

# Mountain messenger

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

## Big Draft Brewing opens in White Sulphur

By Sarah Richardson

Big Draft Brewing held their official grand opening in White Sulphur Springs on Wednesday, adding yet another new business to the revitalization of Main Street. The community-focused eatery and brewery aims to add a local space to gather with family and friends.

"Big Draft is a full-scale restaurant and brewery," said partner Clay Elkins. "We have lunch, dinner, salads, drinks, and really something for the whole family." Together with J.W. Groseclose and David Bostic, the trio operate Road Hogs Barbecue, The Local, Cross Creek on Main, and now Big Draft Brewing.



Owners J.W. Groseclose (left), David Bostic, and Clay Elkins

"It was one brainchild," explained Elkins. "We had a big building and a lot of ideas, so we had to blend it all together, but still keep them separate."

Big Draft Brewing brings an exciting twist to downtown with their own custom beers.

"The Bohemian Red Pilsner is probably our biggest See "Big Draft Brewing"\_\_ Page 2



The new brewery and restaurant has three of its own beers, and plans to add more in the future.

## CARES Act reimbursement funds mean upgrades throughout Lewisburg

By Sarah Richardson

The City of Lewisburg has a busy few months ahead as the expenditure date for the city's CARES Act reimbursement funds fast approaches.

"We received a letter from the state saying we have to have these funds expended by Dec. 31, 2021," said City Manager Misty Hill. "In the previous council, we were just doing baby steps on expenditures. We had picked a few items, we were going ahead and trying to get those closed out before we moved forward, but with such a tight deadline for Tony Hill and I, and the streets and parks foreman, we felt it was best to go back and revisit these items and watch them very closely on our end with expenditures and make sure we don't go over, but be able to expedite this."

The funding available to the city totals \$1.4 million, and is permitted to be used to reimburse the cost of certain projects that benefit the public and city as a whole.



Hollowell Park will be buzzing with activity over the next few months as the CARES Act makes upgrades possible.

Hill presented an extensive slate of allotted See "Upgrades"\_\_ Page 2



Check out the full menu on their Facebook page "Big Draft Brewing."

## Mayor congratulates State Little League Championship winners



By Sarah Richardson Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White stands with the winners of the West Virginia State Little League Major Division Championship Tournament. The Jefferson County Little League team beat a multitude of teams from around the state at Hollowell Park from July 17 to 22, which ended with the final game against Logan County on Wednesday night. This was the first state championship to be hosted in Lewisburg and on the newly-installed artificial turf at the park.

### Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4



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Today's Rock

**Big Draft Brewing** Continued from Front Page

beer right now, but we also have the Sauvignon Blanc and a Peach Berlinerweisse, which is a sour fermented with peaches," said Elkins. Even though they currently have a full lineup on tap, these three drinks are just their starting point, as they have big plans to fill all 16 of their taps with their own brews in the next few months.

"White Sulphur needed a great community hub, and that's what we want to be. We have a big beer garden to come and bring the kids and dogs and the whole family for lunch. We just want this to be really family-friendly."

The menu offers everything from appetizers to entrees like trout, shepherd's pie, steak, burgers, shrimp and grits, fried chicken, and more. Their hours are currently 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

**Upgrades**

projects the city has planned, with the Junior Synthetic Baseball Field at Hollowell Park being one of the first tasks completed. Now that the turf is installed, there are lighting updates, a new bathroom installation, and more upgrades planned at Hollowell.

"A couple of years ago we had baseball field lights put in, but the poles are too short. So now the lights reflect in the children's eyes in the outfield. We are just concerned with safety," she said. "This is quite costly expense to upgrade this - it would be around \$125,000." She explained that having "this magnitude" of financial backing available for parks projects isn't a common occurrence, and added that the "too short" lights can be relocated for use at the skate park and new pickleball courts.

Solar-powered walking lights are also in the works for the track around the park. A new and accessible bathroom near the upper baseball field, totaling roughly \$19,000, is envisioned. "We have a couple contractors bidding on that this week," Hill said.

Lighting in the batting cages, shaded areas, a storage building, security cameras for both Hollowell and Dorie Miller parks, and new windows in the announcement booth are all listed projects to be completed before December.

"I feel like one this that we've seen in our city through COVID is the usage of our parks," said an emotional Hill. "Any time that we can bring our families and our children, or anyone else who wants to come outside and enjoy that, that's something that we need to do. Parks really struggle from our employee staff to having the money to finance projects. I'm adamant that this money is not going to go to waste, and be able to do these upgrades for these parks."

However, local parks won't be the only places ben-

# City tables second reading of Suddenlink agreement, moves forward with new development north of town

By Sarah Richardson

The second reading of the Suddenlink/Altice franchise renewal was tabled during the Tuesday, July 20, Lewisburg City Council meeting. Ordinance 292 would grant permission for Suddenlink to conduct business within the city, and doesn't prohibit other competing businesses from operating in the same area. The city had brought forth concerns and questions about service times, the current lawsuit held against the franchise by the Public Service Commission, and other issues to a

Suddenlink representative at the first reading of the ordinance, who was unable to attend this Tuesday's meeting. City Administrator Misty Hill recommended tabling the second reading while they await answers.

At a recommendation from the Planning Commission, Council voted to rezone an up-and-coming development north of town from an I1 industrial zone to a Planned Unit Development. This new designation allows for DNA Holdings to transform the 50+ acre tract into a multi-use area containing a commercial space, single family homes, townhomes, and public walking and biking trails. Groundwork has been underway at the plot, which is located just past the West Virginia State Road Garage at the head of Brush Road. A traffic study will be done to accommodate the project, with developers staying in contact with the DOT to ensure minimal disruption to an already busy stretch of road.

In other news:

- Ordinance 293, Updating the Codified Ordinances for the City, passed unanimously. "Every year we update the codified ordinances. We didn't do it last year because of Covid, so we have two year's worth of city ordinances," said City Clerk Shannon Beatty.
- John Preston was appointed to the Public Service District board.

Continued from Front Page

efitting from these funds - City Hall's repointing and painting project will also be covered under the CARES Act. Brick repointing is essential to preserving historical structures such as City Hall, as it helps prevent water damage and other issues. City Hall will be gaining a generator, as well, so they can remain open during power outages, and an upgraded phone system. There is also a \$100,000 placeholder for broadband funding, awaiting a game plan that is more "set in stone" to help citizens.

"We can't hold onto this money and say we are going to do this in the future, it has to be done now," said Hill.

# Easements make plant upgrades possible

By Sarah Richardson

A huge obstacle has been overcome in regards to upgrades of the Lewisburg municipal water plant. This project has been in discussion for roughly 15 years, and as of this week, 80 percent of easements have been granted, the number required by the USDA to implement their \$38 million dollar loan. With 80 percent of property owners granting access for the massive project, it can finally begin move forward.

