

Mountain messenger

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

Classy Country Consignment with a conscience

By Adam Pack

Another business has decided to call Lewisburg home, with the newest addition being Mountain Momma Consignment, formerly located in Ronceverte. The consignment shop deals specifically in clothing and accessories for men and women, and had only been operating in Ronceverte for a short time when the opportunity to move to Lewisburg knocked.

Co-owners Melanie Tucker and Sunny Sanchez opened that door wide as they were given a chance to acquire property in the middle of Lewisburg shopping district close to Simms Exxon and The Livery Tavern. Tucker says they are incredibly excited to be in the new location.

"It's just an upgrade in every way, better ambience, better size, better location."

This is attested to by visits from shoppers from all over the region as well as Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

This much vaunted real estate was offered to them by Alinda Perrine and Wesley Cole. "Alinda just worked so hard and so selflessly to get us this property, and all without adding on charges or charging a percentage. It was key, and we're so grateful."

"Our main priority is providing quality clothing and accessories to people here at a price they can afford," Tucker noted, before adding that they, as a consignment, are happy to purchase clothing, shoes, and purses. However, jewelry found in the store is often handmade by Tucker herself, as well the work of other local artists on occasion.

On top of doing business, Mountain Momma Consignment has plans to be intimately involved in charity.

"We already donate clothing to the women's refuge center, and we are in talks with staff at Children's Home Society to donate clothes to them as well. This spring we'll be having a free prom dress giveaway to local girls who are unable to afford them, and those who have experienced a house fire are encouraged to contact us, and we will let them go through the store and get the essentials and necessities free of charge."

Follow Mountain Momma Consignment on Facebook at "Mountain Momma Consignment and More" to view inventory and store hours.



Mountain Momma has relocated from Ronceverte to Lewisburg, and is now at 1102 Washington Street East downtown.

Rose voted County Commission President, White Sulphur water system updates discussed

By Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Commission met on Tuesday, Jan. 11, to cover some beginning of the year housekeeping measures and to discuss the Meadow River Rail Trail, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, TIF projects in White Sulphur Springs, and more.

There will be no changes to the committees which the respective commissioners occupy for 2022, and the commission will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Regular meetings will still be at 10 a.m. and the public is encouraged to attend. The new County Commission President was selected, with current president Tammy

Tincher nominating Lowell Rose to preside. Rose was approved on a unanimous vote and will serve as County Commission president for 2022.

Matt Ford was present to discuss the process of evaluating and interviewing for an engineering firm for Phase III of the Meadow River Rail Trail. After the interview process, though "two firms were very close," Ford said that the committee had suggested that the County Commission select E.L. Robinson Engineering, which the commission promptly did on a unanimous vote.

Current head of Greenbrier County Homeland Security and Emergency

See "Rose" _____ Page 2



Visit Mountain Momma Consignment and More on Facebook for a complete list of store hours.

Nature's Way
By Karen Cohen
on page 4

Candidacy filing window opens for May 10 election

By Adam Pack

Monday, Jan. 10, marked the opening of the candidacy filing window at the Secretary of State's office for all those interested in running for state positions in the 2022 elections.

According to a statement released by the Secretary of State's office, "Monday [Jan. 10] marked the first day that people interested in the May 10th Primary Election could file to run for a particular office, and 61 candidates from throughout the state filed official paperwork to run for office."

The filing period runs through Jan. 29, and all interested parties are encouraged to apply. The application process can be undertaken in Charleston at the Capitol, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, or by mail. Applicants are required, whether applying by mail or in person, to have

See "Candidacy Window" _____ Page 3



White Sulphur moves forward on ARP projects

By Sarah Richardson

White Sulphur Springs City Council met earlier this week to discuss potential projects to be financed by American Rescue Plan funds and to hear an update on the ongoing water line extension projects on the outskirts of town.

City Recorder Kathy Glover provided a list of projects currently being considered by the American Rescue Plan Committee. "We've been meeting a couple times a month, and have some proposed expenditures to look into. Possibly the installation of a pneumatic tube for payment, where people can pay their bills without having to get out [of their vehicles], there is also the possibility of purchasing property behind City Hall to make a parking lot and to allow that tubing to go into place."

Another considered option is a new electronic sign for the front of City Hall to complete the current sign. "We are working with a couple of companies to get information on replacing the sign out front so it can be used to provide information to the citizens on things going on,

See "WSS ARP Projects" _____ Page 3

Clayton Tyree celebrates 100th birthday



Clayton Tyree celebrated his 100th birthday on Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Dutch Haus. (Photo courtesy of GHS)

Lewisburg resident and U.S. Navy veteran Clayton Tyree celebrated his 100th birthday at a well-attended party held at the Dutch Haus restaurant with friends and family last weekend. As he has done with previous birthdays, he asked for donations to be

See "Clayton Tyree" _____ Page 3

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Decorating contest winners announced

Festive lights were everywhere in Alderson, celebrating the Christmas season. "Driving under the lights" on the Alderson Memorial Bridge over the Greenbrier River is a holiday tradition begun in the early 1950s when the bridge was open to regular traffic. Now, it is only on specified days for a donation to a nonprofit organization but a beautiful experience just the same.

