

## Supply shortage halts annual Lions Club Christmas tree sales

*Dry season leads to shortages with regular supplier*

**By Adam Pack**

For the first time in the history of the fundraiser, the Lewisburg Lions Club will not be selling Christmas trees to the public this year. Every holiday season, the Lions Club has sourced and sold some of the highest quality trees in the area, and has seen massive fundraising success with their tree sales.

However, the Lion’s Club is not the only organization to benefit from the tree sale funds. The Club donates to local charities that distribute the monies to numerous philanthropic outfits around the community. The Lions also use those funds internally to help provide seeing-eye dogs to the blind, among other club charities and expenses.

Lions Member and head of the Tree Sale Fundraiser Chuck Lewis said that the lack of trees this year is affecting more groups than most people realize.

“It’s a really big loss not just for us, but for charitable efforts and volunteerism around the community,” said Lewis, as he explained the tree’s supply issues. “Christmas trees are planted and given seven to eight years to mature before they’re harvest-

ed. So, the trees for this year were planted around 2013. Well, in the last aging cycle, there were several dry years that saw many trees not make it and had to be culled.”

This comes with the compounding problem of business decisions made outside the

See “Lions Tree Sales” \_\_\_\_ Page 3



Chuck Lewis is pictured here during the 2019 tree sale for the Lion’s Club.

## Commissioner McClung pleads not guilty to three charges

**By Sarah Richardson**

Greenbrier County Commissioner Mike McClung pled not guilty to three misdemeanor charges during a Raleigh County Circuit Court hearing earlier this week. McClung was charged with unauthorized access to computer services, unauthorized possession of computer data, and unauthorized possession of computer information stemming from an incident that occurred at the Greenbrier Valley Airport on Aug. 23, 2019.

McClung allegedly removed an external hard drive and other items without permission from an office at the airport belonging to former Airport Director Stephen Snyder, which staff members discovered after reviewing security tapes.

A document filed on Jan. 22 by Special Prosecuting Attorney Brian Parson states, “Michael McClung did knowingly, willfully and without authorization, directly or indirectly, access or caused to be accessed a computer or computer network belonging to Greenbrier Valley Airport with the intent to obtain computer services by physically removing a computer hard drive from the Greenbrier Valley Airport and later making duplicates of the aforesaid hard drive.”

McClung later admitted to entering the airport and taking the hard drive and copying its contents, but he denied viewing any of the information.

A trial is scheduled for Mar. 1, 2022.

## Bruce resigns as delegate, Baldwin announces bid for senatorial re-election

**By Adam Pack**

At a meeting of the Greenbrier County Republican Club, Barry Bruce, one of our two House of Delegates representatives for the 42nd district, announced that effective Dec. 3, 2021 he will be resigning his seat in the House. Citing health issues that require a knee replacement and back surgery, the delegate said he cannot “in

### Nature’s Way

**By Karen Cohen**  
on page 4



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good faith, attempt to go to Charleston to represent you.”

In other news, democratic State Senator and State Senate Minority Leader Stephen Baldwin announced on Tuesday that he will be seeking re-election. Baldwin, who represented the former District 10 in the Senate last session in his first term, seeks re-election to the newly drafted District 10. The only change to the new District 10 is the addition of Nicholas County. Baldwin gave an announcement speech in Ronceverte, and declared his intent to focus on infrastructure issues, broadband internet, flood mitigation, and bipartisanship.

## WV author takes romances set in Lewisburg to top of Amazon’s charts

West-Virginia native Liza Jonathan got a welcome surprise when she checked her Amazon rankings last week: #1 in Paranormal Romance, #7 in Contemporary Romance, and #7 in Genre Fiction, a category that encompasses all of romance, thrillers, mysteries, sci-fi and fantasy. In less than a week, her three-book romance series set in Lewisburg, WV, had been downloaded more than 13,000 times, and she was averaging 15,000 Kindle Unlimited page reads a day.

This year marked the last one for this romance trilogy that she began in 2019. Having completed her three-book series this fall, she decided to do a Kindle Countdown Deal on Book One, to lure readers into the whole series. The results, suffice it to say, exceeded her expectations.

“I almost fell out of my chair, honestly,” Liza said. “It is such a thrill to find so many people that were willing to take a chance on this series. They are the books of my heart, and hopefully they will be the books of theirs, too,” she added.

The Mountain Magic Series contains three standalone-

in-series romances: Wrecking Christmas (2019), The Christmas We Knew (2020), and Sweet Like Christmas (2021). All three are set in Lewisburg, and feature a cast of characters that work at Holliday Hot Rods, a fictional collision repair and classic car renovation shop. However, her fictional characters spend a lot of time enjoying the real treasures of the state, including The Greenbrier Resort, Snowshoe Mountain, and the New River Gorge Bridgewalk, all of whom enthusiastically consented to their inclusion in the books.

Wedding planners from the Greenbrier even helped Liza plan the fictional wedding reception for two of the characters. Readers who visit Liza’s website and sign up for her newsletter can see the reception schedule and menu - on Greenbrier letterhead. The Lewisburg connections continue in the third and final book, released just this October.

The pivotal opening scenes of Sweet Like Christmas take place at downtown Lewisburg bakery, Corn+Flour. The owner, Suzie Hoffman, even makes a cameo appearance.

See “WV Author” \_\_\_\_ Page 3

## Staley sworn into Sheriff’s Department

David James Staley took his oath of office as the newest member of the Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Department on Wednesday, Dec. 1. The oath was administered by Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent.

Sheriff Sloan said, “David is a welcome addition to our department and he is eager to begin his new career. Although he will not be working independently until his graduation from the State Police Academy and completion of his field training probationary period, he is going to be a tremendous asset to our department and the county. We look forward to his service with the Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Office and his commitment to public service for the citizens of Greenbrier County.”

Circuit Judge Jennifer P. Dent administers oath to David James Staley







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## WSS Public Library Book Sale upcoming

Calling all bargain book lovers! The White Sulphur Springs Public Library will host a book sale, made possible through generous contributions from our community, starting on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with the Open House event for White Sulphur Springs.

The book sale will continue on Monday, Dec. 6 through the rest of the week during normal library hours. Hardbacks will sell at \$2 and paperbacks are \$1. Books on CD and DVDs will go for a dollar. There will be a bag sale starting Wednesday, Dec. 8 through Thursday, Dec. 9. Haul away a stuffed bag for \$2. All proceeds will go to support the library.

The book sale will take place inside the library at 344 Main Street West in White Sulphur Springs, WV. Please call 304-536-1171 if you have any questions.

Come discover wonderful deals available for all the book lovers in your life, whether they be fiction or non-fiction readers. Remember, if you're looking for some-

thing specific and can't find it at the book sale; make sure to check out the library's circulating collection. We lend materials for free and are happy to loan you that perfect book.

Kiah the library dog shows Brooke Kelley how to prepare books for the WSS Library book sale starting Saturday, Dec. 4.

## Toni Hughes retires from Tax Office

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, Toni Hughes retired from the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Tax Office. Toni was a familiar face and a friend to everyone who entered the tax office and she will certainly be missed.

A luncheon, attended by co-workers, courthouse employees, friends, and family, was held at the courthouse and she was recognized for her years of service.

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office would like to express our appreciation for her loyalty to the tax office

Toni Hughes and Sheriff Sloan

and her faithfulness in providing excellent service to the public.

We wish Toni and her husband Darrell the very best in the future as they pursue those activities that bring them enjoyment.

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CASPER

Casper is a four-month-old male domestic short-hair.