While expensive, city officials say the updates are "inevitable," and are necessary to provide water to Lewisburg and the surrounding areas as the region continues to expand.

"We had to have these easements granted before we could go to bid," explained City Manager Misty Hill. The easements allow for water lines to be upgraded or replaced around town. "Some are going to increase in size, and some are going to be completely replaced. There are a lot of different areas that need work, and we are not redoing every single city line, but there are some that we simply have to change the size of or switch out."

Bids for the project will go out in October, and should take roughly three months to gather.

"Hopefully we can start construction on the water plant next spring," said Hill. "The plant is staying at the area in Caldwell, but some things are getting moved around and expanded."

Another part of the project is the relocation of the water intake pipe. It is currently installed below the landfill, which causes concern for some residents. The new location will be roughly a mile north of the landfill to alleviate any potential contamination.

As of now, the water plant has to pump 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep up with demand. As people move to the area, we have simply "run out of hours in the day" for water pumping. Most water plants pump for roughly eight to 10 hours a day, and save the water that's been gathered. This also comes in handy when there are extenuating circumstances such as muddy water, as Lewisburg saw several months ago. With the plant operating 24/7, it's hard to shut down when needed, whether it be for maintenance or to deal with issues.

"It's very important that we have a plant that can handle this volume," said Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White. "This has been a long time coming. I remember being on Lewisburg City Council 15 years ago when we first started to discuss this."

It is too soon to estimate a project completion date, but for one of this size and caliber, it's estimated to take several years.

"We appreciate everyone's patience in the community," Hill said.

# Attorney General secures court order, shuts down used car dealership

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey won a recent court order that permanently blocks the defendants in a used car sales lawsuit from selling vehicles in West Virginia, among other terms.

Defendants Karen Richmond, Brian Richmond, Glenville Ratliff, Corey Smith, Richmond's Quality Cars, LLC and CMS Pre-Owned Auto Sales, LLC, are permanently banned from selling vehicles in any capacity in West Virginia.

Defendant Smith owned CMS Pre-Owned Auto Sales in Huntington, while Ratliff owned Maplewood Auto Sales in Lewisburg, according to the court order.

"This is a win for our office and consumers," Attorney General Morrisey said. "We remain committed to protecting consumers and working to ensure that businesses comply with the law."

Karen and Brian Richmond face a joint civil penalty of \$20,000. The judgment states both the Richmonds and their dealership were located in western Kanawha County.

The defendants must void all contracts for vehicles they sold to consumers and release all liens on titles to vehicles they sold.

Additionally, defendants are prohibited from collecting any payments on vehicles they sold and from repossessing any ve-

hicles that they sold.

The Attorney General's lawsuit alleged the four individuals named as defendants played a part in operating two dealerships that misrepresented odometer readings and unlawfully sold vehicles "as is," at times passing used cars onto the consumer with serious mechanical defects and fraudulent inspection stickers.

The Attorney General further alleged those involved did so without a state dealer's license and in open violation of repeated cease and desist orders from the state Division of Motor Vehicles.

## PICK OF THE LITTER

**WAYLON**

Waylon is a three-year-old male bluetick mix and weighs 65 pounds.



**COWBOY**

Cowboy is a three-year-old male mixed breed and weighs 47 pounds.



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.

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# Briefly

## Energy Express gathers donations for Greenbrier Humane Society

Energy Express at White Sulphur Elementary is doing a pet supplies drive as a children's community service project for this summer. Any and all donations will be taken to the Greenbrier Humane Society. If you would like to donate, please drop your supplies off at the school between 8 a.m. and 12 noon from Monday, July 19, through Friday, July 23.

## American Heritage Music Hall, Inc.

Located at 496 Island Park, Ronceverte. Open to the public, all welcome, handicap accessible. Listeners and tourists welcome. Admission \$7 Tuesday nights, \$10 Saturday - Audience provides food. Doors open at 7 p.m. Jam & Dance every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday dance, July 24 features Ivan Combs & The Outlaws. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852. The Music Hall is available for weddings and parties.

## Democratic Women's Club

will meet Tuesday, July 27, at 5:30 p.m. at Shelter #2 at Dorie Miller park. We will be working on planning for our annual picnic, scheduled for Aug. 29 at Ron Miller's farm, reviewing our July projects, and reviewing the plans for the State Fair booth.

## Car Show to support Adopt A Cop

Greenbrier County Adopt A Cop and Shade Tree Car Club will host a Car Show Fundraiser on Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ronceverte Island Park. It is FREE to the public and a \$15 registration fee for all cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There will be a dunking booth, food vendor, T-shirts, and much more. Please come out and support our local law enforcement officers. For more information, be sure to follow our Facebook Page at Greenbrier County Adopt A Cop.

## Public Meetings

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

## Rainelle Town Council

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

## Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda Items Include:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Committee Reports
- Other Business

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# Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. promotes adult education

The West Virginia Department of Education's (WVDE) Office of Adult Education is pleased to announce the "Never Too Late to Graduate" campaign featuring West Virginia native and America's Got Talent Winner Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. The campaign, which features Murphy on billboards throughout the state, encourages adults who have not completed high school to earn their high school equivalency diploma and to pursue post-secondary trainings and courses that could open employment and career options for them.

As a teenager, Murphy's family moved from the mountains of West Virginia to Detroit, MI. The struggles he faced led him to eventually drop out of high school and work menial jobs with no prospect of breaking out of the grips of poverty. He washed dishes, sold shoes and worked temporary jobs in an attempt to support himself.

His moonshot audition on the national talent competition, America's Got Talent, changed his life in 2010 and brought success, fame and glory. He won a million-dollar prize, launched a globe-trotting career, debuted a number-one-selling album and told his story in his award-winning book, "Landau - From Washing Cars to Hollywood Star." Murphy, however, was not completely satisfied because of the unfinished business of earning his high school diploma.

"It was something that was always on my mind and something I knew I had to do," Murphy said. "Even with all the success I was experiencing, I wasn't satisfied knowing I had not earned my diploma. It was important to me, but my tour schedule made it difficult to find time to prepare and test."

Then the pandemic happened and the entertainment industry, along with everything else, shuttered. Murphy used this time to study, test and pass all components of the exam to become a high school graduate. He said he is using this experience to encourage others to earn their diploma, regardless of how long they've been out of school.

As part of the campaign, Landau displays promotional materials and banners at his concerts in the state promoting the support available by WVDE Adult Education. This, along with the billboards posted statewide, pro-

vide information to help people earn their diplomas and pursue other educational opportunities.

"I truly believe it is never too late to graduate, and I hope others use my story as an example of how to always have a goal and a dream," Murphy said.