In recent years, there have been even more lights to enjoy - from Alumni Park and the Historic Business District on the Monroe County side of town, to businesses and homes throughout Alderson.

To honor the creativity, generosity, and significant effort of residents and businesses displaying the Christmas spirit, Alderson Main Street established a Christmas Decoration Contest in 2016.

This year, Alderson Main Street recognizes the following winners.

Residential - Old Fashioned Christmas:

1st place: Brandon and Amy Catron
Honorable Mention: Susan and Darrell Hale; Joyce Mott and Phil Mershon; Trudy Halstead

Nativity Scene:

1st place: Becky Wilson
Honorable Mention: Charlie and Betty Mulkey

Children's Fantasy:

1st place: Chase and Samantha Reed
Honorable Mention: Holly and Chuckie Gore; Bobby and Judy Hoover; Shawn and Debbie Dickens

Spirit of Christmas:

1st place: Jeremy Rickard and Stephanie Morgan
Honorable Mention: Karen Lobban; LisaMarie Cropper; Greg Eary



First place winner for Festive Doorway and Porch: Donna and Rick Simms

Festive Doorway and Porch:

1st place: Donna and Rick Sims
Honorable Mention: Jamie Brady and Jessica Wykle

Magical Christmas:

1st place: Rick Honaker
Honorable Mention: Harley & Michelle Adkins

Businesses - Large business:

1st place: Riverview Motel & Café
Honorable Mention: Wigglesworth Building, Railroad Avenue; Bill Canterbury, corner Railroad Ave & South Monroe Street

Small business:

1st place: Alderson Artisans Gallery
Honorable Mention: Alderson's Store
Alderson Main Street thanks the judges for their hard work in deciding on winners. It was a hard decision to make.

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Rose

Continued from Front Page

Management Mike Honaker submitted a temporary leave of absence to the commission as well, due to his appointment as delegate for the 42nd district. Governor Justice appointed Honaker to serve in the House of Delegates after Barry Bruce resigned for health reasons. The Commission unanimously accepted Honaker's request for a temporary leave of absence. This leave was for the upcoming legislative session which Honaker will be taking part in. The leave request was submitted via letter, as Honaker has already started his duties in Charleston, appearing for a special session this week. The Commission wished Honaker all the best in his new endeavor and feels that he will do an incredible job representing us in Charleston.

After the approval of the hiring of Britt Ludwig to serve as further legal aid and counsel to the county, the Commission took up a resolution authorizing the financing of the Rt. 92 Water Tank Project for the city of White Sulphur Springs. The funding, which will be drawn from Greenbrier TIF District #1, is to purchase land along Rt. 92 in order to install a water tank. The tank will increase water pressure further up Rt. 92, which will ensure fire departments can access water with enough pressure to combat fires.

"Fortunately," Commissioner Rose said, "there hasn't been a house fire up there, but if there were to be one there would have been inadequate pressure for fire suppression."

The backpressure will be channeled back to the new line recently put in, which currently would have to be shut off in order to get water pressure further up Rt. 92. The authorization passed unanimously.

The County Commission meets again on the fourth Tuesday of the month, Jan. 25. The public is encouraged to attend.

Lewisburg's Virtual MLK Day Celebration to be seen via YouTube

The current winter COVID-19 surge in Greenbrier County has resulted in the cancellation of the traditional Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march, community lunch, and program at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. Instead, a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration video similar to last year's is being made for YouTube distribution.

On Monday, Jan. 17, search on YouTube.com for the title of the video, which is "Lewisburg MLK 2022."

The video will begin with a welcome and introduction by Pastor Kathie Holland of the New Vision Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs. She has served on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Committee, and is one of its most eloquent supporters.

Nevaeh Traynham will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the customary opening music for this event. Lewisburg's Mayor Beverly White will deliver her stirring proclamation of the city's Martin Luther King, Jr. Week for 2022. Before the keynote speaker's address, Chris Winston will sing as he did in the celebration video last year.

The keynote speaker is Bishop Fred T. Simms, Senior Pastor and founder of the Heart of God Ministries in Beckley, which has a 41 member ministerial staff and 32 auxiliary ministries. He is a renowned preacher, orator, author, and community leader. For instance, he has been given a great many awards for his community service by the City of Beckley, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission of WV, the YMCA, and Mountain State University. His address in the video will provide



Bishop Fred T. Simms, Keynote Speaker for Lewisburg's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Video 2022.

inspiration in keeping with the words of Dr. King selected to embody the theme of this year's celebration: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



Mayor presents plaque to Pauline 'Polly' Welch

By Sarah Richardson

Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White surprised Polly Welch on her 105th birthday with a plaque from the city commemorating her milestone birthday. Pictured: Mayor White (left), Polly Welch, and Polly's daughter, Betty Jo McNeel. Polly was also congratulated by Senator Joe Manchin via video call.

