programs, to take effect January 2022.

If approved as proposed, residential customer rates would rise approximately 6 percent, a monthly increase of \$8.10 for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours or \$16.20 for a customer using 2,000 kilowatt-hours.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 17,400 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 221,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,200 megawatts of renewable energy.

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Poetry Outloud

cont. from Page 8

ing physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, overall performance and accuracy.

and organization-based contests. The winners of those competitions are eligible to participate in the state finals. This year 20 West Virginia high school champions submitted recitation videos which were evaluated by a team of judges including writer and performer Colleen Anderson; Amy Alvarez, a poet and professor at West Virginia University; Marc Harshman, the state's poet laureate; novelist and educator Rajia Hassib; and Dr. Joel Peckham, a poet and professor at Marshall University.

Ben Long, a senior from The Performing Arts Conservatory at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, was named state champion during this year's first-ever West Virginia Poetry Out Loud Video Showcase. Jason Young coordinates the Poetry Out Loud program at Notre Dame. Dailey Ward, a Wheeling Park High School senior, was the state runner up. The school's Poetry Out Loud coordinator is Gail Adams. Both students and their schools will receive cash prizes as well

as handmade trophies created by Matt Thomas of Gilmer County.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies, including the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. This national arts education program encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country.

Spotlight

cont. from Page 7

The Poetry Out Loud program begins at the local level with students participating in school-based

Hampshire tasked the firm late last year to help spend \$50 million in federal aid on expanding broadband - a markedly different strategy than the one used previously in West Virginia, where Justice elected to go it alone and ended up spending millions of dollars earmarked for broadband on unrelated projects.

replicate in the Mountain State. But West Virginia has a bad track record of allowing consultants to suck up cash instead of spending it on viable broadband projects. In 2012, the Charleston Gazette reported that the state paid a Verizon consultant over \$700,000, which included time spent on 47 flights back and forth between West Virginia and his home state, Colorado. Later, the newspaper revealed that the broadband council - at the time made up largely of gubernatorial appointees and telecom-

munications executives - had spent over a third of its budget on consultants to manage its grant-making program. And some of what Tilson proposed is already being done by the state's brand new Office of Broadband, which has been tasked by the Legislature with mapping areas of the state that are unserved or underserved by existing broadband providers. Still, the council voted unanimously to give Tilson the go-ahead to move forward. Don't expect state legislators to have abandoned the is-

sue, however. Senate President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, promised to return later to the question of how to use all of the new funding - potentially in an interim session.

If that happens, Linville will have refined his pitch. On a recent panel, convened by the online publication Route Fifty, Linville discussed West Virginia's bipartisan approach to address the state's digital divide. He announced that he was ditching the term "open access" and replacing it with a new one: "competitive access."

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 289 and 322. The auction will end on 5/26/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until May 26, 2021. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

GREENBRIER HOTEL CORPORATION WV3301305

Consumer Confidence Report- 2021 Covering Calendar Year- 2020

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affect drinking water quality, please call RYAN MCCLUNG at 304-536-1110.

Your water comes from:

Table with 2 columns: Source Name, Source Water Type. Row 1: WELL 2-ANTHONY CAVE SPRING, Ground Water

Table with 2 columns: Buyer Name, Seller Name. Row 1: There are no additional purchases to display.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800- 426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in sources water before we treat it include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity. Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system has an estimated population of 3280 and is required to test a minimum of 3 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2020. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL. Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements. Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present. Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l) Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter(ug/l) Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water. Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body. Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems. Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs. Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results for: GREENBRIER HOTEL CORPORATION

No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2020

Table with 8 columns: Regulated Contaminants, Collection Date, Highest Value, Range (low/high), Unit, MCL, MCLG, Typical Source. Rows include FLUORIDE and NITRATE.

Table with 8 columns: Disinfection By products, Sample Point, Monitoring Period, Highest LRAA, Range (low/high), Unit, MCL, MCGL, Typical Source. Row includes TTHM.

Table with 7 columns: Lead and Copper, Monitoring Period, 90th Percentile, Range (low/high), Unit, AL, Over AL, Typical Source. Rows include COPPER, FREE and LEAD.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Table with 5 columns: Chlorine/Chloramines, Maximum Disinfection Level, MPA, MPA Units, RAA, RAA Units. Row includes 01/01/2020-10/31/2020.