Those with high school diplomas earn an average of \$8,000 more per year than those without, and the WVDE Adult Education program offers many free classes from high school equivalency preparation and testing to Microsoft Office Certification.

"The workforce is changing and to meet future demands workers will need the education and training that is available for free through WVDE programs and services," said WVDE Director of Adult Education Mendy Marshall. "We are thrilled Mr. Murphy is willing to be a part of this campaign because his story will positively impact those who can relate to his experiences."

## State spring cleanup efforts remove almost 500 tons of trash

More than 8,500 volunteers removed 489 tons of litter from West Virginia's landscape during spring cleanup programs sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

Numbers were recently finalized for April's Make It Shine and May's Adopt-A-Highway cleanup efforts, which are administered by the WVDEP's REAP (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan) program and focus on beautifying the state's public lands.

"The dedication, hard work, and passion shown by our volunteers each year is truly amazing," said REAP program manager Sandy Rogers. "West Virginians care deeply for their environment and we look forward to partnering with them next year as we continue working towards our goal of making our state the cleanest in the nation."

The two-week Make It Shine cleanup (May 1-15) attracted 4,876 volunteers statewide. Close to 170 volunteer groups participated, cleaning 737 acres of public lands and 46 miles of streams. Volunteers removed just over 754,000 pounds of litter, while remediating 144 dumps, and collecting 1,850 tires.

The Adopt-A-Highway cleanup occurred on Apr. 24 and was bolstered by 3,704 volunteers from across the state. 412 volunteer groups removed 214,000 pounds of trash and 456 tires from 1,081 miles of state roadways.

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

For more WVDEP news and information, go to [www.dep.wv.gov](http://www.dep.wv.gov). Also, connect with the agency on all social media platforms. Follow @DEPWV on Twitter, Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/depwv/>, and find us on YouTube at Environment Matters.

## Child Tax Credit helps families pay for transportation, food

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

An estimated 346,000 West Virginia children, 93% of all kids in the state, live in households that likely received their first Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments last week.

Stormy Johnson, with the Preston County Board of Education and a mother of three children, said the extra cash provided by the CTC will help her make her monthly car payment.

"Here in Preston County, if you don't have a vehicle, you don't have a lot," Johnson observed. "Because we don't have access to public transportation like there are in some different counties."

The increased payments in this year's child tax credit, which expires at the end of this year, could reduce child poverty by 43% in West Virginia, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Johnson added the additional money would go toward household expenses if it became permanent.

"And if it weren't a vehicle, then I'd use it to get groceries because I don't qualify for SNAP," Johnson explained.

Amy Jo Hutchinson, an anti-poverty advocate and fellow at the Center for Community Change, said many West Virginians are in Johnson's situation.

"We have so many people who are in that gap between

being able to qualify for assistance, and not qualifying for assistance, but really struggling to make ends meet," Hutchinson pointed out. "And those are the families who are going to have huge benefits from this expanded child tax credit."

It's expected an additional 170,000 children in the state are eligible for the tax credit, even if they have not been in previous years, according to the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

## Yard Sale Reminder

The City of Lewisburg would like to remind city residents that the following rules govern yard sales or garage sales within the city. Each sale is restricted to be no more than 48 hours on the same lot and may be held no more than four times per year. A temporary ground sign advertising the sale is permitted on the lot where the sale is being held and can be displayed up to three days before sale event. If you have any questions please call Marsha Cunningham at 304-645-2080.

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Jenny Lee Martin, Leivasy, providing false information to a Trooper, NCP, fine \$100  
Sarah L. Shawver, Charmco, driving too fast for roadway conditions, fine \$22  
Joseph L. Burns, Union, driving while license suspended or revoked, fine \$100  
Joseph L. Burns, Union, no inspection sticker, fine \$10  
Charles Lacy Adkins, Rainelle, obstructing officer, fine \$100  
Scott Alan Crews, Ronceverte, no seatbelt, fine \$25  
Robert Bond Sipos, Asbury, trespassing, GP, fine \$100  
Samuel L. Jenson, Vienna, VA, speeding - 10 mph or less above, NCP, fine \$5  
Jeffrey Julian Plogger, Lewisburg, no seatbelt, fine \$25  
William Demar Moore, Lewisburg, no seatbelt, NCP, fine \$25  
Joshua Gauge Honaker, Caldwell, reckless driving, NCP, fine \$100  
Jonathan L. Bryant, Alderson, no seatbelt, GP, fine \$25  
Keaton T. Walls, Mt. Crawford, VA, speeding, GP, fine \$5  
John Tolley, Rupert, no seatbelt, GP, fine \$25

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Mountain Messenger



# OPINION

## Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist

### Weeds don't know they're Weeds

Obvious but so true! Weeds grow fast and strong just like things we intentionally plant in our gardens, sometimes even better. The rain or garden hose sprinkles them with water just like it does with our garden goodies. The sun shines down and encourages them to head up, reach for the sky. And they do, just like our garden plants. But we don't really want to grow invasive and stubborn crab grass, nutsedge, bindweed, or quack grass.

Some other plants considered weeds can actually benefit the gardener. Purslane, for example, can be eaten raw or cooked. Be sure not to confuse it with spurge which is poisonous. Google it or ask a local forager to help with identification. Better yet, get a good plant book from the library.

Dandelions are considered by botanist as herbs. Folks who practice the old-time hobby of making dandelion wine or dandelion tea will consider it a gold mine when they find a patch of it in the wild. Be sure not to harvest any city or suburban dandelions; they may be contaminated with pet urine or pesticides. Dandelion flowers and leaves can be harvested, added to salads, and packs the same nutrients of purslane.

I find a ton of lambsquarters sprouting in my garden beds. Again, use a book or your internet to discern what it looks like. Also considered an annual edible plant for centuries, pick the young tender leaves which have a distinct white coating in their centers, and after a quick rinse cook it quickly like spinach in water. Called wild spinach, it is rich in vitamins and nutrients. You can also substitute it for basil and make a pesto from it with added cheese, garlic and a bit of olive oil.

Recently, a devote vegetables gardener asked how a certain weed, nutsedge, turned up in his garden this year. Weed seeds can be deposited by bird droppings or animal droppings. When I housed two mini horses, they were successful in spreading all kinds of weeds they ate to all areas of my fields. If you use compost that has not heated up enough to kill seeds, they will sprout when it gets spread on your garden. Even some commercial bagged composts can be hosts to weed seeds.

I was reading an old how-to-gardening book by a British horticulturist who announced that she was totally perplexed by a fern plant which appeared out of "thin air" in her orchid plant pots. The orchids were housed inside a greenhouse, sterile soil was used, and no other living things, like birds, were inside this hothouse. She concluded after studying this dilemma that some spores were carried in by the air when the doors were opened. Wow. That's how very strong life forces are determined to survive. Seeds found by archeology digs found stored



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in the frozen tundra or under ash are able to sprout to life again. The oldest seed found in Siberia was carbon dated to be around 32,000 years old!