SPECK

Speck is a six-month-old female hound mix and weighs 37 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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FNP  
Family Practice



# Briefly

## Williamsburg Community Shooting Match

will start Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., but food concessions will open at 6 p.m. The match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond original barrel. Barrel length 34” maximum. First seven rounds are \$2 per shot, eighth round 50/50 is \$5 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first seven rounds in order to compete in the eighth round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds. Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win! Come early! Come hungry! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. Families welcome - you don’t have to shoot to come get a meal. The match will be held at the Community Building on Sinking Creek Road next door to the fire department. We hope to see you all there. Proceeds will benefit Williamsburg Community service projects. These events are sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action and the Williamsburg Ruritans. For more information and directions visit [www.williamsburgwv.com](http://www.williamsburgwv.com).

## Helping Hands to host meeting

West Virginia Helping Hands will hold an informational session at Ronceverte City Hall to answer questions from the community about the upcoming transitional education center. The session is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

## American Heritage Music Hall, Inc.

located at 496 Island Park, Ronceverte, is 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 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday Dance on Dec. 11 will feature Ivan & The Outlaws 7 to 10:30; Friday New Year’s Eve Dance on Dec. 31 will also feature Ivan & the Outlaws 7 to Midnight. The Music Hall is available for weddings and parties. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

## Christmas Cantata

The 2021 Community Christmas Cantata is set for Dec. 18 at 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel of The Greenbrier and Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Fairlea. As in the past, the cantata is under the direction of Jeff Bryant and will feature a live orchestra accompanying the choir. To receive more information on this year’s cantata or a full list of safety protocol measures to be followed, please email FBC’s church office at [fbsharp@gmail.com](mailto:fbsharp@gmail.com) or call 304-645-3533.

## Addiction Screenings available

If you or a loved one is struggling with substance abuse, take the first step towards overcoming addiction. Call 1-800-431-1754 for free addiction screenings or referrals. For more information visit <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/strange-side-effects-of-covid-19.html>

## Lions Tree Sales

Continued from Front Page

control of the Lions Club. “Our source has other business ventures and recent droughts had made the Christmas tree operations too difficult.”

While this year may be a bust, next year’s Christmas Tree Sale is more than prepared for, as a tree provider has already been selected. Making things even easier, Lewis wanted to extend a great deal of gratitude to Greenbrier Chevrolet, as they have agreed to hold the spot for the Lions Club sale again next year.

Those wishing to donate to the Club to offset the lack of the fundraiser this year can mail a donation to the Lewisburg Lions Club, P.O. Box 1215, Lewisburg, WV, 24901.

For those wondering what to do about a high quality natural tree for Christmas, Lewis gives a helpful hint. “As of now, the best I know of would be a place called Crickmer Farm. I’ve spoken to them, they are a choose-and-cut farm (one where customers select the trees on site to be cut and packaged then). It’s a ways out, but they’re good people up there.”

Another live tree option is a cut-your-own, trim-your-own tree from Crestwood Farm in Crawley. Henry Bevins, who manages the Crestwood tree sales, said that they have a variety of trees this year for those looking to harvest their own, including Blue Spruce, Norway, and Fraser Fir.

To purchase a tree, simply call Bevins at 304-228-6663 to set up a meeting time between 10 a.m. and dusk. Four wheel drive vehicles are recommended. He accepts cash or checks, with average-sized trees ranging from \$30 to \$50. Larger trees are more expensive. Customers must cut their own trees, which haven’t been trimmed in some time, so they will also need a little shaping.

To get to Crestwood Tree Farm, take I-64 to the Sam Black exit and drive one mile towards Rupert on US-60. There are four brick houses, and Bevins’ is the fourth brick house on the left side of the road, with a barn adjacent to the house.

Other options include pre-cut trees from Lowe’s, Wal-Mart, and Kroger. One can also make the drive to Covington Jackson River Garden Center, who carries Christmas trees fresh and ready for sale.



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## Public Meetings

### Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

will meet Thursday, Dec. 9 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, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda items include:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes
- Financial reports
- Committee reports
- Other business

### Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 942 Washington Street West. Also available via teleconference. For Information on how to participate on ZOOM contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 on Dec. 13, by 4 p.m. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 8, 2021
- Comments for the public
- Catherine Kuliesh, 937 Washington St - repaint door and install a window sign on glass door
- Pam Nelson, 1018 Washington St - replace 9 windows on the second floor of Stone Hill Realty with Pella Reserve Traditional Series Windows, Fossil in color
- Paul Skorich, 1423 Washington St East - replace rotten or missing gutters with Amerimax K Style 6” gutters, white in color, replace Facia board where needed
- Comments from the Commissioners
- Comments from the Planning and Zoning Officer

*The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Historic Commission will be Monday, Jan. 10, with a deadline of Thursday, Dec. 23.*

## WV Author

Continued from Front Page

“Generally speaking, most authors opt to create entirely fictional worlds and places, just to keep things simple. But, I’m a West Virginia girl who’s grown up in the public relations business, and I just couldn’t stop myself from giving my home state a shout out. Besides, I couldn’t make up a place more beautiful.”

Audiences and critics alike don’t seem to mind the break from fiction protocol. In 2020, Wrecking Christmas, book one of the series, won the HOLT Medallion for excellence in Romance Fiction, given by the Romance Writers of America. While much of the temporary sales spike can be attributed to a very successful sales promotion, Liza said she’s looking forward to where the interest of this many fans could take her.

What’s next for the writer?

“I’ve got a new series starting in the spring, Sirensong Falls, which will be a steamy Virgin River-like series set in the Carolina Mountains outside Asheville. This time though, the setting with be entirely fictional. There’s some magic you can only conjure once,” she said.

Liza’s books are available for sale on Amazon as an e-book, paperback, and in the Kindle Unlimited program. Signed copies of her books are on sale at a New Chapter Bookstore in Lewisburg.

Liza Jonathan grew up in Fairmont, WV, and obtained her degree in Professional Writing from Wheeling Jesuit University, where she also met her husband of many years. She currently lives in Indiana with her husband and two nearly adult aged sons. When she’s not haunting the house at all hours writing, Liza works as a marketing/content writer. To read excerpts, find buy links, and sign up for her reader newsletter, visit her at [www.lizajonathan.com](http://www.lizajonathan.com), or follow her on GoodReads.

## Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: Bonnie Lee Conner and Jason Conner

In Re: The Marriage of: Ami Elizabeth Jenkins and Mark Thomas Jenkins

In Re: The Marriage of: Khallie Allyse Osborne and Wade Garrett Holliday

In Re: The Marriage of: Samantha Ann Taylor and John Taylor

In Re: The Marriage of: Aleasha Dawn Cales and Travis Cody

In Re: The Marriage of: John Michael Houchins and Lori Roseann Houchins

In Re: The Marriage of: Savanah Shea Bennett and Steven Bennett

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Garrett M. Rife, Lewisburg, expired inspection sticker, NCP, fine \$10

Billy Ryan Hanna, Rainelle, no operators, GP, fine \$25

William Clay Lattanzia, Beaver, indecent exposure, GP, fine \$50, jail 50 days

Daisy L. Tapnio, Norfolk, VA, speeding, NCP, fine \$8

Danielle K. Parker, Charmco, hunt/take deer without RB Stamp, GP, fine \$50

Aaron R. Parker, Charmco, conspire to violate Chapter 20, GP, fine \$50

Shane A. Potter, York, PA, fail to electronically check deer prior to leaving the state, NCP, fine \$75

Johnny Ward, Lewisburg, public intoxication, NCP, fine \$5

Joseph Michael Thomas, Rainelle, possession of controlled substance, NCP, fine \$75

Justin Shaw Thompson, Richwood, battery, NCP, fine \$50, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation

Brett Wayne Altizer, Quinwood, 1) hunting, trapping or fishing on lands of another, NCP, fine \$100; 2) persons prohibited possessing firearms, fine \$100