Table with 8 columns: Radiological Contaminants, Collection Date, Highest Value, Range (low/high), Unit, MCL, MCLG, Typical Source. Rows include GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U RADIUM-228.

Table with 7 columns: Secondary Contaminants-Non Health Based, Contaminants-No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established, Collection Date, Highest Value, Range (low/high), Unit, SMCL. Rows include ALKALINITY,TOTAL, CALCIUM, CONDUCTIVITY @ 25 C UMHOS/CM, PH, SULFATE.

During the 2019 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Table with 3 columns: Compliance Period, Analyte, Comments. Rows include 8/1/2020-8/31/2020, 7/1/2020, 1/1/2020, 1/1/2020-3/31/2020, 2/29/2020-5/31/2020, 2/29/2020-5/31/2020, 6/1/2020-8.31/2020, 6/1/2020-8.31/2020, 1/15/2020, 7/1/2020-12/31/2020.

Additional Required Health Effects Language: Infants and children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4761). There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

Table with 5 columns: Water System, Type, Category, Analyte, Compliance Period. Row includes No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2020.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices. There are no additional required health effects notices.

To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact us at the phone number above.

PUZZLE ANSWERS SCRAMBLERS solution 1. Scowl 2. Speak; 3. Eschew; 4. Reign Today's Word RECIPES

9x9 grid of numbers for puzzle solutions.

Complex grid with letters and numbers for puzzle solutions.

**LEGAL**

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,  
GREENBRIER COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with Code §11-8-12, as amended, the Greenbrier County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the 2018 fiscal year, and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

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

**GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 9,627,630
Other local sources	346,000
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	22,592,790
Other unrestricted	6,433,990
Federal Sources:	
Unrestricted	250,000
Miscellaneous Sources:	216,910
Total estimated revenues	39,467,320
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	
Estimated beginning balance	1,800,000
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 41,267,320
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ 24,319,120
Supporting services:	
Students	655,676
Instructional staff	393,507
Central administration	1,011,981
School administration	3,053,690
Central services	401,689
Operation and maintenance of facilities	4,482,230
Student transportation	3,469,616
Food services	-
Community services	57,980
Capital outlay	480,000
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	225,000
Interest and fiscal charges	70,000
Total estimated expenditures	38,620,490
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	1,406,090
Estimated budgetary reserves	1,240,740
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$ 41,267,320

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022  
EXCESS LEVY FUND**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 6,741,270
Other local sources	100,000
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	-
Other unrestricted	-
Federal Sources:	
Unrestricted	-
Miscellaneous Sources:	
Total estimated revenues	6,841,270
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	-
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 6,841,270
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ 3,124,915
Supporting services:	
Students	50,000
Instructional staff	398,614
Central administration	-
School administration	-
Central services	-
Operation and maintenance of facilities	2,675,132
Student transportation	592,609
Food services	-
Community services	-
Capital outlay	-
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
Total estimated expenditures	6,841,270
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	-
Estimated budgetary reserves	-
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$ 6,841,270

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022  
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources	\$ 32,600
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	203,350
Other	601,427
Federal Sources	7,690,764
Miscellaneous Sources	-
Total estimated revenues	8,528,141
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	1,184,184
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 9,712,325
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ 5,612,830
Supporting services:	
Students	-
Instructional staff	283,370
Central administration	-
School administration	-
Business	-
Operation and maintenance of facilities	-
Student transportation	-
Food services	3,816,124
Community services	-
Capital outlay	-

Debt service:	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
Total estimated expenditures	9,712,325
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	-
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	\$ 9,712,325

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022  
DEBT SERVICE FUND**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	\$ 3,468,300
Other local sources	-
Miscellaneous Sources:	
Total estimated revenues	3,468,300
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	-
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 3,463,300
Estimated expenditures:	
Debt service	\$ 3,463,300
Total estimated expenditures	3,463,300
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	-
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses	\$ 3,463,300

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022  
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources	\$ -
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	-
Other	740,750
Federal Sources	-
Miscellaneous Sources	-
Total estimated revenues	740,750
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	200,000
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 940,750
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ -
Supporting services:	
Students	-
Instructional staff	-
Central administration	-
School administration	-
Business	-
Operation and maintenance of facilities	-
Student transportation	-
Food services	-
Community services	-
Capital outlay	940,750
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
Total estimated expenditures	940,750
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	-
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	\$ 940,750