Store your seeds in jars kept very dry, out of the sun, and add some uncooked rice to absorb any moisture. Commercial seed packets are dated for germination rates but don't throw away expired seeds before trying to get them to sprout. Easy to do, roll seeds up in a paper towel, wet it with a spray bottle and set it in a cup on the windowsill, keeping it moist not soaked. Within two days or so if the seeds are viable, they will sprout little green stems and can be planted within the paper towel into moist soil in the early morning before the sun becomes too hot. Watch them grow, just like weeds.

If you would like some recipes for cooking these wild weeds, email me at [natureswaykaren@gmail.com](mailto:natureswaykaren@gmail.com) and I will share some. If you have a particularly delicious tip for cooking up/eating weeds, please let me know.

## Commentary

### Race to the Vaccine

By Ellen Showell

People have wondered how the scientists could come up with a vaccine for the coronavirus so quickly. It turns out, they have been working on it for 15 years - coronaviruses are nothing new. When it was learned a new coronavirus had spread from China, Covid 19, scientists around the world collaborated to fight it. Recently developed technology allowed them to better understand its peculiarities, how it enters our cells, how it could be thwarted.

The whole story is out there, for those wanting to know the details. One helpful site is a USA Today in-depth news article, "Race to the Vaccine." It can be read online at <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2021/01/26/moderna-covid-vaccine-science-fast/6555783002/>.

A number of men and women scientists have spent a good part of their lives trying to find a way to stop viruses from destroying our cells. Their success with Covid-19 is a testament to their willingness to share their knowledge and work together. It's a great human endeavor to be celebrated!

## Commentary

### AG Morrissey states opposition to unfair opioid settlement based on population

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey reiterated his strong opposition to a nationwide opioid settlement Wednesday that shortchanges the state of West Virginia and her counties and municipalities.

The Attorney General contends the proposed settlement with three distributors and manufacturer Johnson & Johnson favors the nation's largest states by distributing settlement proceeds largely based upon population as opposed to the intensity of the opioid crisis.

"West Virginia is a resounding no on these agreements and will continue to litigate and negotiate outside the framework of today's announcement," Attorney General Morrissey said Wednesday.

"All of our actions and today's opposition have positioned the state of West Virginia and local governments to fare very well," he added Wednesday. "We have expressly carved the counties and municipalities out and positioned them and our Office to maximize a recovery that is based upon the severity of the harm imposed on West Virginians. I will keep fighting to protect West Virginia and will not allow larger states to dictate how we hold defendants accountable for their actions."

The Attorney General holds a similar position in continued negotiations involving the bankruptcy of opioid maker Purdue Pharma. He will argue in opposition to Purdue's bankruptcy plan next month in New York.

The Attorney General's active lawsuits against Purdue Pharma and Johnson & Johnson are among three others against opioid makers, as well as cases filed against four national chain distributors.

## Commentary

### Capito, Manchin announce \$9.6M in DHS Preparedness Grants for West Virginia

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, and Joe Manchin (D-WV), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$9,669,333 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Fiscal Year 2021 competitive preparedness grant programs. This funding was appropriated to help West Virginia prepare against man-made threats and natural disasters.

"As Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I have continuously made sure that West Virginia's needs are prioritized through DHS and FEMA grant programs. Due to our state's mountainous terrain, our communities can be susceptible to natural disasters like flash floods and mudslides, which is why we need to have the resources on hand to be prepared. This funding will also help support our brave first responders, as they tackle threats and instances daily. Our state needs to safeguard against both physical and online attacks, and this funding will help us bolster security on all fronts," Capito said.

"West Virginia must be prepared for any disaster or crisis and having comprehensive response plans and preparations in place is critical. I am pleased FEMA is investing in the Mountain State to strengthen our emergency preparedness and terrorism prevention plans. I will continue to fight for funding to ensure West Virginia is prepared to keep West Virginians safe during any emergency that impacts our state," Manchin said.

Individual Awards Listed Below:

- FY 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): West Virginia - \$4,602,500
- FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program: West Virginia - \$3,803,954
- FY 2021 Nonprofit Security Grant Program: West Virginia - \$606,426
- FY 2021 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP): Charleston Fire Department - \$317,586
- FY 2021 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP): South Charleston Fire Department - \$302,186
- FY 2021 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP): Wheeling Fire Department - \$36,681

## Commentary

### Office of Medical Cannabis to host patient sign up event July 26 in Charleston

The West Virginia Office of Medical Cannabis (OMC) will host a public signup event for medical cannabis patients from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday, July 26 in the first floor conference room of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, 108 Lee Street, East, Charleston, WV 25301.

Patients must have already seen a registered physician and bring the following items: Physician certification form; driver's license, state ID, or passport; and proof of West Virginia residency, such as a utility bill or voter registration card. Appointments are strongly encouraged and may be scheduled by calling 304-356-5090.

"Our goal is for individuals to understand the signup process," said Dr. Ayne Amjad, State Health Officer and Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. "Our staff will assist patients in completing the online application for those who may not have adequate internet access or who are not familiar with online applications."

To date, OMC has received 2,556 patient applications for medical cannabis. Patients who register early or have already registered will have the term of their patient card extended to the following:

- Register by September 30, 2021 = card is good for 2

years total (1 year original + 1 year extension)  
• Register after October 1, 2021 = card is good for 1 year total

Patients who have a household income of 200% of the federal poverty level or less may apply for a waiver of the \$50 state card fee. If a waiver is requested, applicants must provide documentation — most recent W2, paystubs within the last 30 days or proof of eligibility for low-income benefits.

Patient cards are valid only in West Virginia. Registration does not mean medical cannabis products can immediately be obtained.

The West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act permits West Virginia residents with serious medical conditions to procure medical cannabis for certified medical use in the following forms: pill; oil; topical forms including gels, creams, or ointments; a form medically appropriate for administration by vaporization or nebulization; dry leaf or plant form; tincture; liquid; or dermal patch.

In addition to the July 26 event, eligible West Virginians can register for a medical cannabis patient card at [www.medcanwv.org](http://www.medcanwv.org). A list of physicians registered to certify patients as eligible for the use of medical cannabis is available on the website.

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# CLUB

## Annual Stuff the Bus event to run through August 16

Communities in Schools of Greenbrier County (CISGC) is partnering with the Family Refuge Center (FRC) and Love Child for its annual Stuff the Bus school supply drive. The event will take place July 21 through Aug. 16.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had negative effects on a lot of people. Many individuals went without work and are still facing hardships. "Parents are unfortunately often left with the tough decision between paying bills, purchasing groceries, or school supplies." Over the last several years, Communities in Schools of Greenbrier County has collected

thousands of items for local families in need. This year, CISGC's partnership with Family Refuge Center will allow even more at-risk and disadvantaged youth to receive assistance.