## For the Record

### Deeds

Roy L. Dodd and Shelby F. Dodd, Charlotte D. Morgan, Robert L. Deitz and Georgene D. Deitz to The City of Lewisburg, Parcel Nos. 71, 72, 73, and 75, Lewisburg District

Lois M. Speiden to Marshall Woods and Sara Lamp, Lot No. 32, White Sulphur District

Randall C. Fleshman and Cynthia L. Fleshman to Robert Sterkenburg, Deirdre Dunn, and Jo Ashby, 0.816 Acres, Frankford District

Opal Smith to Kevin Jackson and Tanua Jackson, 2 acres and 1.0 Acre, Big Cedar Creek, Meadow Bluff District

Jennifer E. Honaker to Ethan Patrick Level and Britany Level, 0.902 Acres, Frankford District

Mildred T. Hammons, Nancy E. Moore, Lester G. Hammons, Mary S. Carpenter and Mason T. Hammons to John R. Hammons, 1/2 of Lot No. 10 and all of Lots No. 11, 12, 13, and 14, Bailey Plan, Town of Renick, Falling Springs Municipality

April Calvin to Glen Calvin, Tracts No. 2 and 3, Irish Corner District

Michael S. Burns and Milletta L. Burns to Ajamarie Shantel Burns and Brent Darius Burns, 0.655 Acres, City of White Sulphur District

Pearl Gum to Kevin Gum, two parcels, Blue Sulphur Springs District

Sara Lisa Lamp to Amanda Scott, Lots Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13, Block 1 of Section 2, Town of Rupert

Fred D. Clark to Gary D. Green Family Trust, Lot. 1, Howard’s Creek Phase One Neighborhood/The Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur District

Maynard E. McFerrin and Dawn Robin McFerrin to James B. Williams, 0.516 Acres, Frankford District

Victoria M. Martin to John Martin, one acre, Anthony Creek District

Brian K. Baker to Sue Gizzard and Mark Hathaway, Lots Nos. 27 and 28, Riverview Addition, Alderson Municipality District

Justin J. Doss to David G. Bailey and Virginia A. Basham, 6.70 acres, Blue Sulphur District

Jean Ryan Patton and Lake Tayler Hatfield to Amy T. Brown and Gregory Alan Pence, Lots Nos. 6 and 7, Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca Village, White Sulphur District

Linda Mae Campbell to Dennis C. Vanmeter, 3.29 acres, Sewell Street, Meadow Bluff District

Lois L. Davis to Lois L. Davis and Carl Davis, 0.718 Acres, Fort Spring District

Jeffrey W. Lushbaugh to Christopher M. Snedegar, Lot 47, Rolling Hills Estate Subdivision, Lewisburg Corporate District

Daniel N. Hamrick and Sherri L. Hamrick to Justin Tincher and Samantha Rose Tincher, 2.0 Acres, Blue Sulphur District

Arliss J. Jones to Stacey D. Cole, 0.3 Acres, Asbury, Blue Sulphur Tax District

Jeffrey Williams and Jackie Williams to Stacey D. Cole, 0.5 acres, Asbury, Blue Sulphur Tax District

Philip Haurus and Linda Haurus to Michael Necessary and Holly Necessary, Lot No. 10, Twin Oaks Subdivision Phase One, Frankford District

Russel E. Haynes, Jr. to Delta D. Sizemore, 0.5 Acres, Williamsburg District

Stella B. Simms to Benjamin R. Longanacre and Sarah C. Longanacre, Lot No. 2, Montvue Subdivision, City of Lewisburg

Geoffrey I. Amey and Mark Kay Amey to Robert Douglas Canterbury, Lot No. 7, Sweet Grass Phase I, Lewisburg Tax District

Curtis E. Reed and Ceda J. Reed to Crystal McMillion, Parcel 1; 0.074 Acres. Parcel 2; 6368 Sq. Ft. Parcel 3; Lot No. 7 0.102. Parcel 4; Lots 36 and 37, 0.339 Acres, Valley Green Addition, White Sulphur Springs

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The Town of Rainelle, 4,300 Sq. Ft., Town of Rainelle, Rainelle Municipality

## Mountain Messenger

*The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley*

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# OPINION

## Nature’s Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist

### Doubled Over

Want to increase the productivity of your garden? It might take some effort and muscle to make this happen, maybe some backache, too. One sure fire way is an old time method. Double digging can be double the work but once it’s done, it doubles your garden’s rewards. When you have double dug a garden bed you have doubled the topsoil on the bed that usually contains the most micro nutrients. You increase the “fluffiness” of your soil by adding a top layer of dirt which has been broken up. You also create a permanent bed in which you will never walk upon therefore eliminating compacted soil. Permanent walking paths lining the perimeter of the growing beds are established, too.

How exactly does double digging work? First mark off growing beds however wide and long you desire. I opt for beds that I can easily access from all sides and that I can reach across to plant and weed. When we begin the digging process, we incorporate manure, compost, or ground leaves to the new beds and then cover that all with freshly dug topsoil taken from the next trench nearby.

Without the visual aid of a diagram to illustrate this process, I recommend that you search the internet or get a gardening book from the library on this subject of double digging. If you don’t own a rototiller or a tractor or perhaps you prefer to want to use muscles instead of gasoline, purchase a good spade and a good spade fork for this project. Every gardener should own both tools.

Early winter before the hard frost sets in is a great time for this project. The newly formed garden beds will have all winter to decompose the organic materials and will be ready to plant into when early spring hits. We put in winter rye and vetch seeds as cover crops and let nature take over for the next few months. Snow will keep the beds moistened just enough to keep things under the soil living.

Go online to <https://www.bobvilla.com/articles/double-digging/>

*(Karen Cohen is a Master Gardener, organic grower, photojournalist, and avid explorer. Send comments and tips to:natureswaykaren@gmail.com)*

## Commentary

### Capito, Manchin announce ARC Grants

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and Joe Manchin, both members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced a total of \$733,887 in grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

“Whether it’s rural water or substance abuse recovery, ARC understands the unique challenges of West

Virginia communities,” Ranking Member Capito said. “These three grants make meaningful investments that will improve people’s everyday lives. The ARC remains a steadfast partner in our state’s growth, and I look forward to continuing our work together to deliver more results for West Virginia.”

“The ARC remains a strong partner for the Mountain State through continued investments in West Virginia,

## Turnpike traffic up 30 percent Thanksgiving week as out-of-state travelers experience beauty of West Virginia

Traffic on the West Virginia Turnpike was up nearly 30 percent during the week of Thanksgiving as out-of-state travelers experienced the state’s beauty and hospitality.

Nearly 733,000 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths between Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021 and Sunday, Nov. 28, almost 30 percent more than during the same period in 2020.

The busiest days on the Turnpike were the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after the holiday. Nearly 157,000 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths on Wednesday, Nov. 24, while more than 165,000 passed through on Sunday, Nov. 28.

“Most of the cars I was seeing were out-of-state cars, which means thousands of people went home with pleasant memories of their trip through West Virginia,” said Jeff Miller, Executive Director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority.

Whereas some toll roads around the country are using their space for commercial advertising, the West Virginia Turnpike instead emphasizes promoting the Mountain State. The Parkways Authority teamed up with the West Virginia Tourism Office for a series of colorful wrappings for Turnpike toll booths that provide a positive image of what West Virginia has to offer visitors.

Over the holiday week, members of the West Virginia

State Police and the state Courtesy Patrol helped Turnpike motorists who would have otherwise been stranded. In one case, the Courtesy Patrol changed a tire for a couple who got a flat not far from a Turnpike toll booth. In another, they provided fuel for a woman who thought she had enough gas to get to the next exit, but didn’t.

Thousands of Turnpike motorists also stopped to visit Tamarack, Turnpike travel plazas, and welcome centers, all of which had strong sales during the holiday week.