Baldwin nominates Sloan for Honor Board

Senator Stephen Baldwin nominated Greenbrier County Sheriff Bruce Sloan to the new West Virginia First Responders Honor Board this fall.

"Sheriff Sloan is a respected law enforcement professional who does his job effectively. He will be a wonderful representative for our region on the new Honor Board," Baldwin said.

The Legislature passed SB 3027 in the fall of 2021 to create the First Responders Honor Board. The membership of this board consists of firefighters, fire chiefs, law enforcement officials, emergency medical services personnel, medical officials, and other professionals who are qualified to evaluate and determine whether the actions of firefighters, law-enforcement officers, and emergency medical services personnel rise to the level of being above and beyond the call of duty. The Honor Board may award the Medal of Valor to a West Virginian whose service is exemplary.

Sheriff Sloan's appointment to the Honor Board has been confirmed at Senator Baldwin's nomination. He will serve through the fall of 2024.

PICK OF THE LITTER



JAMES

James is an approximately 10-year-old male domestic shorthair



EDDIE

Eddie is an approximately 3-year-old male domestic medium hair

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

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

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

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

Briefly

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 Jan. 22 will feature the Midland Trail Band 7 to 10:30. 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.

Williamsburg Community Shooting Match

Thank you for your participation in our shooting matches for 2021. We hope you enjoyed them! Our next match will be Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Williamsburg Community Center. Match starts at 7 p.m. but food concession 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.

Shepherd's Center plans meetings for January, February 2022

The Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley is excited to announce that there will be several opportunities for virtual and in person meetings for the months of January and February. Events will include virtual Coffee Talk on Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. via Zoom, Book Group on Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church Asbury Room, virtual Coffee Talk on Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. via Zoom, Book Group on Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church Asbury Room, and a Lunch and Learn on Feb. 17, at 11:30 a.m. at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. For the virtual events, zoom links will be sent out via email and through the Shepherd's Center Facebook page. If you are interested in participating in the virtual or in person events, please contact our office at 304-645-4196 for more information.

WSS ARP Projects Continued from Front Page

or emergencies that they might need to be aware of."

They are also looking into adding signage promoting White Sulphur along I-64 east, using the same ad they are running in the February edition of the Greenbrier Valley's Convention and Visitor Center's guide.

The Council approved the list of projects.

In other news:

- Ed Robinson with E.L. Engineering reported continued progress with the water line expansion projects, saying "Church Street's been finished, and Big Draft has been finished. They will be back in the spring to clean up, they just completed their work right around Christmas so it wasn't a good time to do that, but they'll be back and straighten up." He noted that they have installed a fire hydrant at the front of Hope Village in response to a citizen pointing out that there was no hydrant located there.

- For the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on Monday, Jan. 17, City Hall will be closed and the Monday garbage pickup in the city will be picked up on Tuesday, Jan. 18, instead.

Candidacy Window Continued from Front Page

their application notarized by a notary of the public.

As of writing, the state offices up for election in our region are a seat in the State Senate District 10, and seats in the House of Delegates Districts 46 and 47. In Senate District 10 there are currently three candidates listed: Stephen Baldwin (D - Ronceverte - Incumbent), Vincent Deeds (R, Renick), and Thomas Perkins (R, Frankford). Currently in State House District 46, recent appointee Mike Honaker (R, Lewisburg) has filed to run. In District 47, Todd Longanacre (R, Alderon - Incumbent) is the lone candidate filed as of press time.

The second seat in Senate District 10 is not up for election, however the holder of that seat, Jack Woodrum (R, Hinton) will be running for Republican State Executive Committee for Senate District 10.

County wide, there are three candidates filed currently for three positions: John Wyatt (R, Rainelle) is seeking election to the Greenbrier County Republican Executive Committee, J.L. "Danny" Campbell (R, Lewisburg) is seeking election to the House of Delegates Republican Executive Committee for House District 46, and Louvonne Legg Arbuckle (D, Lewisburg) is running for Circuit Clerk.

All statements of filings and applicants are subject to change. The Mountain Messenger will publish the complete list of applicants at the close of the application period on Jan 29.

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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.

Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Only available via teleconference. For information on how to participate on ZOOM call 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 18. On the agenda:

- Visitors' reports (5 min. limit per subject not on agenda)
- Approval of Minutes - Dec. 21, 2021 regular session
- Proclamations
 - Volunteer Year 2021 Covid-19 Taskforce
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Week
- Communication from Mayor White
- Communication from City Council Manager
 - Approval of evidentiary materials for stormwater study
 - CARES Act update
- Communication from Boards and Commissions
 - Planning Commission
 - Final Plat, Walmart property, 1976 Jefferson Street North, Wal-bucks
 - Parks Commission report
- Communication from Police Chief Teubert
- Communication from Fire Dept. Chief Thomas
- Communication from Council Committees
 - Finance Committee
 - Finance Committee report
 - Removal of trees in rights-of-way for water system upgrades
 - Public Works building bids
 - Schleiff Construction, LLC, final pay request
 - Cost of Living increase
 - Police Department, competitive wage increase
 - Lease purchase of police vehicles
- Public Works Department
 - Report from Public Works Director

Greenbrier PSD #1

will meet Friday, Jan. 21, at 7 a.m. at the District Office, 9035 Seneca Trail, Fairlea. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Dec. 17, 2021
- Financial Report
- Manager Report
- Field Report
- Engineering Report
- Rolling Hills & Brush Road extension projects:
 - a. Payment Resolutions
 - b. Other project-related business brought before the Board
- Election of Officers of the Board
- Executive session, personnel
- Other business brought before the Board

WVCAN releases 2021 state aggregate data

Last week, the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network (WVCAN) released its Statewide Data Report for the 2021 fiscal year. The data in the report reflects service from West Virginia's 21 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) which provided official service to 44 of 55 counties in the state. A CAC provides a safe, child-friendly facility where child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals work together to investigate abuse, hold offenders accountable, and help children heal.

To ensure that every child had access to needed resources and support during this time, West Virginia's 21 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) remained open. During this past fiscal year, CACs served 4,604 children – a 40% increase in new children served in the last five years.

Highlights from the report include:

- 54% of the children served were there because of allegations of sexual abuse
- 27% of the children served by CACs were six years old or younger
- 94% of alleged offenders were someone the child knew
 - 622 cases had charges filed
 - 202 individuals were convicted for crimes against children
 - 322,827 children (90% of the state's population) live in a county officially served by a CAC
 - 35,883 children (10% of the state's population) live in a county without official CAC coverage.

Caregivers visiting CACs are asked to take a survey about their experience. 98% of caregivers surveyed said if they knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, they would tell that person about the child advocacy center.

The report includes data on victim demographics, alleged offender demographics, reported vs. disclosed abuse, services performed, criminal justice response, and CAC income budget breakdown.

"As you can see, the number of children we serve is increasing every year.

This data helps show we aren't done elevating the conversation about child abuse in West Virginia," said Kate Flack, Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network. "We must continue and expand our support of West Virginia's Child Advocacy Centers, who are on the front lines serving child survivors of abuse and ensuring they receive hope, healing, and justice."

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Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Robin Leigh Wagner, White Sulphur Springs, possession of controlled substance, NCP, fine \$25

Jerry Reed, Alderson, 1) shooting/hunting from motor conveyance, GP, fine \$50; 2) illegal possession of wildlife, fine \$75; improper checking of game, fine \$20; 4) illegal possession of wildlife, fine \$75

Wesley Allen Adkinson, Maxwelton, driving impaired, NCP, fine \$100, jail 20 days with 7 days credit time served - remaining suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation

Joshua Jr. Wiley, Lewisburg, 1) hunting without permission, GP, fine \$100, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 1 year unsupervised probation; 2) illegal possession of wildlife, GP, fine \$100, jail 45 days - suspended and placed on 1 year unsupervised probation; 3) shoplifting, GP, fine \$100; 4) trespassing, GP, fine \$100; 5) illegal burn, GP, jail 45 days - suspended and placed on 1 year unsupervised probation

Randall Lee Hunter, White Sulphur Springs, failure to obey traffic, GP, fine \$15

Larry Drennen, Hines, no insurance, NCP, fine \$200
Melodie G. Wykle, Ronceverte, worthless check, NCP, fine \$10, restitution \$48.80

Steven Ryan Huttenpiller, Rupert, petit larceny, NCP, fine \$50, jail 21 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation; restitution order to be paid directly to victims

Darrel Clayton VanMeter, Crawley, reckless driving, NCP, fine \$100, jail 5 days credit for 1 day served - remainder suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation

Thomas George Tackett, Jackson, MI, trespassing, GP, fine \$100

Brooks A. Wight, Augusta, GA, driving too fast for road conditions, NCP, fine \$36

Carson Monroe Capaldo, White Sulphur Springs, possession of controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100

Derrick A. Milbourne, Warrenton, VA, driving too fast for road conditions, NCP, fine \$24

Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: Nicholas Antonio Rinaldi and Andrea Arthur Rinaldi

In Re: The Marriage of: John Maury Price and Delilah Smith Price

In Re: The Marriage of: Brittany Nicole Turner and Richard McDaniel, Jr.