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022  
FUND 71 - ESSERF**

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources	\$ -
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	-
Other	-
Federal Sources	5,322,830
Miscellaneous Sources	-
Total estimated revenues	5,322,830
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	-
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources and beginning balance	\$ 5,322,830
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction	\$ 4,194,412
Supporting services:	
Students	189,530
Instructional staff	-
Central administration	-
School administration	-
Business	-
Operation and maintenance of facilities	600,000
Student transportation	-
Food services	250,000
Community services	-
Capital outlay	-
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
Total estimated expenditures	5,233,942
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	88,888
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	\$ 5,322,830

**GREENBRIER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,  
Greenbrier County, to wit:  
I, Jeffrey Bryant, Secretary of the Greenbrier County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget being considered for adoption by the Board of Education on the 27th day of May 2021.

*(Signature)*  
Secretary of the Board of Education

Please note: The preliminary operating budget FY 22 is available at [www.greenbriercountyschools.org](http://www.greenbriercountyschools.org). The Board will meet on May 27, 2021, for a public hearing on the proposed budget.

**Do you want government taking more control?**



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

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

- Delinquent tax lists
- Property sales
- Election ballots
- Voting changes
- Tax increases
- Project bids
- Family court
- Government budgets
- Government financial statements
- Zoning changes and other public notices

**KEEP YOUR LEGAL ADS IN GREENBRIER COUNTY**

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

**Stephen Baldwin**  
(304) 357-7959  
[stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov](mailto:stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov)

**Jack Woodrum**  
(304) 357-7849  
[jack.woodrum@wvsenate.gov](mailto:jack.woodrum@wvsenate.gov)

**Barry Bruce**  
(304) 340-3131  
[barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov](mailto:barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov)

**Todd Longanacre**  
(304) 340-3129  
[todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov](mailto:todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov)

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# STEPPIN' OUT

## The Road to Plenty exhibit opening at Greenbrier Historical Society



The Coffman Covered Wagon

Join the Greenbrier Historical Society on Saturday, May 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. for the opening of their latest exhibit, The Road to Plenty. The updated exhibit is in the wagon house on the North House grounds.

The exhibit examines the economy of early colonial settlement in the Greenbrier Valley between 1770 and 1820. During this period the area had two economic systems; a subsistence economy in which people produced just enough to survive, and a market economy in which people produced enough surplus that they could trade and sell. European settlers used both economic systems to improve their standard of living while relying on

the knowledge and labor of the diverse Greenbrier Valley community. Settlers relied on Native American knowledge, the unpaid labor of enslaved people, and the ability of women to take on traditional and non-traditional roles. This exhibit highlights the Coffman Covered Wagon and objects from the Dickson Tool Collection. Learn about the economy, industry, and domestic life of settlers in the Greenbrier Valley.

On May 29 enjoy historic demonstrations, crafts for kids, and live folk music by Rural Felicity on the North House lawn. The Road to Plenty is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council and the Jeanne G. and Lawson W. Hamilton Jr. Family Foundation. Contact the Greenbrier Historical Society if you have any additional questions 304-645-3398 or learn more on their website [www.greenbrierhistorical.org](http://www.greenbrierhistorical.org).

MEET AUTHOR  
**MATT BROWNING**

"A road map to independent bookstores...an adventure that crosses the state, captures the imagination and has you wanting to plan a road trip using his book as your guide."  
- The Herald Dispatch

## Lewisburg shops featured in book about WV bookstores

**Author Matt Browning to sign copies at A New Chapter Bookstore in Lewisburg May 29**

Two Lewisburg businesses are featured in a book about the many independent bookstores of West Virginia. Charleston-based author Matt Browning will sign copies of "Bookstore Explorer: West Virginia" at A New Chapter Bookstore in Lewisburg Saturday, May 29, from 1 to 3 p.m.

"Bookstore Explorer: West Virginia" profiles the character, charm, and history of the state's many bookshops, and features insightful essays and interviews with such luminaries as West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman, best-selling author Rajia Hassib, longtime Charleston bookseller Gordon Simmons and others.