Miller attributes the smooth flow of traffic during the week to extra staff on hand to help direct motorists. Polite and efficient toll booth staff, plus extra State Police and Courtesy Patrol presence also contributed.

Increased use of the E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan, which gives drivers unlimited use of the Turnpike for an annual fee of \$26.25, also helped. The E-ZPass automatically flags drivers through toll booths, easing congestion and saving time for motorists.

Those with an E-ZPass have until Jan. 1, 2022 to renew their Discount Plan. To get an E-ZPass, or to renew an existing E-ZPass, visit [www.wvturnpike.com](http://www.wvturnpike.com). Drivers may also apply in person at the West Virginia Parkways Authority E-ZPass Customer Service Center, 3310 Piedmont Road, Charleston, West Virginia 25306, or at the Beckley Customer Service Center located at 12 Pikeview Drive, Beckley, West Virginia 25801.



Nearly 157,000 vehicles went through Turnpike toll booths on Wednesday, Nov. 24, while more than 165,000 passed through on Sunday, Nov. 28.



Michael Showell, Publisher Sarah Richardson, Editor Adam Pack, Writer Kathy Hunter, Business Office Kathleen Stickley, Business Office Debra Smith, Advertising	Chris Kincaid, Business Systems Manager Julie Sweet, Ad Design Jeanette Albaugh, Production Layout Amanda Workman, Production Layout Mark Cunningham, Office Assistant Naomi Smith, Office Assistant
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## Commentary

### Legislation to improve transparency at VA Medical Centers becomes law

Last week, legislation authored by U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) to improve transparency at VA medical centers was signed into law by President Joe Biden. This law will now require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit to Congress a report on the use of security cameras in VA medical facilities.

“Our veterans have made unimaginable sacrifices on behalf of our freedom, and they deserve access to safe, reliable, and trustworthy care at our VA medical centers. What happened at the Clarksburg VAMC in 2017 and 2018 was an unacceptable lapse in leadership and accountability. This is an incredibly urgent matter, and I’m thankful that my colleagues have recognized the need for additional, comprehensive oversight from the Department of Veterans Affairs. With the president signing this legislation into law today, we are taking an important step in the right direction, however, at the same time, we must continue to remain vigilant against evil attacks on our veterans and push for the utmost level of transparency,” Senator Capito said.

“Over the past several years, West Virginia Veterans have lost faith in the VA system due to the murders of at least seven Veterans at the Clarksburg VAMC and the negligence that allowed this heartbreaking tragedy to occur. It’s our responsibility to ensure that when our Veterans return home, they receive the quality care they deserve from our VA facilities,” Senator Manchin, member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said. “Today, President Biden signed our bipartisan legislation into law, requiring the VA to submit a report on the use of security cameras at VA facilities. This is a good first step in restoring our Veterans’ confidence in the VA medical centers, but we have a long way to go and I am committed to ensuring every Veteran has access to the safe, quality healthcare they deserve.”

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our communities and local economies. I am thrilled ARC is investing in three projects to support wastewater system improvement in Reedy, as well recovery to work programs in Lewisburg and Meadow Bridge. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocate for funding and work with the ARC to create good-paying jobs and boost economic development here in West Virginia,” Senator Manchin said.

- Local awards include:
- \$49,863 for West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine - Funding will be used to guide the establishment of a successful, sustainable recovery-to-work program in the area. This project is also part of ARC’s INSPIRE initiative.
  - \$498,024 for Seed Sower, Inc. - Funding will be used to expand operational capacity and access to regional recovery ecosystems in several counties throughout southern West Virginia. This project is part of ARC’s Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) initiative.

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# Church Bulletin

## Free drive-thru Holiday Meal

The Edgewood Presbyterian Church is holding a free drive-thru holiday meal on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 162 Harper Road, Lewisburg. There will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert. Please stay in your vehicle and the meal will be brought out to you. Fried pies will be for sale for \$3 each in apple, cherry, and peach while supplies last.

## Winter Bazaar at Caldwell Church

The Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church will have a Winter Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the new church. The Bazaar will consist of candies, baked goods and crafts. Proceeds from the event will go toward a scholarship fund to award a graduating high school / college senior from out community. The youth from the church will provide a hot meal during the Bazaar, all the funds will go toward the expenses for Acceleran.

## Live Nativity

The Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church presents their Live Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the old church lot off Rt. 60 on the Camp Bailey Road. This Live Nativity will tell the story of the birth of Jesus. It will consist of the birth of Jesus and all the characters and animals included in the Bible. Live singing will be included by our local choir and others. Plan on attending and spending part of your Christmas time with us. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served at the church afterwards.

# Reunions

## GEHS Class of 1972 50th Reunion

The Greenbrier East High School Class of 1972 is planning its 50th Class Reunion for next summer, June 24-25, 2022. The planning committee wants to invite all of the class's members, but we're missing addresses for several people. Are you in that class? Or know someone who is? If you would like to add names to the contact list, please send them to Ethel Detch at edetch@comcast.net

# CLUB & CHURCH

## Carnegie Hall to recognize volunteers



Carnegie Hall is thanking their volunteers for taking time out of their personal life during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist the Hall during performances, Kids' College, community events, committees, and more.

Carnegie Hall depends on its dedicated volunteers and will recognize their selfless acts on Dec. 8, at 4:30 p.m. with a Volunteer Appreciation Reception in Carnegie Hall's Old Stone Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

"The COVID 19 pandemic presented unique issues for the Hall as

programming was reinstated with modifications," explains Carnegie Hall President/CEO Cathy Rennard. "It continues to require volunteers to be flexible, cautious, compliant with safety protocols, and insist the same of others." She added, "Our volunteer team has exceeded our expectations in serving patrons of Carnegie Hall graciously. Our appreciation for them is enormous!"

If you have volunteered and would like to RSVP, send an email to volunteer@carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Please

RSVP no later than Dec. 6.

This project is made possible with support by Volunteer West Virginia. Carnegie Hall received a \$500 mini-grant from Volunteer West Virginia to host a volunteer recognition project. Volunteer West Virginia started the Volunteer Recognition Mini-Grant Program to recognize West Virginia's volunteers for their outstanding volunteerism during COVID-19. Over 3,500 volunteers, from throughout the state, will be recognized through this program. To learn more visit [www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov).

# A Look Back

By William "Skip" Deegans

If you look closely at the photo, you can see Franklin D. Roosevelt standing on the stone pillar of the Marion County Courthouse in Fairmont in 1920. Roosevelt was campaigning for the vice-presidency on a Democrat ticket with Ohio Governor James M. Cox. Accompanying Roosevelt in Fairmont was West Virginia gubernatorial candidate Arthur B. Koontz. A year later - 100 years ago - Roosevelt was stricken with infantile paralysis or polio and was paralyzed from the waist down. He would never stand again without the aid of crutches and braces.

Not until 1953 would Dr. Jonas Salk develop a viable vaccine to counterattack the polio virus. In 1979, there were no cases of polio that originated in the United States.

There are only two countries where the virus is still wild - Afghanistan and Pakistan. In November, Afghanistan's Taliban committed to back the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) in a national polio vaccination campaign to eliminate the virus in that country.

Sources: *The Fairmont West Virginian*, *Center For Disease Control*, *FDR Library*, *Washington Post*.



Courtesy of the West Virginia Regional History Center.

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# OBITUARIES

## Stuart Duane Whitt



**Lewisburg**—Stuart Duane Whitt, 64, passed away Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born Nov. 3, 1957, he was the son of the late Olbert and Beulah Belle Cornwell Whitt.