In Re: The Marriage of: Sheena Louise Lockhart and James Lockhart

Clayton Tyree

Continued from Front Page

made to the Greenbrier Humane Society.

According to a social media post by the humane society, "Five years ago, on Mr. Tyree's 95th birthday, he invited us to his celebration and asked for donations to Greenbrier Humane Society in lieu of gifts. Mr. Tyree and his family thought of GHS again on this monumental day! Thank you to Mr. Tyree for thinking of us. Thank you to his family and friends for being so welcoming. And a very sincere thank you to Mr. Tyree for his service!"

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Mountain Messenger

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Mountain Messenger

OPINION

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist

Cover Up

Did you know that snow is good for your garden plants, bushes, etc? How so? Snow gives a protective blanket over plants that acts as insulation and barrier against dropping temperatures that plunge below freezing. As we well know, here the temps have already plummeted to 11 degrees in the mountains just last week. More of that is expected since we are just starting our winter season and have a few more months to go. Brrrr.

I employ cover ups that are "free" and easy to take on and off my plants for the other times when, out of nowhere, we hit 60 degrees mid winter. Cardboard boxes are plentiful if you are an Amazon user, and can be turned upside down and placed over plants. Our rosemary bush, a new fig tree, and perennial sage and oregano plant are currently under cardboard in my garden. Snow and rain won't harm the cardboard, and it is easy to toss off when and if it gets too warm. When a nice 45 degree day comes along, I remove the cardboard to allow sunlight to perk up the plants and warm up the soil some, too. When it's time to plant, the cardboard is tossed in the compost pile to break down as worm food.

Plastic jugs with the tops cut off form makeshift "cloches" to put over individual plants. Long ago, cloches were made from glass and used by dedicated gardeners to shelter their plants in inclement weather. These were shaped like a bell or a funnel and hundreds could be employed in large gardens. I can't imagine storing all that glass in the warm months and what a mess if they break! Plastic seems safer and is translucent to allow sunlight to filter in on sunny days. Unused plastic storage bins can do the same job if you have a bunch available.

Old sheets, towels, or any fabric is great for covering up plants in extreme temps. When I am preparing to insulate my plants from sub-freezing temps, anything I can get my hands on quickly works. Fabric, however, will get weighted down and may break stems and branches when it gets wet or filled with snow. Wrapping a new tree or bush with a sheet or burlap fabric will give it just the few degrees of warmth it needs to keep from freezing.

Straw or hay or chopped leaves give off heat as they break down and are great insulators. Again, these easily break down in the warm planting months and can be left in the garden as compost materials.

Freezes are deadly for many outdoor plants or trees. You may have heard that some growers and farmers will spray their winter crops repeatedly with water before



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the temps begin to drop. This coats the plants with a constant temperature of 33 degrees and acts as an ice shield. Seems far-fetched, but it works. In some vineyards the growers will start small fires between the grape vine rows to keep out the frost, another extreme measure. Unless you have a ton of money invested in your garden, you will probably just opt to let nature take its course. It is, after all, the cycle of nature that requires thawing and freezing. Bugs get killed; seeds and some plants are stratified in order to produce new growth. Nature keeps its own schedule and there's not much you can do to prevent it, is there?

(Karen Cohen is a Master Gardener, composter, photojournalist, DJ and explorer. Email: natureswaykaren@gmail.com)

NATIONAL SERVICE BILL Last year, I sponsored a bill to provide scholarships for students who serve in Americorps. It failed in the House, but we passed it in the Senate on day one this year. It will help us keep our kids here!

VETERANS DISCOUNTS AT STATE PARKS Similarly, my bill from last year to provide veterans discounts at state parks failed in the House last year. So this year we passed it in the Senate on day one!

VETERINARY SCHOOL A committee is looking into the possibility of opening a veterinary school in West Virginia. I'm completely supportive of this effort. Every farmer I talk to could use additional vet support for their livestock. This could be a unique opportunity for our state to fill a need. And I think we need to fight to house it in our region since it's the agricultural center of the state.

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

(Senator Stephen Baldwin is the Minority Leader and a local pastor. Reach him at 304-357-7959 or stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov. Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)

Commentary

AG alerts consumers to emerging jury duty scam

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey is alerting consumers to an emerging jury duty scam with an alarming twist. The Attorney General's Office received a report from the West Virginia Fusion Center earlier this week regarding a jury duty fine scam that may include a potential personal safety element.

A consumer in Kanawha County was contacted by a caller representing themselves as being with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office. The call appeared to come from a legitimate Kanawha County Sheriff's Office telephone number. The caller had the consumer's work location, home address, work and cell phone numbers, and potential relatives prior to the consumer providing any sort of information. The caller told the consumer they had failed to appear for jury duty and had multiple warrants out for their arrest. The consumer received instructions to meet at the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, in-person, and to bring \$1,900 in bail money, to be paid either in cash or by debit card.