"Traveling the state and meeting so many passionate booksellers was wonderful, and I'm honored to celebrate our state's book culture," Browning said, noting that the pandemic limited his ability to return to many of the shops for events once it was published. "The book was released just as COVID-19 took hold and, now that we're safely easing back into in-person activities, I'm excited to return to A New Chapter and share its story."

From Wheeling to Princeton, Browning spent months prior to the pandemic traveling West Virginia and visiting each shop in the state to meet booksellers, gather stories, and learn how indie shops are succeeding in the age of online retail - including Lewisburg's The Bookstore and A New Chapter,

both of which are featured in the book.

At the signing, Browning will also have copies of his children's picture book, "Chicks and the City," a kid-friendly spin on urban farming. The book recently received a Mom's Choice Gold Award and an honorable mention at the New York Book Festival.

Browning's third book, "The Definitive Golden Girls Cultural Reference Guide," a pop culture book about the popular television series, is slated for release in September from Rowman & Littlefield.

Learn more at [Matt-BrowningBooks.com](http://Matt-BrowningBooks.com).

**A New Chapter is located at 922 Washington Street West in Lewisburg.**

### DINING & entertainment guide

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

**WEEKEND SPECIAL**

**Beef Pot Roast**  
With Carrots, Onions and Potatoes  
Served with salad and bread.

Open For Breakfast Saturday & Sunday 8:30-11:00  
Mon - Fri 11 am-9 pm, Sat & Sun 8:30 am-9 pm • 304.645.2723

**SCRAMBLERS**  
Unscramble the letters with each rearrange to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the page!

Grinace **CLOWS**  
Declare **PEAKS**  
Avid **WEECHS**  
Rife **GERNI**

GOODNESS NO, WE HAVEN'T EVEN CONSIDERED A VERDICT YET -- WE'RE STILL EXCHANGING

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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



### Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Synagogue leader
- 6 Mojave plant
- 11 Pinnacle
- 15 Czech-German river
- 19 - Island (former immigration gateway)
- 20 Carpentry rod
- 21 With 71-Across, act all-powerful
- 22 Usual thing
- 23 Many supermarket entrances
- 25 Glass sheet
- 26 Large mop
- 27 Ruhr article
- 28 With gusto
- 29 Chilean money
- 30 Kagan on the high bench
- 31 Big hit
- 32 Collect deserved benefits
- 34 Crime boss John
- 37 Roll out, as a flag
- 40 Flood zone protections
- 41 Long strip of high-end shops along a road
- 44 - fi
- 46 Water swirl
- 47 Pottery base
- 48 Satire device
- 49 "Beetle" of comics
- 52 Jewel box contents
- 53 1986-2001 space station
- 54 Swell out
- 55 Lock horns
- 60 Mauna - Observatory
- 61 Uncles, e.g.
- 62 "Charlie's Angels" co-star
- 65 Notwithstanding
- 67 Jungle jaunts
- 68 More cruel
- 69 Many a metal alloy, chemically
- 71 See 21-Across
- 72 Turin-to-Milan dir.
- 73 Tendency
- 74 Like ruled paper
- 75 Part of ABA
- 76 24/7 care ctrs.
- 77 "Goodness!"
- 79 Singer Cole
- 81 Meat cut
- 83 Magnetism
- 87 Ireland's - Lingus
- 88 Bright blue gem
- 90 Book before Jeremiah
- 92 Semi engine
- 94 - beat (falser slightly)
- 95 What you can hear from an audible clock
- 98 Garbage
- 101 Put in a tomb
- 102 Torchiere, e.g.
- 103 Ineffective
- 105 Block of history
- 108 Fashion's von Fürstenberg
- 109 Cakewalk
- 110 Yoga pose with hands and feet on the floor
- 112 Artful dodge
- 113 Son of Adam and Eve
- 114 Fuse
- 115 - "Meenie" (2010 hit song)
- 116 Floored it
- 117 Nothing but
- 118 Swamp critter
- 119 Repeated musical sequence in this puzzle