If you or someone you know would like to donate school supplies, you can do so at one of three locations: Kroger in Rainelle, Love Child in Lewisburg, and in the O'Café at WVSOM. For those who cannot make it to these drop off locations, we have also created a registry at Walmart.com. Through this registry, you can have your donated items shipped directly to CISGC and staff will distribute them to the

FRC and local youth in need.

For monetary donations, you may mail a check to P.O. Box 1188, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or online at [www.cisgc.org/donate](http://www.cisgc.org/donate)

Help Communities in Schools of Greenbrier County and Family Refuge Center Stuff the Bus and fill backpacks for students with pencils, erasers, notebooks, and other essential school supplies. The goal is to distribute backpacks before the start of the school year, so students will not be left behind once the new academic year begins. For more information, call 304-661-1018 or email [director@cisgc.org](mailto:director@cisgc.org)

## WVDA announces return of Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is pleased to announce the return of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). SFMNP was delayed earlier this year due to a lack of a banking contract. With the contract now in place, vouchers will be delivered to participating partners and be available to senior citizens starting August 1. The WVDA is working to avoid this issue for the 2022 season.

"What we saw in West Virginia is not unique to our state. Many other programs around the country are struggling to find banking partners to handle redemption of the vouchers. The USDA is aware of the issue and is working through how to adjust the federal program so states can continue serving our senior citizens," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers will be distributed to all 55 counties in West Virginia by the WVDA through the United States Department of Agriculture's program. Vouchers

can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs from participating farmers markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs. Eligible seniors who are over the age of 60 and meet certain financial requirements can sign up through their local senior centers.

"We are extremely proud of the staff who made this program possible despite the banking issue we had to confront. SFMNP is important to the health of our at-risk senior citizens, as well as the farmers who provide the produce," Leonhardt said.

In 2020, the WVDA and its partners distributed a total of 16,800 vouchers to seniors in West Virginia. A total of 349 farmers, 101 farm stands and one farmers market participated in the program by accepting the vouchers.

For more information, contact Crescent Gallagher [cgallagher@wvda.us](mailto:cgallagher@wvda.us) 304-558-3708.

# Reunions

## Hoover

The 55th annual Hoover Family Reunion will be held Saturday, July 31, at the Greenbrier State Forest in the cabin area. Family and Friends are invited to gather at noon. Bring your favorite side dish and dessert (chicken and drinks will be provided). Bring your lawn chair and join us for fun, food, and fellowship with the Hoover family, descendants of Emmons Bright Hoover and Rachel Susan Daugherty.

## Hodges / O'Brien

The descendants of James H. Hodges and Jeremiah O'Brien have scheduled a reunion for Sunday, Aug. 22, at Ronceverte Island Park, Picnic Shelter #1. We will gather at noon with dinner set for 1 p.m. Bring pictures, family tree information, past reunion information, and other memorabilia to share. Also bring addresses for family members that have moved of who you want to add to our mailing list. The descendants are dying and we, the reunion committee, need you and your families to continue the rich tradition. Please bring anyone and come enjoy the fine food and good fellowship. Come and catch up on the family news and reminisce about the good old days/times. Please share this announcement with family members and relatives who may not be on our current mailing list. If your address has changed, we need your new address for our mailing list. Please call Nancy Hodges at 304-647-3451 for changes in your address. Hope to see you there! Our rain location is First Church of God of Ronceverte Fellowship Hall, Ronceverte and North Avenue, Ronceverte, WV.

## Henning Church of God Ladies hold July meeting

The Ladies of the Henning Church of God held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 13, in the church fellowship hall. Carole Spencer presided and Donna Scott led in prayer.

Dyan Hefner presented the devotion, "A Diamond is a Girl's Best Friend," with scripture reference Ephesians 5:8. Diamonds are wonderful because they sparkle, shine and can be worth a lot. Christian women can act like a diamond because they come from the deep mirey clay when they are saved. A diamond starts from carbon and can take billion of years to form. The more visibility a diamond has, the more expensive. Any impurities will make it less valuable. Christ sees only our heart. Only Christians cut by our master can sparkle when we allow Christ to mold us and reflect light in our lives.

She also presented an acrostic for diamond. Delight in the Lord. (Psalms 37:4) Increase in love. (I Thessalonians 3:12) Abide in Christ. (John 15:5) Minister to others. (Romans 12:13) Obey God's word. (I John 2:3) Never give up. (Hebrews 12:1) Die to self. (Galatians 5:12) The light of Christ pales to a diamond. How well do you sparkle? II Corinthians 3:18. The group also sang, "Shine In Me."

Barb Seldomridge gave the missionary education report about Vance Messingill. Vance's parents were Christians. In his teens he used drugs and also got involved in occult practices. His mother prayed to save him even if it meant dying and gave him completely to God. He accepted Jesus after attempting suicide in 1992. The Holy Spirit led him and he was preaching a month after he accepted Christ as his

Lord and Savior. Nothing seemed to fit in his ministry, until he read Isaiah 6:8, and decided that he wanted God to send him. He enrolled in Lee college and graduated from there. He also met his wife there. Two weeks after graduation, he and his wife were called to be missionaries in China. He later found out his mother felt like her heart was breaking when she found out he was going so far away, however, God reminded her that her son was His. Vance Messingill and his wife have been in the mission field for 24 years.

Jamie Harvey gave the treasurer's report and Pauline Perkins read last month's minutes.

The church will be sponsoring Vacation Bible School (Crocodile Dock) July 26-30, 6 to 8:30 p.m. The church picnic will be held Sunday, August 1. The group will also be having a Yard and Bake Sale on September 11.

Joan Vance also shared about her week in Mill Creek with the Tyrand Cooperative Ministries. The ladies group had previously helped to purchase tables for the ministry and were much appreciated. The crews painted inside a home and they also built a front and back deck for a single mother. According to Billy Graham, "Our job is to love, the Holy Spirit is to convict, and God's job is to judge." Are we really loving like we should be?

The next meeting will be August 10 and Kim Brookman dismissed in prayer.

Attending were: Alice Coff, Barb Seldomridge, Carole Spencer, Cindy Fleshman, Donna Scott, Dyan Hefner, Evon Persinger, Jamie Harvey, Joan Vance, Kim Brookman, Marsha Merritt, Marty Burns, Patty Owens, Pauline Perkins, and Sue Hunt.



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## Letha McCoy

**Williamsburg**-Letha "Frances" McCoy, 57, passed away Thursday, July 15, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born June 23, 1964, at Ronceverte, she was the daughter of the late George Allen and Letha Mae Mason Scott.