The West Virginia Fusion Center also recently received three additional reports from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office of scam calls involving similar spoofed calls appearing to be from law enforcement requesting payment for a supposed failure to appear for jury duty.

If consumers receive a suspicious call from someone claiming to represent law enforcement, they should check directly with the legitimate agency to confirm whether the call is authentic. Anyone who believes they may have been affected by this scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808, the Eastern Panhandle Consumer Protection Office in Martinsburg at 304-267-0239 or visit the office online at www.wvago.gov.

Commentary

West Virginia once again named top ten travel destination for 2022

More travel accolades for the Mountain State continue. Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Department of Tourism announced that West Virginia has been selected as one of the Best Places to Go by both Frommers and USA Today.

This recognition follows a series of recent notable announcements by Condé Nast Traveler, Lonely Planet and TIME Magazine, that together rank West Virginia as a leading global destination for travel in the new year.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we live in the greatest, most beautiful state in all the country, and I'm so proud to see our great state getting the attention it deserves," Gov. Justice said. "Just think back to my very first State of the State address, I said that we needed to change our image and tell the story of just how good we really are in West Virginia. And as we've moved forward, all of a sudden the world has noticed the treasure that we really are."

Frommers, a global media company with expert-led travel articles, taps the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve as a top vacation choice for 2022. The article positions America's newest national park as a destination with not only interesting topography, but world class outdoor recreation such as whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, and hiking.

"It is such an honor to help share all that West Virginia has to offer with the world," said Chelsea Ruby, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism. "The recognition we've received for the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and the entire state in recent months is unprecedented. Features like these bring additional travels to the state and help us continue to fuel the West Virginia tourism economy. It's features, like these, that result in real, measurable results and visits from travelers."

USA Today selected the top family-friendly destinations to visit in 2022 - including international and domestic points of interest. The article also showcases the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve as having incredible natural beauty and outdoor activities the entire family will enjoy.

The Frommers ranking is the latest in a recent series of national recognitions of West Virginia.

West Virginia was named a Top Travel Region to visit in 2022 by Lonely Planet as a part of its annual Best in Travel awards. West Virginia was the only state in the country selected.

West Virginia was also selected as one of the Best Places to Go by Condé Nast Traveler.

Additionally, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve - America's newest national park - was named to TIME's annual list of the World's Greatest Places, which highlights 100 extraordinary travel destinations around the world.

Also in 2021, the newly established West Virginia Department of Tourism won a pair of national awards from the U.S. Travel Association. The department was recognized with a pair of Mercury Awards - the top honors for state tourism agencies - for both its 2021 Vacation Guide and a social media community building campaign.

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The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



Close the windows and lock the doors...the legislature is officially back in session. Week one was a wild one.

NUCOR STEEL announced a plan to invest \$2.7 billion in a steel mill in Mason County. It is a massive project— 240 acres under roof, at least 800 employees, a multi-million dollar payroll, all to make American steel right here in West Virginia. The state is providing significant tax incentives to Nucor. There is risk giving this much in tax incentives to corporations, but they won't come without the incentives today. I supported the legislation to make this possible because: the company has NEVER done a layoff, they are the world's greenest steel company, they provide good paying jobs (entry level \$70K/year) and college scholarships for all employees, they do profit sharing for all employees annually, the demand for steel is high thanks to federal infrastructure investments, this is a golden opportunity in green manufacturing for our WV workers, and the state won't invest a penny until the company has invested. If this venture is successful, and I think it will be based on my meeting with the company, then it will lead to more such opportunities in other parts of the state like southern West Virginia.

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES Also this week, GreenPower Motor Works announced plans to build electric, zero-emission school buses right here in West Virginia. Their 9-acre facility will employ 200 citizens. They are partnering with Bridge Valley Community and Technical College to train folks.

FEDERAL FUNDS. Without the influx of federal funds via the American Rescue Plan and the infrastructure bill, we wouldn't be seeing these economic development projects. Thanks to our federal Democrats and Republicans who supported the bills in Congress.

COVID continues to rage across the state and nation. Active case counts and hospitalizations are at near record highs. We are praying for all of those infected and struggling with the virus, including Governor Justice and several legislators. It's time to put our prayers into action and protect our neighbors. Let's all do our part.

PAY RAISE. The proposed budget includes a 5% raise for all public employees. Not only do I support it, but I'm not sure it's enough. For three reasons. One, a 5% raise doesn't even keep up with inflation. Two, we need to catch up rather than just keep up. Child Protective Service workers for example are FAR below regional averages. Three, we can't forget about retirees who are not part of the raise as proposed, even though it has been decades since they've gotten a raise of any kind.