Duane was a retired Program Specialist for Denmar Correctional Center. He loved to watch Gunsmoke and other westerns. He also loved driving the backroads in his convertible. Duane was a US Army veteran.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Peggy Myles Whitt; brothers, Donald, Danny, Doug and Doyle Whitt; and sister-in-law, Dreama Whitt.

Survivors include his loving wife, Melissa Whitt; son, Jeremy Duane Whitt of Lewisburg; daughter, Hope Marie Whitt of Asheville, NC; stepsons, Robert Hunt (Samantha) of Georgia and Patrick Noah McCutcheon; stepdaughters, Carmen Hunt (Samuel Garner), Jenna Leigh McCutcheon and Kelli Noelle McCutcheon all of Lewisburg; brother, Dale Whitt (Debbie) of White Sulphur Springs; sisters, Dona Lilly (Paul) of Frankford, Danetta Whitt, Danita Moore (Dave), Donna Shortridge (James), and Deanna Whitt; sisters-in-law, Mary Ellen Whitt and Vicki Whitt all of Lewisburg; four step-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg. The funeral service as held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the funeral home where Pastor Ron Miller officiated.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net) obit wpix

## Anthony Lee Ramsey



**Clintonville**—Anthony Lee “Tony” Ramsey, 60, passed away Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, in his home. He is now at peace and home with his parents. He will be dearly missed by friends and family.

Tony was a Greenbrier East High School graduate of 1971. He was a former member of the Ronceverte Fire Department and a former member of Greenbrier County Ambulance. He worked for Martin & Jones for years. His last employment was at the Alta Station.

He is survived by his brother, Gary Ramsey; his daughter and her fiancé, Toni Leigh Baker and Ryan Brown; and his grandchildren, Hannah Grace, Trysten Michael, and Thoren Anthony; and stepmother, Mary Alice

Ramsey.

Celebration of Life Services were held Tuesday evening, Nov. 30, at Morgan Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Visitation was one hour prior to the service.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net)

## James Henry Morgan



**Lewisburg**—James Henry Morgan, 62, passed away Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021 at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center of a sudden illness.

Born July 9, 1959 at Beckley, he was a son of the late Auburn Lee and Marie Elizabeth Veid Morgan.

He worked for the cable company in Lewisburg and was a truck driver, was a member of Fort Spring Missionary Baptist Church, and was a member of International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers union (IAMAW). He was a lifetime member of the NRA, an avid gun collector, and was a U.S Army and National Guard veteran.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Louis Auburn Morgan, Robert Morgan and Joseph Morgan.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Goldie Lanham Morgan; son, Isaac Lee Morgan and wife Michelle of Huntington; a “special son,” Aaron Trigg of Meadow Bridge; two brothers, George Morgan and wife Charlotte and Walter Lee Morgan and wife Dreama, all of Beckley; sisters-in-law, Sis Hoyt and Linda Sperandeo; special neighbor and friend, Mary Fawcett; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, where Pastors Joey

Morgan and Pastor Aaron Trigg officiated. Burial with military honors followed in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens, Lewisburg.

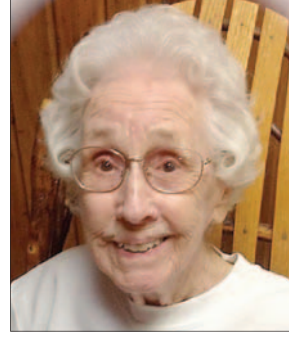
The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Fort Spring Missionary Baptist Church.

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

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

## June Elizabeth Dolan Peters



**Ronceverte**—June Elizabeth Dolan Peters, 101, passed away Monday, Nov. 27, 2021 in Princeton Community Hospital.

She was born Oct. 21, 1920 in Ronceverte to Everette Ray and Euna Mae Hannah Dolan.

June was a lifelong member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte. She served in every capacity in the United Methodist Women and was a delegate to the annual conference. She attended mission study every year and taught the children in the church every summer about different cultures and religions. She also did their Christmas play for several years.

June’s dream was to go on a mission trip. She went on two trips to Niagara and Mexico, where she taught dental hygiene to the children and told them Jesus loved them.

She also visited the country of her ancestry, Ireland.

June had a very full and rewarding life. Nine years ago, due to memory issues, she went to live with her daughter, Jana, and family in Lindsie, WV. There she was able to spoil her great-grand-

children and was spoiled by her special caregivers, Danni and Ireland Dunbar (great-granddaughters).

She was preceded in death by her spouse of 62 years, Samuel Clark Peters III; and her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Roy Ware.

Survivors include her children, Joanna (Donnie) Tingler and Jana Peters, DO (Dana Olson, MD); grandchildren, Julie (Scott) Williams, Jennifer (Todd) Roberts, Roy (Karen) Ware, Chris (Kim) Tingler, Danny (Theresa) Tingler, Autumn (DJ) Dunbar and Leif Olson; 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral service for June Peters will be Saturday, Dec. 4, at 12 noon at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte with Rev. Dr. Joe Geiger officiating. Interment will follow in Riverview Cemetery in Ronceverte.

The family will receive family and friends from 11 a.m. until time of services at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest that memorial contributions be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 373 Pocahontas Avenue, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

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

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

## Loreda Allen Eggleston



**Alderson**—Loreda “Rita” Allen Eggleston, 82, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 22, 2021 at Seasons Place in Lewisburg.

Born Nov. 23, 1938, in Alderson, she was the daughter of the late Lucy Allen Wenger and Ausborne Allen.

In addition to her par-

ents, she was preceded in death by husband, Ronald Eggleston, and brother, Eugene Allen, both of Alderson.

She is survived by daughter, Deanna Bathgate (Todd), and grandson, Nicholas Bathgate, of Germantown, MD; brother, Ronald Allen (Frances) of Lewisburg; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many friends.

Rita was a faithful lifetime member of Griffith Creek Baptist Church, in Alderson, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and was very active in the Awana program. She loved being outdoors and taking care of her many rescued animals. She will be remembered for her great love for her family and friends, service to her church and community, compassion for animals, and radiant smile.

Visitation was held Thursday evening, Dec. 2 at Morgan Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at Griffith Creek Baptist Church with Pastor Audie Sorg officiating. Burial will follow in the Griffith Creek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Griffith Creek Baptist Church.

We will be following COVID-19 recommendations and request guests to wear a mask.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net)

## Earl Edward Roth

**Renick**—Earl Edward Roth, 88, passed away Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021 at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Earl was born Apr. 17, 1933 at his grandparent’s home (Earl and Maude Spitzer Mosser) near Oakland, MD. He was the son of the late Daniel Webster and Virginia Elizabeth Mosser Roth.

Earl graduated from Aurora High School and was an honor graduate of West Virginia University in 1961 with a degree in

forestry and was honorary fraternity member of both Gamma Sigma Delta and Si Sigma Pi. He served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant during the Korean War.

He was a self-employed forestry consultant until his retirement after owning Greenbrier Lumber Company. His first job after graduating from college was with Pioneer Lumber Company at Daily, WV, a division of Coastal Lumber Company. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, and making memories with his family as a husband, father, Papaw/Grandpa, uncle, and brother.

His past work in the community includes the Greenbrier Valley Airport Authority, Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation District, society of American Foresters, and the WVU and Forestry Alumni Associations. He was a member of Clifton Presbyterian Church and the Renick Volunteer Fire Department. He was one of the founders of the Northern Greenbrier Emergency Service and an Emergency Medical Technician for over 20 years.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Roth.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years Alice Douglas Roth; children, Larry Earl Roth (Lisa) of Horse Shoe Run, Neal Edward Roth (Marsha) of Lewisburg and Lynne Roth Bostic (David) of Frankford; granddaughters, Ashley Bostic Eisenberg (Nick) of Virginia Beach, VA, Caitlin Roth of Charlottesville, VA, Elizabeth Roth Ford (Jay) of Charleston and Allison Bostic of Beckley; great-grandchildren, Noah Eisenberg and Poppy Eisenberg; and sister, Mary Jane Gnegy of Oakland, MD.