Frances worked for Pro-Careers for over 17 years. She loved hummingbirds. She had many feeders and would frequently watch them eating.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Troy Allen Scott and Gilmer Ray Scott.

Survivors include her husband of 34 years, Patrick McCoy; son, George Warren McCoy of Williamsburg, WV; K9 son, Festus; brother, Robert Lester Scott of Anjean; sister, Donna Jean Wickline (Milton) of Williamsburg; and sister-in-law, Pam Scott of Williamsburg; her grand dog, Gracie; and several nieces, and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, July 20, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Theo Morgan officiated. Burial followed in the McCoy Cemetery, Williamsburg.

Visitation was Monday evening, July 19, at the funeral home. Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net).

## Cody Dwayne Carter



**Alderson** - Cody Dwayne Carter, 29, passed away after a long battle with cancer on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at the Princeton Community Hospital in Princeton, WV.

He was born on June 21, 1992, in Beckley, a son of Kristy (Nikolaus) Wilson and husband Eddie, of Wayside, and Ronnie "Dwayne" Carter and wife Patchila, of Alderson.

Cody was a graduate of James Monroe High School and attended West Virginia University Institute of Technology where he majored in mathematics and education. He was presently self-employed as a private tutor. He will be remembered for his love reading, teaching, and caring for his pets, but most all his love for his family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his companion of five years, Jeremy Smith of Ivydale; his brothers, Andrew Carter and wife Brittney of Alderson, Warren Weikle and wife Lilly of Lewisburg, Brandon Carter, of Alderson, Scott Weikle and wife Jamie of Union; his stepbrothers, Timothy Wilson and wife Lori of Alderson, Stony Wilson and wife Shenna of Wayside, Buddy Wilson and Jermie Massie, both of Alderson; his stepsisters, Hailey Dolbow and husband Dustin of Ballard, and Alysia Massie and companion Jordan Phillips of Alderson; his grandparents, Chuck Nikolaus and wife Barbara of Wayside; his special aunt, Missy

Hopkins and husband Jerry of Alderson; along with several nieces and nephews and numerous loved and cherished friends.

Cody was preceded in death by his grandparents, Delano and Faye Carter.

The family extends their gratitude to Cody's special friend, Rania Riffle, for the excellent care he received during his sickness.

In keeping with his wishes, Cody will be cremated.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

For those considering an expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Friends of Feral Homeless Cats and Kittens, 848 Mt. Zion Road, Alderson, WV 24910 and Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc, 290 Turnpike Road, Suite 5-315, Westborough, MA 01581.

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

## Joe Beck Buttram

Aug. 11, 1933-July 15, 2021



Joe Buttram, 87, passed away on the morning of Thursday, July 15, 2021, after a brief illness.

Joe spent his formative years in the fields and on the farms of Northeast Texas. The choral and band programs at DeKalb high school ignited a passion for music that followed him throughout his life.

After completing a Bachelor's in Music Education at the University of North Texas, Joe picked up his clarinet and trotted the globe as a Bandsman in the U.S. Army's 9th Division. After an honorable discharge it was back to North Texas for a Master's degree, followed by a position teaching instrumental music and voice at Springfield High School in Springfield, Colorado. He started a family while returning to school yet again, this time earning his Doctorate in Music Education at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. In subsequent years Joe distinguished himself both professionally and artistically. After only three years as Assistant Professor, Joe was named Dean of the College of Music at Loyola University in New Orleans, where his love of music was refined into a love of jazz. Joe subsequently served as Director of the School of Music at the University of Kentucky and at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. He never put down his horn, actively performing in countless ensembles, large and small, throughout his career and into his retirement. If anything, Joe was busier in retirement than during his professional career. He served as President of Local 674, American Federation of Musicians for several years, and served at various intervals as Development Officer, Music Director, composer, and actor for the Greenbrier Valley Theater in Lewisburg, West Virginia. He

is perhaps best known for over 100 performances in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in GVT's production of A Christmas Carol, a role he described as, "ideally suited for him." Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Jarman and Lorene (Lipe) Buttram, and his beloved younger brother, Pat Rice. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Cathey and his canine girl, Sally; three children, Joanie (Jim), Bob (Darcy), and Patrick (Jamie); his sister, Jan; brother, Mike (Becky); nephew, Will and his family; his in-laws who became his close family, and his admiring young nephew, Theo, a burgeoning prodigy on piano and trumpet who had the honor of being Joe's last student. Following a private burial, a memorial service was held at the Greenbrier Valley Theater Tuesday evening, July 20. Memorial gifts may be made to Greenbrier Valley Theater. Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

is perhaps best known for over 100 performances in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in GVT's production of A Christmas Carol, a role he described as, "ideally suited for him."

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Jarman and Lorene (Lipe) Buttram, and his beloved younger brother, Pat Rice.

He is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Cathey and his canine girl, Sally; three children, Joanie (Jim), Bob (Darcy), and Patrick (Jamie); his sister, Jan; brother, Mike (Becky); nephew, Will and his family; his in-laws who became his close family, and his admiring young nephew, Theo, a burgeoning prodigy on piano and trumpet who had the honor of being Joe's last student.

Following a private burial, a memorial service was held at the Greenbrier Valley Theater Tuesday evening, July 20. Memorial gifts may be made to Greenbrier Valley Theater.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

## John Wayne Biggs



**Neola**-John Wayne Biggs passed away Saturday, July 17, 2021, as a result of a car accident. He was 65 years old.

John is survived by his significant other, Rita Hull Spinks. Father of Johnny Foster Biggs, Jason Roy Biggs and Jennifer J. (Philip) Davis. Grandfather of Jenna, Joshua, Jared, Josie and Jaxson Biggs, Ethyn Biggs, Shae, Sky and Kayla Davis. Brother of Jane Marie Biggs (Butch), Judy Christine Biggs (Jimmie) Hammons, Justin "Joe" Nelson Biggs, Renata "Renae" Ann Trainer (Slim), Rosa Ruth (Bobby) Trainer Osborne, Melvin Earl (Kim) Trainer, Florence "Flo" Mae Trainer (Bobby) and Michael "Ross" (Jaime VanHoy) Trainer. Life-long friend of Pete and Betty Didawick. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, friends and extended family.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Agnes Grace Bennett Trainer, Roy Echols Trainer and Jack Nelson Biggs; and siblings, Jackie "Sugar" Lee Biggs, Janet Grace Biggs and Edward "Bimbo" William Bennett.

John was a proud veteran of the United States Army. He was a hard worker that you could count on to show up early and get the job done. He loved to ride and race horses. He was a very skilled horse trainer. He loved and cherished his dogs. He was very proud of his garden that he planted every year. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing and running his dogs. His favorite time of the year was 4th of July where he hosted a cook-out and looked forward to spending time with his family and friends.