FLOOD DEMOLITIONS This week I confirmed that we are allowed to use American Rescue Plan funds to demolish flooded structures like homes and businesses. This is desperately needed, as dilapidated buildings are a safety and economic development issue. I've been appointed to chair a group of legislators to present a funding proposal. Stay tuned.

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

A Look Back



Courtesy of the West Virginia Regional History Center.

By William "Skip" Deegans
New River hardly comes to mind when one thinks of the era of steamboats in West Virginia. However, as shown in this week's photo from the late 1800s, the New had a steamboat. In fact, there were two.

After the government dredged the river above Hinton, local entrepreneurs got the idea of using steamboats to carry produce and tobacco from farms and take materials and supplies to farmers. Shown in the photo is the "Cecilia." It was launched from Hinton on November 7, 1878, as all of Hinton turned

out to watch. The side-wheeler was 120 ft. long and 20 ft. wide. It had a 124 ft. boiler that carried 175 lbs. of steam. F. M. Starbuck, an expert Hinton machinist who owned a machine shop and foundry, built the boat. It was named for Mrs. Cecilia Miller, wife of C&O locomotive engineer, William Miller, either because he was the first to suggest the idea of a steamboat or paid \$100 for the naming right.

Piloted by Jim Johnson, an African-American, the Cecilia could travel only as far upriver as Bull Falls. Steamboats proved to be too

large for the New and also unable to navigate the Greenbrier River as hoped. The Cecilia was quickly abandoned. As late as 1933, her hull was still visible along the Hinton shore. The next effort for motorized travel on the New was to equip a 40 ft. beateau (flat bottom wooden boat) with an airplane engine. Since construction of the Bluestone Dam in 1949, New River is no longer navigable from the town of Hinton to Bull Falls.

Sources: Hinton Daily News and Hinton Independent-Herald.

Center for Rural Affairs pleased with USDA's plan to invest in climate-smart agriculture

The Center for Rural Affairs is applauding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its dedication to climate-smart agriculture following the agency's announcement Monday that it plans to invest \$38 million in a new program aimed at increasing cover crop acres. In addition, a key change to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was announced.

"Investments of this size are important for building climate resiliency in agriculture," said Kayla Bergman, senior policy associate for the Center. "We know that producers are eager to implement conservation measures to improve their on-farm financial

and natural resources; and often look to USDA to support those efforts."

In outlining the USDA's plan, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said the goal is to increase the cover crop acres in the U.S. to 30 million by 2030, which is double the current amount. To assist in achieving the goal, a new cover crop initiative was announced as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program is focused in 11 states, including Iowa and South Dakota.

According to state-level agency representatives, the program will be focused on areas within each state that have high volumes of applications

for the existing cover crop financial assistance programs.

"Cover crops are an important tool to address numerous economic and natural resource concerns, including building soil health over the long term and improving water quality," Bergman said. "In order for producers to offset the initial cost of implementing this practice and reap the long-term economic and natural resource benefits, it is important they have financial assistance programs like this one to lean on."

Bergman commends the added flexibility for producers wanting to re-enroll in CSP, one of the flagship working lands conservation pro-

grams at USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Up to this point, if a producer did not apply to renew their CSP contract the same year their existing contract expired, they would have to wait two years before applying to re-enroll. This ineligibility was regardless of whether a renewed application was rejected due to lack of funding on USDA-NRCS's part.

"We know that only 47% of CSP renewal applications were funded in 2020 alone," Bergman said. "This removal of the two-year waiting period for producers wanting to re-enroll will eliminate a gap in financial assistance for many."

Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,
I have recently gotten new eyeglasses and am wondering what to do with my old ones. I know there used to be places that collected formerly used glasses for the Lion's Club sight program. Do you know of any place in Greenbrier County that collects used glasses for this purpose?

Better Vision Now
Dear Better Vision Now,

I'm glad you are seeing better and want to help others to have the same ability. The Ferrell Eye Clinic on Lafayette Street in Lewisburg, collects old eyeglasses for the Lion's Sight program. They will be happy to receive all donations for this program. Readers, if there are other collection sites, please let me know.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Why all the concern about using paper towels. They are made from trees, which are a sustainable resource.

Likes Paper Towels
Dear Likes Paper Towels,

According to www.thealternativedaily.com, there are three reasons not to use paper towels. One, is to save trees and resources. Deforestation is one of the biggest challenges we have today for the preservation of our environment and resources. Free the ocean says that 51,000 trees are cut down every day to satisfy North America's paper towel habit. Second, using a reusable cloth reduces pollution and third, reusing a reusable cloth saves money.