A celebration of life will be held later in the spring. His body was donated to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Memorial donations may be made to one of the following:

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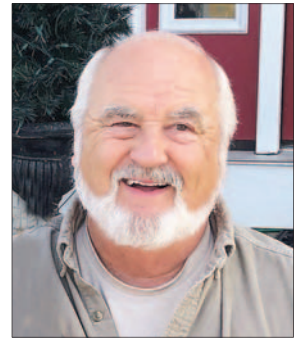
Emergency Medical Service, P.O. Box 129, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986;

Tom Clark Scholarship Fund, Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, P.O. Box 6125, Morgantown, WV 26505;

Red House Lutheran Cemetery, c/o Diane Donham, 835 East High Street, Oakland, MD 21550-1719.

Information submitted by Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg.

## Phillip Leon Morgan



**Ronceverte**-Phillip Leon Morgan, 73, passed away Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, at his home.

Born Aug. 15, 1948, in Low Moor, VA, he was the son of the late Joseph Edward and Edith Marie Bennett Morgan.

Phil attended Graystone Baptist Church, was a U.S. Army Veteran (SGT) and retired as a truck driver for Coca-Cola.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Morgan; son, Joshua Phillip Morgan; and brothers, Joe, and Mick Morgan.

Survivors include two sons, Caleb Morgan (Vanessa) of Wayside, WV, and Isaac Morgan (Christie Haskin) of Blairsville, GA; daughters, Lori Morgan (Michael Riddell) of Alderson, Julianna Drummond (Fabricio) of Vinton, VA, Josie Payne (Dale) of Casa, AR, and Rebekah Brookman (Keith) of Lewisburg; brother, Gary Morgan (Priscilla) of Staunton, VA; and sister, Joyce Morgan of Ronceverte; 17 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, several nieces, and nephews; and a good family friend, Oscar Morgan of Ronceverte.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg. Visitation will be from 12

Noon until time of service. Burial will follow the service in the Adwell Cemetery.

We will be following COVID-19 recommendations and request guests to wear a mask. Funeral service will be streamed live via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/morganfhwv/>.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net)

## Lovey F. Kishpaugh



**Lovey F. Kishpaugh**-Lovey F. Kishpaugh, 78, passed away Friday, Nov. 26, 2021 at White Sulphur Springs Center after a long illness.

Born Mar. 1, 1943 at Alderson, she was a daughter of the late Raymond Shelton and the late Violet Florence Judy.

Lovey was a retired staff accountant for Blake & Boone and was a member of the Over the Hill Gang Bowling League. She was a member of Lewisburg Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir, volunteered at the day care center, was a member of the Lewisburg Baptist Jolly Seniors, loved taking care of the children at the day care and especially loved spending time with family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, George W. Kishpaugh; sister, Allie Falls; and grandparents, Herbert and Alice Judy and Walter and Mary Dixon.

She is survived by daughter, Judy Whitt (Satch) of Frankford, son, Jeffrey Kishpaugh of King, NC; grandchildren, Dustin Whitt of Morgantown, Ryan Whitt (Kellea) and Jared Whitt, all of Frankford; and great-grandson, Bryson Whitt of Frankford. Also surviving are sisters, Linda Persinger (Guy) of Lewisburg, Wanda Dykeman (Darrald) of Cheyenne, WY, Jane Johnston (David) of Powhatan, VA, Debbie Sponaule of Naperville, IL; and brother-in-law,

Bobby Falls of Lewisburg.

Funeral service was held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, where Pastor Mark Shafer officiated. Burial followed in Rosewood Cemetery.

The family received friends before to the service at the funeral home on Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Penny Pitch.

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

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

## Norma Evelyn Shaffer

**Inverness, FL**-Norma Evelyn Shaffer, 93, formerly of Clay, WV, passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2021.

Norma was born Dec. 21, 1927 in Clay, a daughter of the late Chloede Linkinogger and Orpha Summers.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Euhl B. Shaffer; son, Charles A. Shaffer; and two sisters, Betty Jarvis and Marvis Sutton.

She is survived by a sister, Glenna Leo White of Mount Pleasant, SC; two daughters, Brenda Graham (Eddie) of Clifton Forge, VA and Donna Schoonover (Sammy) of Danville, VA; daughter-in-law, Terrie Shaffer; six grandchildren, Rebecca Graham Smith (Stuart), Emily Graham Mays (Kacey), Rachel Schoonover, Brandon Schoonover (Laura), Charles Allen Shaffer II, and Megan Shaffer; and six great-grandchildren.

Nicely's Funeral Home in Clifton Forge, VA, has taken care of the arrangements. In keeping with her wishes, her body has been cremated, with a memorial service being held at a later date.

To send condolences to the family online, please visit [www.nicelyfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicelyfuneralhome.com)

## Jeffrey Keith Dillon

**Caldwell**-Jeffrey Keith Dillon, 57, passed away Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021 at his residence.

Born Dec. 30, 1964 at

Peterstown, WV, he was a son of the late Jimmy Eugene and Bonnie Gail Sutton Dillon.

He was a GIS Coordinator for Greenbrier County for 14 years and was of the Baptist faith. He loved playing the guitar and singing, was an avid musician and loved music, and he especially loved the Greenbrier River and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Kay Long Dillon; his fur babies, "Piper" and "Reese Cup"; two brothers, Robert Eugene "Robbie" Dillon and Scott "Scotty" Dillon, both of Martinsburg, WV; and several nieces and nephews.

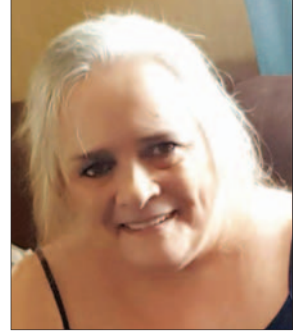
A memorial service will be held at a later date.

A memorial fund has been established at City National Bank, 809 Jefferson Street South, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

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

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

## Melissa Ann Burns



**Lewisburg**-Melissa Ann Burns, 62, passed away Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at the Peyton Hospice House, Lewisburg, WV.

Born July 15, 1959, in Ronceverte, she was the daughter of the late Donald Kent and Nancy Ellen Simmons Loudermilk.

Melissa worked as an LPN and was of the Baptist faith.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepmother, Rebecca Loudermilk; sisters, Jennifer Conkey and Theresa Lavalley; and brother, Donnie Loudermilk.

Survivors include her daughter, Michelle Ramsey of Lewisburg; grandson, Noah Neal; brothers, David and Shawn Loudermilk; uncle, Gene Simmons (Linda); and several nieces, neph-

ews, and cousins.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 6, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Stewart Farley officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

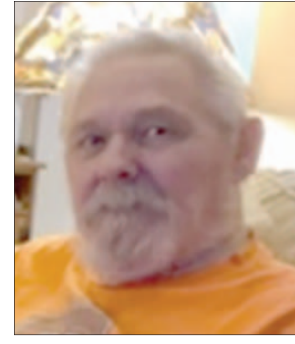
Burial will follow the service in the Morningside Cemetery, Renick.

We will be following COVID-19 recommendations and ask guests to wear a mask.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net)

obit wpix

## Ronald Lee Carey 1952-2021



**Chesterfield, VA**-Ronald Carey, 68, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021 in Bon Secour Hospital, Petersburg, VA.

Ronald was born Dec. 20, 1952 in White Sulphur Springs, to the late Harold L. Carey and Kathleen W. Carey.

He attended Greenbrier East High School and upon graduation he served an enlistment in the US Navy. He was employed by (and retired from) Old Dominion Power.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Kathleen Carey; his maternal grandparents, Newton and Thelma White, and paternal grandfather, Wheeler Carey.