**DOWN**

- 1 Funny Foxx
- 2 First-aid plant
- 3 Make fuzzy
- 4 Spill-catching neckwear
- 5 Like Iran's religion
- 6 - Ababa, Ethiopia
- 7 A genial mood
- 8 Missing GI
- 9 Really
- 10 Overhead trains
- 11 Magnetism
- 12 Purse part
- 13 Estate house
- 14 Face part
- 15 Place in bondage
- 16 Devalued
- 17 Not generic
- 18 Emissary's residence
- 24 Mendes of "Hitch"
- 29 For every
- 30 She-sheep
- 31 Doesn't go
- 32 Feel regret about
- 33 Novelist Wiesel
- 34 Truck and SUV maker
- 35 Common painting medium
- 36 Suitable to be bartered
- 38 Diarist Anaïs
- 39 Aviate
- 42 Restricts
- 43 Journalist
- 44 Audible exhalations
- 45 Musical symbol
- 49 Donkey
- 50 Writer Locke
- 51 Swerved
- 54 Interweave
- 56 Big TV brand
- 57 Bighearted
- 58 Knives, e.g.
- 59 To be, in Aries
- 60 Make it
- 61 Little buddy
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# GBEMS makes contact with International Space Station



**A pre-recorded interview with Astronaut Mark Vande Hei plays on a screen at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School while middle school students wait in their socially distanced circle to make contact with him on the International Space Station. With the help of members of the Eight Rivers Amateur Radio Club, the students were able to speak to Vande Hei as the ISS orbited the Earth. GBEMS was one of only 11 schools in the United States selected to contact the ISS. (S. Stewart photo)**

**By Suzanne Stewart  
Pocahontas Times Staff Writer**

It has been more than a year in the making, but finally, on May 7, students at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School made contact with the International Space Station and had a conversation with Astronaut Mark Vande Hei.

Last school year, students in the HAM radio club were learning how HAM radio was used by the astronauts to communicate with Earth. The club, which was formed with the help of Eight Rivers Amateur Radio Club, applied for the opportunity to contact the ISS.

GBEMS was one of 11 schools in the United States selected to do so.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the date of contact was postponed until it was possible for the students to be at school.

The day finally arrived, and Anne Smith's science students gathered in the gymnasium for the event – joined by members of the Eight Rivers Amateur Radio Club and staff from Green Bank Observatory. The rest of the school was patched into the event through Teams and watched excitedly from their classrooms.

Students selected to ask questions of Vande Hei were socially distanced in a circle and rotated around two microphones in a choreographed round robin to ensure they wasted no time and were able to ask as many questions as possible.

The event was live stream-ed on Facebook and was accompanied by pre-recorded messages from the students, principal Julie Shiflet, Smith, GBO director Karen O'Neil, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Senator Joe Manchin, III and National Science Foundation director Sethuraman Panchanathan.

Everyone involved spoke of the magnitude of the day and how special it was for GBEMS to represent West Virginia as they made contact with the ISS.

A video featuring Vande Hei was also shown to introduce him to the group and all those watching online.

"Arriving at the Space Station, something I'll never forget is looking over my left shoulder out the window in the Soyuz where it was either a view of the Earth or blackness of space, and then all of a sudden, I could see a solar array – getting chills even thinking about it right now," he said.

Vande Hei said he broke the silence in that moment and said "Wow," to which the Russian commander who was at his side commented with a shushing motion.

"Yeah, I was definitely a rookie," Vande Hei said, laughing. "I was excited."

He spoke about how the ISS contributes to the experiments by being a unique environment unlike any on Earth.

"The Space Station is very unique because on the Space Station, orbit is really a continuous free fall and, because of that, you can have some very unstable structures that might not be able to stay together if you're on the ground," he said. "They could stay together on the Space Station."

"Flames behave differently because combustion on the ground requires drawing in all these rich gases into the flame, because the hot combustion gases go up and away, but there's no up and away on the Space Station," he continued. "All directions are equal as far as that's concerned, so that behaves differently."

While it keeps him away from home and his family, Vande Hei said he enjoys working on the ISS and is surprised that he even considers it a home away from home.

"Some people have talked about, at some point in the expedition, feeling like it's time to go home, but for me, there was always another space walk or another vehicle capture coming up," he said.

Prior to reaching out to the ISS, GBO educator Sophie St. Georges introduced the members of the Eight River Amateur Radio Club who were in attendance to make sure the connection was strong. They were Marty Bloss, Galen Watts, Joe Brandt and Rudy Marraujo, while Ray Creager was in the "VIP" section at the GBO listening in on the call.

In addition to Eight Rivers, the event was made possible by the Amateur Ra-

dio on the International Space Station [ARISS], and NASA with support from the Pocahontas County Board of Education, The Snowshoe Foundation, Green Bank Observatory and Durbin Lions Club.