Visitation was held on Thursday, July 22, at Wal-

lace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs. A graveside service followed in May Chapel Cemetery.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com).

## Patsy Ann Wingo



**Lewisburg**-On Monday, July 12, 2021, Patsy Ann Wingo (née Christian) died at the age of 85 in her WV home in Lewisburg.

She was a confirmed snowbird for over 30 years and also maintained a home on Siesta Key off of Sarasota, FL, throughout the winter season with her husband, Walter, until his death in 2011. She is survived by her four sisters, Juanita, Virginia, Betty, and Charlotte, and her brother, Darius.

Patsy was born at home on the Christian family farm in Keister by the Greenbrier River in West Virginia and attended a one-room schoolhouse until she moved to "the city" to attend her alma mater, Lewisburg High School. Lewisburg would remain her home and community for the most of her life until retiring to Florida. Patsy remained active in both the Lewisburg House & Garden Club and Sarasota Garden Club and served as a nationally accredited Flower Show Master Judge Emeritus, a member of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church's Women's Circle, and an avid golfer with a Hole-in-One to her credit.

She began her professional career at The Greenbrier and worked primarily in the Publicity Department in the Mad Men Era of business. She had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing many famous individuals in that role but her fondest one was with Pearl S. Buck, Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning author. But most importantly, she made lifetime friends and met her future husband at the resort. Together she and Walter mortgaged their home to the SBA and sold her U.S. savings bonds to create Walter H. Wingo - Fine Jewelry which serviced the needs of hotel guests through the late 20th century.

The Wingos spent many years visiting Walter's children across the world including Hawaii and Germany. When their only child together, Gregory A. Wingo, left for various schools they visited him in Blacksburg, Los Angeles, Italy, and Clemson, and later throughout Europe. For her 80th birthday, Patsy chose to cruise Greece, the Dalmatian coast, and Italy with her son, his wife, Rachel, and

their daughter, Kearney, as her last great traveling adventure.

While only having one child with Walter, Patsy was also a mother figure for her stepson, Walter H. Wingo, Jr. (Butch), and a grandmother to Gregg's four children, Helvetia, Adele, and Celeste of Switzerland, Kearney and his stepson, Korey, both of Lewisburg. She was also a great-grandmother of Floyde and Livio of Switzerland; however, long before that she was Grand Patsy to Walter's grandchildren: Chuck, Scott, Andy, Jennifer, Chris, David, Justin, Dylan, Ransom, and Sarah. She was, of course, also Great Grand Patsy to their 14 sons and daughters. Her home was often filled with the laughter and playfulness of children of all ages.

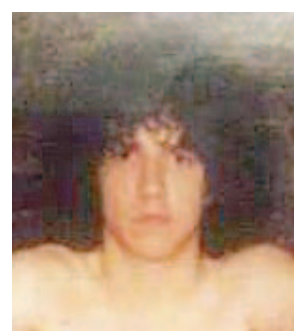
A memorial service will be held on Aug. 28 at noon at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg with a reception following immediately afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lewisburg Foundation's Flowers Forever fund in Patsy's name. Donations should be sent to the Lewisburg Foundation 674 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901. The foundation can be contacted at 304-647-3520 to answer questions concerning their community beautification mission.

Patsy will be interred with her husband and eternal dance partner, Walter, in the Sarasota National Cemetery this Fall on a date to be determined.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com).

## Jason Arnold Walker



**White Sulphur Springs**-Jason Arnold Walker, 68, passed away at his home Tuesday, June 29, 2021. He was born Feb. 18, 1953, in New York, NY, a son of the late Allan Walker and Carol J. (Vance) Walker.

After Graduating high school, Jason went on to work as an EMT and Auxiliary Policeman for the city of New York.

As a child, he could not take his eyes off musical instruments where he became talented as a musician, especially the base guitar. Jason also had an interest in science and our universe, where he read frequently. Most of all, he loved to spend time with his family and friends.

Jason is survived by his daughter; Alana Sky Battaille and her husband Patrick of Alderson; granddaughter, Oceana Carter of Alderson; and his ex-wife, Ruth Ashley of Al-

derston.

In addition to his parents, Jason was preceded in death by his sister, Louisa Walker.

In keeping with his wishes, Jason will be cremated.

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

## Robert Lee Riley



**Lewisburg**-Robert Lee "Bob" Riley, 88, passed away Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at home with his wife and sons by his side.

He fought a 19-month-long battle with esophageal cancer.

Bob was born in Charleston, WV, on Oct. 5, 1932, to Hubert Clive "H.C." Riley and Beulah Margaret Arthur Riley.

He graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in 1950 and from West Virginia University in 1954. At WVU, Bob was a member of the wrestling team and Sigma Chi Fraternity. He was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Christian.

Bob grew up in Charleston but spent his summers with his maternal grandparents in Gap Mills until age 16. He loved his summers in Gap Mills and made life-long friends and many wonderful memories.

After graduation from WVU, he followed his father's footsteps into the retail business as a buyer at The Diamond Department Store in Charleston and later as a Merchandise Manager at the A.W. Cox Department Stores in Charleston. In 1961, he opened a new store for Cox's in White Sulphur Springs. He made many friends while living in White Sulphur and those friendships continue today.

In 1966, he made a career change and joined Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company as an agent in Charleston. While at Northwestern he became a Chartered Life Underwriter and Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

In 1979, he was appointed General Agent for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company for the State of West Virginia. He built the Agency to 42 agents and his Agency led the Company in the sale of pension products two consecutive years. He retired from Mass Mutual in 1993.

Following retirement, Bob and his wife Sharon, built a home in Lewisburg and lived in Florida during the winter months for 27 winters always returning to their beloved WV home in the spring.

Bob loved the outdoors and hunted and fished from boyhood. Over the years, he made multiple fishing trips to

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# OBITUARIES

Alaska, Montana, Canada, and with friends on Lake Erie. A dedicated native brook trout fisherman, few people knew as many native brook streams in WV as Bob. He loved to grouse hunt and had bird dogs for over 60 years and loved them all, especially his Brittians.

He possessed a marvelous memory; and recalled past events in detail going back to childhood. A people person, he loved and cherished his friends. He was proud to have many friends for over 80 years.

One of his proudest accomplishments was, after 19 years of retirement, being honored by his former agents and employees with a surprise 80th birthday celebration. Afterwards, Bob said, "That evening was the biggest payday of my life."

He worked hard during his lifetime and handed down to his sons a work ethic and value system by which to lead their lives. He took great pride in all of his sons and immense satisfaction in seeing them succeed in life.