He was a loving husband, father, sibling, and grandfather and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Carey, of Chesterfield, VA; his son, Jeremiah Carey, of Waynesboro VA; stepdaughter, Jeanette Hilman (Scott) and grandchildren, Ashley Garrett (Jessie) and Travis Hilman; four great-grandchildren; his brother, Donald Carey (Paula) of Oklahoma City; sister, Deborah Carey of White Sulphur Springs; and his niece, Melanie Carey and nephew, Dale Carey (Jamie) of Oklahoma City.

His passions were hunting, firearms and motorcy-

cles. He will be missed by all his friends who shared those passions with him.

We will have an outdoor Memorial Service for Ronald (Ron, Ronnie) in April 2022 where we will all be able to share our favorite memories. We will send Memorial time and place information via social media in the spring.

## Linda Gaye Boone



**Maxwelton**-Linda Gaye Boone, 76, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021. She was born in Spring Creek, WV, a daughter of the late Ashford and Stella Hanna.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Ralph Boone; daughter, Ashley Boone of Loudon, TN; granddog, Rosey Boone; sister, Sandra Mackey; aunt, Ann Huffer; many beloved nieces and nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Robert Hanna, Buford Hanna and Doug Hanna; two sisters, Betty Spence and Katherine Fink.

Linda had love for family, music, church and everything WVU sports. Her love of music started at a young age when her mother would take her and her siblings to Renick for piano lessons with the bribe that they would be able to drive the car home on the back road back to Spring Creek. She has spent many of the past years as pianist at Frankford Presbyterian Church in Frankford, WV.

Her wishes were in lieu of flowers - donations be given to West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Work Camps, [www.wv-maw.org](http://www.wv-maw.org).

The family received friends at Frankford Presbyterian Church in Frankford before the memorial service on Monday, Nov. 29.

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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## BUSINESS

# Bethlehem Farm recognizes volunteers

Bethlehem Farm, Inc. is thanking its volunteers for their dedication, which enabled its low-income home repair program to continue serving neighbors in Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Volunteers passed safety screening protocols and served the local community this year through roof replacements, wheelchair ramp construction, floor repairs, bathroom renovations, and much more. Volunteers greatly enjoyed meeting local homeowners and building relationships through working together, sharing stories, or enjoying an outdoor lunch conversation.

In 2021, Bethlehem Farm volunteers contributed 10,530 hours of free labor to the local community. Combined with the free labor of the full-time Caretakers who lead the work, this translates to \$52,404 of donated labor invested in the local community. Bethlehem Farm was able to help folks with 150 essential home repair projects, including an extensive, long-term project, making homes safer, warmer and drier.

Through the "Couldn't do it without you!" recognition project, Bethlehem Farm showed appreciation to its volunteers while also supporting West Virginia businesses. Hand-thrown pottery mugs were purchased for long term volunteers from MUD Ceramics in Thomas, WV. Volunteer T-shirts were made by Mountain Mindful, a social enterprise headquartered in southern West Virginia which hires people who face barriers to employment to create socially and envi-

ronmentally sustainable products. These unique thank-you gifts made in West Virginia will remind Bethlehem Farm's dedicated volunteers that they are appreciated and that West Virginia is home to them.

"Our volunteers' generosity is one of the critical ingredients to Bethlehem Farm's recipe for community-building. We are so thankful for their hard work in making homes safer, warmer, and drier in the local area, and for their openness to all that the folks around here have to teach them as well. Volunteers: we couldn't do it without you!" says Eric Fitts, Bethlehem Farm Director.

This project is made possible with support by Volunteer West Virginia. Bethlehem Farm, Inc. received a \$00 mini-grant from Volunteer West to host a volunteer recognition project. Volunteer West Virginia started the Volunteer Recognition Mini Grant Program to recognize West Virginia's volunteers for their outstanding volunteerism during COVID-19. Over 3,500 volunteers, from throughout the state, will be recognized through this program. To learn more visit [www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov) and [bethlehem-farm.net](http://bethlehem-farm.net).

More About Bethlehem Farm:

Bethlehem Farm, Inc. is a nonprofit organization near Talcott, West Virginia, that transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. The Farm hosts more than 400 volunteers per year, mostly high school and college students, who join "service weeks" doing home repair

with low-income residents.

Bethlehem Farm, Inc.'s "Repairing Homes, Renewing Communities" program (RHRC) addresses two vital needs in our local community of the Greenbrier Valley: the need for safe, warm, and dry housing conditions and the need for connection and relationship. In the three counties we serve, median home values are unusually low, significant numbers of households have housing problems, and poverty rates exceed the national average by wide margins. In addition, great numbers of the residents are elderly and/or disabled, which makes it harder to overcome these challenging situations.

The purpose of RHRC is to improve the housing conditions of low-income

residents of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties while forming relationships with local residents. RHRC was developed in response to input from local residents. Typical RHRC home repair projects include: roof repair or replacement, insulation, weatherization, window replacement, porch repair, additions, wheelchair ramps, and exterior siding. Volunteers come to Bethlehem Farm to serve through home repair but also to learn about Appalachian culture and sustainable practices. They form relationships with local homeowners as they work alongside each other. Many homeowners remain friends with Bethlehem Farm long after the RHRC project is completed.

## HealthNet Aeromedical Services earns national re-accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS) has awarded HealthNet Aeromedical Services a full, three-year re-accreditation for patient transport operations. The program has been continually accredited by CAMTS since 1995.

"This successful re-accreditation process is verification that our entire program is consistently focused on safe operations and providing the highest quality care to our patients. Our team members step up to this challenge every day and continue to push our program forward," said Clinton Burley, president and CEO of HealthNet Aeromedical Services.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services' helicopter bases in Beckley and Lewisburg have proudly served Southern West Virginia since 2005 and 2015 respectively.

CAMTS is a peer review organization dedicated to improving the quality and safety of medical transport services. The criteria standards for accreditation include compliance in many areas including communications, infection control, legal requirements and ethical practice, medical direction and medical protocols, safety management systems, scheduling and fatigue management, and training and education of medical and operations personnel.

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- Voting changes
- Tax increases
- Project bids
- Family court
- Government budgets
- Government financial statements
- Zoning changes and other public notices

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

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**Jack Woodrum**  
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[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**  
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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  
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## A decorative graphic featuring a green holly leaf with three red berries, flanked by green scrollwork.

and then the first band director at Greenbrier East. He also was an actor and music director at “The Tent” and “Original Barn Summer Theater” which were the original foundation for The Greenbrier Valley Theater. In the 70s New York was calling and then Washington, DC. Brazil was one of his last musical direction projects.

65 years. This will be his retirement concert after his long career in music and theater. His talents have spanned the globe. Perhaps best remembered as band director at Lewisburg High School

**SCRAMBLERS**

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

Daiity	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>
RENTED	_____	_____
Dream	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>
RANEY	_____	_____
Unkind	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>
DINES	_____	_____
Self	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px;"></div>
HEALIN	_____	_____

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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Differences: 1. Shirt is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Freckles are missing. 4. Mat is thicker. 5. Stripe is added. 6. Nose is smaller.

**@hashtagwv hashtagwv.com**



# STEPPIN' OUT



The Greenbrier Valley Chorale

## Greenbrier Valley Chorale happy to Sing Noel, Again!

Members of the Greenbrier Valley Chorale are delighted to once again be preparing for a Christmas concert after a long hiatus brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The concert - appropriately titled Sing We Noel, Again! - will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg.

The program will include some favorites from past concerts, including See Among the Winter Snow, Brightest and Best, This Christmastide and Sing We

Noel. The Gaelic carol Tladh Chriosda and the African rhythms of Noel will add an international touch, and the familiar strains of Christmas Time is Here from A Charlie Brown Christmas will evoke fond memories of Christmas past.