GBO public outreach manager Amanda White, who emceed the event, introduced GBEMS student Dylan who was selected to "make the call."

"Dylan was selected to make this call because of the incredible amount of enthusiasm that he has shown throughout this entire experience," she said. "We will have about ten minutes of contact time with the astronaut as the ISS travels from horizon to horizon and we will continue to ask questions until the signal disappears."

Dylan stepped up to the microphone and began the call.

"November Alpha One Sierra Sierra, November Alpha One Sierra Sierra from November Eight Romeo Victor for a scheduled school contact," he said.

After six tries and lots of static, the gymnasium was filled with Vande Hei's voice.

"November Eight Romeo Victor, this is November Alpha One Sierra Sierra," he said. "I hear you loud and clear."

The conversation went as follows. Due to a request by ARISS, the students did not use their last names.

Dylan: "The Green Bank School is pleased to welcome Astronaut Vande Hei to speak with us today. Are you ready for student questions?"

Mark: "I am looking forward to student questions."

Jade: "What made you decide to become an astronaut?"

Mark: "The combination of mental challenge, physical challenges, as well as the opportunity to serve all of humanity."

Steven: "Is the ISS heated or is it always cold?"

Mark: "The ISS is actually very comfortable inside. It is controlled. The temperature is set much like the house, but this time the ground control team sets it for us, so we typically wear short sleeves and pants when we work."

Griffin: "How often do you have to refill the oxygen tanks from Earth?"

Mark: "Griffin, that's a great question. I am not 100 percent certain of that. I know that we've got a slow leak on the station right now and just a few days ago, we opened up a couple of air tanks just to make sure we had enough nitrogen inside the space station. We have an oxygen generation system so we're able to convert some of our CO2 back into oxygen."

Dylan: "Have you ever lost contact with the base? What are you supposed to do if that were to happen?"

Mark: "Hi Dylan. Actually very routinely, we have what we call a loss of signal or LOS, where we can't talk to the ground control team. A lot of times it's only for 20 seconds, but sometimes it's 10 minutes. And if it happens unexpectedly, we do have a procedure to follow to try to reestablish communications."

Florian: "Asking for Aiden. What can you see from the space station that you can't see from Earth?"

Mark: "Some things I've seen from the space station that I've never seen from the Earth are the thinness of the atmosphere, from outer space, it looks like the Earth has just a very delicate thin layer of atmosphere that we sometimes take for granted. Also, I've seen meteorites burn up in the atmosphere. I've seen aurora borealis from space, and it looks somewhat like curtains. Very different looking from the way it looks from the ground."

Kaden: "If you have any down time, what do you do?"

Mark: "Kaden, great question. We like to have meals together once a week along with the entire crew and with our Russian counterparts, as well. We've been having a movie night once a week. I like to read for a little bit every night to relax, so I can actually sleep. And taking pictures is something we can't get enough of."

Ella: "What are you allowed to bring to the ISS and what did you choose to bring?"

Mark: "We're allowed to bring things

that aren't sharp or combustible, much like going on an airplane. We do have limits on the amount or size. I could bring half a kilogram on the spacecraft with me, and I'm not sure how to describe it, a third of a carry on suitcase for personal items that I could bring up to the space station.

"My wedding ring is one thing I definitely brought. But otherwise, I only brought things that my wife wanted me to take to space so she could give them as presents to other people."

Shayla: "How do you solve problems with each other if you get into arguments?"

Mark: "That's a very, very important thing on the space station. The most important thing is to talk about it. If we are angered with another crewmember, we've just got to pull them aside privately and talk about it, and almost always, we're able to resolve it successfully. We actually get a lot of training on that."

Cadence: "Does the food go to the top of your mouth when you eat because of micro gravity and does it feel different to eat and drink in space?"

Mark: "Cadence, that's a fantastic question. I've never thought about that. No, it doesn't. I think my tongue makes contact with the food quickly enough that I don't notice it going to the top of my mouth. However, I can tell you when I open a food package, for example, rice, if I don't put something like olive oil or garlic paste in there, the rice goes flying all over the place."

Charlie: "Asking for Amber. What do you do about trash?"