Survivors include Sharon, his best friend and loving wife of 37 years and their precious Brittany, Abby; four wonderful sons, Mike (Sigrid) of St. Albans, Patrick (Patty) of Ponte Vedra, FL, Jeff (Ellen) of Jacksonville, FL, and Craig (Amber) of Bridgeport; his eight cherished grandchildren, Caleb, Rhys, Jacob, Jesse, Noah, Josh, Evie, and Jack; his beloved sister, Margaret Ann Simpson of Charleston, and her daughters, Amy, Kelly, Stacy, Shelly, and Lori.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jackie Clive Riley; and brother-in-law, Charles "Chuck" Simpson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 24, at 11:30 a.m. at Lewisburg United Methodist Church in Lewisburg, with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be given to HospiceCare, 1265 Maplewood Avenue Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Fu-

neral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

## Irma Curran

Irma (Crosier) Curran departed this life for the next on Thursday, July 15, 2021, after a long illness.

She was born to parents Earl and Rossie (Wickline) Crosier in Gap Mills in 1930 as a youngest sister to Alma (Campbell) and Gaynelle (Dahmer).

Irma graduated from Davis & Elkins College and spent over 30 years as a dedicated elementary teacher in White Sulphur Springs; she was also a long-time member and deacon of First Presbyterian Church in White Sulphur. Her life was a daily testimony to her belief that the key to one's own happiness lies in finding ways to make others happy. Her daughters Sandra (John) Phillips, Pamela (Rick) Jenkinson, and Jennifer (Barry) Rich will forever

cherish their mother ... for her smile as warm as a summer's day, for her sparkling and quick sense of humor ready for fun at any moment, for her innumerable thoughtful gestures, for her quiet strength in the face of challenges, and for her tireless devotion to her family. Irma was an unparalleled and patient listener who had the kindest, sweetest soul; to be included within her circle of caring was indeed an enduring treasure. Her family extends special gratitude to Debbie Blankenship, Lisa Kuhn, Jerri Dowdy, Bea Phillips, and Darlene Milem, all who lovingly helped Irma's daughters care for her at home for the last three years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations have been requested to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

Wallace and Wallace is in charge of the arrangements. A private family service will be held at a

later date.

Hebrews 12:1-2, "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes upon Jesus."

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

## William Edward O'Brien

Lewisburg-William Edward "Billy" O'Brien passed away Wednesday, July 14, 2021, peacefully at his home in Lewisburg.

Born in Ronceverte, May 1, 1941, Billy was the son of the late Melvin O'Brien and Evelyn Ridgeway. His tireless work ethic began at an early age and upon graduation from Union High School in 1959 he went to work for his father's construction company and later, at Hercules in Covington. Billy, along with his brothers Mike and Melvin "Chick" formed Three Brothers, Inc. and in 1984 he started Greenbrier Excavating & Paving, Inc. with his son, Alan.

Billy was an avid fan of AMC vehicles and built his AMC racecars and raced at dragstrips around the country. In later years, Billy enjoyed keeping up with Alan and grandson Kevin as they continued his legacy of racing AMC

cars.

Billy was preceded in death by his brothers, Mike and Melvin "Chick" O'Brien; half-brothers, George and Marvin Ambler; and half-sister, Mildred Neuner.

Surviving Billy are his wife, Deborah Miller "Debbie" O'Brien; daughter, Shari O'Brien; sons, Alan (Tammy) and Kurt (Becky); grandsons, Kevin O'Brien (Jennie) and Seth McQuain; and a great grandson whom he affectionately called, "Little Man," William James "Will" O'Brien. Also surviving are step-grandchildren, Zach Fugate and Kelli Jene Jeffries, as well as his Greenbrier Excavating Family, Wyatt Wilson, Ronnie Hill and Nicky O'Brien.

A graveside service was held at Greenbrier Memorial Gardens, Sunday, July 18 where Stewart Farley officiated.

The family would like to thank the staff at HospiceCare of Lewisburg for their kind and compassionate care. To honor their extraordinary service, the family asks in lieu of flowers, please make donations to HospiceCare Lewisburg, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

## LEGAL

### Notice of Public Hearing

August 26, 2021

942 Washington Street, West

Also available via Teleconference because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. For information on how to participate on ZOOM, contact Marsha Cunningham at 304-645-2080 by 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

The City of Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a working session at 4:30 p.m., followed by a regular monthly meeting at 5 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
3. **Comments from the Public:**
4. **Public Hearing:** John Preston, 243 Court Street; Variance Request, setback from 10' to 4'
5. **Public Hearing:** The Briergarten, Stratton Alley; Variance Request, Sign
6. **Comments from Commission members:**
7. **Comments from Zoning Officer**
8. **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the BZA will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 5 p.m. with a deadline of August 20, 2021.

## LEGAL

### GREENBRIER COUNTY BUILDING COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Balance July 1, 2020	\$ 14,982.62	
Revenues: Interest	56.05	
Expenditures:		
WV Daily News - publishing	-60.37	
2019-2020 annual report		
Mountain Messenger - publishing	-27.51	-87.88
2019-2020 annual report		
Balance June 30, 2021	\$ 14,950.79	

Gayle E. Mason  
Chairman

## LEGAL

### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

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

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
030	2019000025	S313-60/14-6.39 00	STBG-6014-005-DTC
			DECK RENOVATION
			Harts Run Br O/L +1
			MP 6.37 to MP 6.45
			COUNTY: GREENBRIER

**BRIDGE:** 13-60/14-6.39  
**SPAN(S):** 3  
**DBE GOAL:** 10% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

#### REMARKS:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

\*These are projects on which any contractor with a Category "W" Prequalification Rating may be eligible to bid.

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

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

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

## LEGAL

### PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 295, 288, 181, 315 and 366. The auction will end on 07/28/2021 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). These auctions will run until July 28, 2021. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

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City National Bank • Cornerstone IGA-Philip Cutlip  
Creative Kitchens • Edith's Store • Fairlea Animal Hospital  
The Ferrell Eye Clinic, P.C. • First Baptist Church, Fairlea  
Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center  
Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick  
Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy  
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center • Greenbrier Valley Theatre  
Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital • The Heart Center-Thomas W. vonDohlen, M.D.  
Knight Henderson-American National Insurance  
Lawrence J. Ickes, CPA, A.C. • Lewisburg United Methodist Church  
Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital, Inc.-Dr. Mary Ann Mann  
Mary Kay Cosmetics-Erica Buzzard • Mountain Messenger  
Olive + Shea Natural Nail Studio • Post Net • Premier Bank • Robert C. Byrd Clinic  
Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital  
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church • S.J. Neathawk Lumber  
Spare Time Sports Bar & Grille • St. James Episcopal Church  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, WSS • State Farm Insurance-Chris Hall  
Summit Community Bank

Heather Blake, Owner 304-646-2624

Alice Hollingsworth 304-645-3788

[greenbriergreeters@gmail.com](mailto:greenbriergreeters@gmail.com)

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### Elected officials are looking to make big changes

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

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

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

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