Artistic Director Barbara Lutz has worked carefully with the board of directors to ensure that rehearsals and the performance will adhere to CDC guidelines and the recommendations of the American Choral Directors Society.

The singers have worked especially hard to prepare for the concert since rehearsals started a month later than usual and were cut short by 30 minutes each week due to Covid restrictions. They have also had to adjust to rehearsing in masks specially designed for singers and being socially distanced from one another.

"It might not be as polished as our usual concerts, but the important thing is just to get

together and sing," Lutz said. "We have a passion to once again be the Greenbrier Valley Chorale."

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased through the Carnegie Hall website, [www.carnegiehallwv.com](http://www.carnegiehallwv.com). Although tickets will be sold at the door, advance purchase is strongly recommended as these popular concerts often sell out.

## Model Train Show in Alderson Depot



A model train layout from 2019

A model train show will be held in the Historic 1896 C&O Train Depot in Alderson on Saturday, Dec. 4,

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Alderson Main Street and hosted

by Lee Skaggs and Jim Bowling, visitors will be able to see model trains as well as the railroad memorabilia in the Depot.

Little ones especially enjoy the sight of small trains going 'round their tracks. The full-sized ones must be so intimidating and fascinating at the same time for the youngsters so the small scale trains are much friendlier and allow for a close-up view.

Alderson shops and some restaurants will be open allowing for a full day of fun, food, and shopping.



Musicians Leah and Rodger Trent will be performing at the White Sulphur Springs Public Library

## Christmas Concert at WSS Public Library features Leah Trent and friends

Harpist Leah Trent will perform Christmas music at the White Sulphur Springs Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 9 starting at 6 p.m. The concert will feature traditional harp music for the season.

Trent will be joined by fellow musicians including Rodger Trent, Sidney Trent, Tim Holbrook, Ann Turley, and Briane Turley. Leah is the parish musician at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church where she

plays harp and organ on Sunday at the 9 a.m. Mass. She also teaches private harp lessons and plays harp for special occasions.

The concert is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. The White Sulphur Springs Public Library is located at 344 West Main Street in White Sulphur Springs. For more information about the library's concert series, call 304-536-1171.

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# SCHOOL

## EMT-B class scheduled for January at New River CTC locations

New River Community and Technical is offering Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) classes in Ghent, Summersville and Lewisburg starting Jan. 18, 2022.

“We’re seeing an increased need for EMTs in both our local area and throughout the

country,” said New River CTC Interim Director of EMS/Paramedic Programs Matthew Snuffer. “The EMT-B class prepares students to work in the field and advance in their career moving forward.”

EMT-B students at New River CTC will gain the skills

and knowledge necessary to provide emergency medical care at a basic life support level with an ambulance service or other specialized services. After completing the course, students can continue their education at New River CTC in the paramedic certificate of applied

science program.

The cost for the EMT-B class is \$600, and registration is required by Jan. 7, 2022.

Visit <https://www.newriver.edu/workforce/> for information on upcoming classes or to register for the course, or contact Gloria Kincaid (304-793-6101,

gkincaid@newriver.edu).

New River CTC’s Workforce Education Division provides community education classes and employable educational opportunities including non-credit courses, workforce development programs and customized training.

## EGMS announces Spelling Bee winners



Ean Hudnall and Jenson McNeely

Congratulations to Ean Hudnall and Jenson McNeely for placing first and second, respectively, in the school spelling bee at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School. The two 7th grade students will advance to the Greenbrier County competition, which will be held in January.

A total of 32 students participated in the school competition. The students competed using an online format from the official Scripps National Spelling Bee website. Spelling and vocabulary skills were needed to come out ahead in the competition.

## USCellular is Pledging up to \$13M to Help Youth Connect and Close the Homework Gap

Company launches After School Access Project for eligible nonprofits to receive free hotspots and service

Access to reliable connectivity causes a divide between youth who have access and those who do not. Currently, 35% of low-income households lack any access to broadband service at home. This leads to an issue known as the “homework gap” among students who lack proper internet access. To close this gap, USCellular has launched the *After School Access Project*, a program that provides free mobile hotspots and service to nonprofits that support youth after the school day has ended and provides safe internet access for homework and education. This is an expansion of previous hotspot donations the company provided to address connectivity needs during the pandemic. Seeing the greater need, the company has pledged to donate up to \$3 million in hotspots and service to connect up to 50,000 youth in 2022. Eligible 501c3 nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply by going to <https://bit.ly/3B7zOQ>.

“When we heard the stories of youth who couldn’t get access to reliable internet for their schoolwork, we knew we had to act,” said Laurent C. Therivel, president and CEO of USCellular. “Connecting people and communities is our mission and the *After School Access Project* is just one way that we’re helping ensure students have the reliable access they need to grow and pursue their dreams.”

Hotspots are stand-alone Wi-Fi networks that can connect several devices at once wirelessly and have proven to be a vital tool for youth to access the internet, study and complete homework. To date in 2021, USCellular has donated 2,800 hotspots and service to 33 Boys &

Girls Clubs across the country, a \$6 million investment. Clubs have used them to boost their connectivity on site and loaned the devices out to youth and their families to support reliable access at home.

Nonprofit organizations who meet the following criteria are welcomed to apply:

- Certified 501c3 nonprofit organizations
- Operate within USCellular’s service area
- Focused on kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Not a school or government entity

Hotspot devices will be shipped to nonprofit organizations within 6 to 8 weeks of an approved, completed application.

“Closing the digital divide will require the involvement of many organizations and that is why we encourage nonprofits working with youth in afterschool programs to apply and use this resource to enhance the important work they are already doing,” said Therivel.

USCellular is focused on addressing gaps in STEM education and is committed to connecting more than 200,000 of tomorrow’s innovators each year with the resources they need today to help shape future opportunities. Since 2009, USCellular has donated more than \$0.8 million along with countless experiences and technology items to nonprofit organizations across the country. For more information about USCellular’s corporate social responsibility initiatives, please go to <https://www.uscellular.com/get-to-know-us/community-outreach>.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Readers,

Have you noticed the new recycling symbols that are beginning to appear on many products? The How2Recycle symbols are the standardized labeling system that give recycling instructions on an increasing number of products. Websites, [www.How2recycle.info](http://www.How2recycle.info) and [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org), are both excellent sites for information about recycling metal, plastic, and paper. Most of these recycling symbols are rather small so look closely for them. They are usually found on the side or bottom of a box, package, or plastic packaging.



This second label gives information about recycling PLASTIC, as indicated in the box just below the recycle symbol. The top box gives instructions for recycling plastic, RECYCLE IF CLEAN & DRY. The STORE DROP OFF recycling symbol tells that the type of plastic listed in the bottom box, BAGS/FILM/WRAP, must be taken to a STORE DROP OFF, (Kroger or Walmart) and not to a recycling center.

Have strings of Christmas lights that you don’t want, need or are broken? Take them to the Recycling Center for recycling. Sales from the copper contained in the cords helps fund the Recycle Center.

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.



Product to be recycled

The label above shows information about recycling METAL, as indicated

by box just below the recycle symbol. Both steel & aluminum come in this category. The top box, RINSE AND INSERT LID, gives special instructions for recycling METAL cans. The RECYCLING SYMBOL indicates that Americans can recycle this item at curbside recycling or drop-off recycling. The box below the recycle symbol, METAL, tells that the product listed in the last line, CAN, is recycled with METAL. The Greenbrier Recycling Center separates metal into two bins: Steel Cans and Aluminum Cans.



Greenbrier Valley Chorale presents

*Sing We Noel, Again!*

Sunday,  
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