Mark: "Trash, we have to make sure we collect it, because, just like that rice, it would go floating all over the place. Once it's collected, we have to wait for a spacecraft to put it into to get rid of it. We currently have a Cignus spacecraft docked to the space station. We are loading that up with as much trash as possible and then when it departs, it will burn up in the atmosphere."

Makenzie: "Is it possible for an animal to be pregnant in space?"

Mark: "Makenzie, great question. I suspect it's possible, but I'm just making a guess. I really do not know what issues

there might be with pregnancies in space."

Willie: "Asking for Garrett. Has there ever been a critical failure? What protocols or drills do you have in case one happens?"

Mark: "So there are three emergencies, we call them. A rapid depressurization, an ammonia release into the space station or a fire. I know we've had false alarms for those things. I'm not 100 percent certain that we've had any for real, although we do have a slow depress because of the leak I mentioned earlier, and we train a lot for all three of those contingencies. I know on previous space stations, on the Mir Space Station for example, they did have a fire."

Taylor: "What are the emotional challenges in space?"

Mark: "Taylor, the biggest emotional challenge I have in space is being kind to myself. When I make a mistake, I beat myself up about it and get grumpy. I just have to forgive myself and move on to the next thing so I can pay one hundred percent attention to the next thing I've got to work on."

Olivia: "Asking for Charlie. How is your sleep or work schedule different in space than it would be on Earth?"

Mark: "The sleep schedule is kind of the same, but it's actually a longer work schedule. I like to get about eight hours of sleep at night and they schedule that for me on the space station. The work schedule goes from about 7:30 in the morning until 7:30 at night."

Alison: "Asking for Trenton. How do you get news from Earth? Were you worried about COVID affecting your support system on the ground?"

Mark: "We get news from Earth from a support team. We have a behavioral health and performance group that we tell what podcasts we like to listen to, what magazines we like to read and they actually upload those to the computers on the space station. I'm happy to say that most of my family has been immunized, but that continues to be a concern, but it's lessening as time goes on, and more and more people get immunized."

Julie Shiflet: "The Green Bank Elementary-Middle School would like to thank Astronaut Mark Vande Hei, call sign KG5GNP on the count of three."

Mark: "That got me choked up. Thanks for that. Really great questions today. It was a pleasure talking with you. Have a wonderful day."

Julie Shiflet: "N8RV, over and out."

A video of the event is available on the Green Bank Observatory and Green Bank Elementary-Middle School Facebook pages for those who could not tune in live and want to experience the once in a lifetime event.

## Watoga State Park, Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park Dark Sky Park Events

- May 20 ~ Birding Walk & Talk -**  
Watoga Swimming Pool parking area 4:00 pm
- June 4 ~ Owls -**  
Riverside Campground behind check in station 8:00
- June 5 ~ Astronomy for Kids -**  
Riverside Campground behind check in station 8:30
- June 11 ~ Star Walk -**  
Beaver Creek Campground check in station 8:30
- June 20 ~ Starry Night Stories -**  
Riverside Campground behind check in station 8:00 pm
- June 30 ~ Bird Walk -**  
Watoga Swimming Pool parking area 4:00 pm
- July 3 ~ Starry Night Stories -**  
Riverside Campground behind check in station 8:00 pm
- July 9 ~ Star Walk -** Riverside Campground behind check in station 8:30 pm
- July 10 ~ Bats -** Heroes of the Night Watoga Picnic Shelter 7:30
- July 23 ~ Moon Walk -** Droop Mountain State Park Easy hike to Briary Knob park office, 8:30
- July 24 ~ Moth Night -** Watoga Picnic Shelter 8:30
- August 7 & 8 ~ Night Sky Photography Workshop** with Jesse Thornton Limited Space. Fee is a \$100 tax deductible donation to the Watoga State Park Foundation Dark Sky Education
- September 4 & 5 ~ Astrophotography Workshop** with Jeff Ball Classes during Art in the Park event. Class times TBA
- September 11 ~ Star Party at the Tower,**  
Droop Mountain State Park 8:00pm

**Join the International Dark Sky Association to help preserve our starry night skies**

Outdoor lights should only be on when needed.  
Minimize blue light emissions.  
Lights should be fully shielded, (pointing down)  
Questions? Contact [ssmpdawson2@gmail.com](mailto:ssmpdawson2@gmail.com)  
304-799-4766



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