There are several alternatives to using paper towels. Using recycled paper towels helps somewhat, but their production still requires some trees, and they contribute to

landfill waste. A variety of green solutions available today. They may take a little getting used to, but using them are worth the effort. Biodegradable, reusable cloth towels are available that are less expensive than paper towels and can be used multiple times. Your grandmother's "rag-bag" was a great eco-friendly way to use worn outcloath items. She didn't throw away old sheets or unwearable clothing. They were put in the "rag-bag" to be used as clean up cloths.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Kitty litter, and other products, come in boxes that have plastic handles. Can they be sent to the Recycling Center without removing the plastic handle?

Love My Cats
Dear Love My Cats,

Yes, all clean cardboard boxes can be sent to the Recycling Center. The plastic handles do not need to be removed. Did you know kitty litter can be used when your car is stuck in snow? Just throw several handfuls under the tires to improve traction. Kitty litter can also be used on icy sidewalks or steps. One word of caution. Kitty litter will cling to shoes so place a mat at the entry for wiping off shoes.

Good News: Portugal has created the largest marine protected area in Europe, around the Selvagens Islands - over 1,000 square miles that's bursting with marine life.

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

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

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Guard 2. Amble 3. Power 4. Groan

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OBITUARIES

William Ray Yates



Frankford-William Ray "Billy" Yates, 87, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at his home.

Born Aug. 19, 1934, in Frankford, he was the son of the late Charles Lacey Yates and Bertha Elizabeth Adwell Yates.

Billy worked for Merry Hill Farm for over 37 years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Nelson Yates and sisters, Hilda Seldomridge, Helen Campbell, Bertha Snedegar and Margaret Hamrick.

Survivors include his loving wife, Madeline Yates; sons, Donnie Ray Yates (Melissa) of White Sulphur Springs, Jackie Lee Yates of Frankford, John Christopher Yates (Cheryl) of Lewisburg, and Timothy Yates (Debbie) of Renick; daughter, Robin Yates-Loudermilk (Greg McCullough) of Frankford; brother, Junior Yates (Carol) of Frankford; sister, Catherine Cooke of Anthony; nine grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, eight great-great grandchildren; and a longtime friend, Trip Hamilton of Lewisburg.

It was Billy's wish to be cremated and to have no service.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Betty Lou Staton Hizer

Alderson-Betty Lou Staton Hizer, 90, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022 at CAMC-General.

Born Oct. 27, 1931, she was a daughter of the late Everett Lee and Bessie Ellen Kirby Staton.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Calvin M. Hizer; son, Calvin M. Hizer, Jr. (in-

fant); brothers, Emery L. and Richard Stanton; and sisters, Thelma Mae Staton Brooks, and Louise V. Bryan.

Betty was a member of the River of Life Church of God of Alderson. She was a homemaker and loved crochet, painting, making clothes, and loved her many cats and dogs.

Betty is survived by daughter, Shirley L. Garten and her husband Bernard P. of Alderson; sister, Pearl Martin of Lindsie; granddaughter, Kayla M. Garten of Alderson; great-grandchild, Antonio Garten; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15, at the River of Life Church of God with Pastor Anthony Carter officiating. Burial will follow in the Clayton Missionary Baptist Church in Clayton.

Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to Lantz Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com

Preston Delano Madison



Frankford-Preston Delano "Maverick" Madison, 83, passed away Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, at the White Sulphur Springs Center.

Born May 27, 1938, in Marlinton, he was the son of the late Russell P. Madison and Bertha Tipton Madison.

Preston was preceded in death by a sister, Brenda Cogar; brother, Edmund "Elwood" Madison; and special uncles, Troy Tipton, Basil Coleman, and James Oval Tipton.

Survivors include a brother, James Madison of Pennsylvania; sister, Peggy Smailes of Lewisburg; and several nieces, and nephews.

Funeral was on Friday, Jan. 7, at the Morgan Fu-

neral Home, Lewisburg, where Pastor Travis Howard officiated. Burial followed in the Enon Baptist Church Cemetery, Frankford, WV.

Visitation was Friday at the funeral home before the service.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net

Ruth Lubrich



White Sulphur Springs-Ruth Lubrich, 86, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, surrounded by loving family.

Born on Nov. 4, 1935, in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of the late Laurence Doyle and Mabel Kamerdiner.

Ruth was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. She was an avid reader and enjoyed working with children. She and her husband, Otto, dedicated a significant portion of their lives to serving their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in full-time ministry at Word of Life Fellowship.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Otto; and her siblings, Larry, Charles, Ron, and Donn.

Survivors include her children, Robin, Otto Jr., Melody, and Merilee; four siblings, Pat, Bill, Doretta and Pam; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 3 step-grandchildren; and 5 step-great-grandchildren.

Her family would like to express their deep appreciation to the Lewisburg Division of Hospice for their care and compassion in her final days.

A Celebration of Life for Mrs. Lubrich will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 11 a.m. at the White Sulphur Springs Baptist Church (201 Willow Street) with Pastor Randy Gilliam officiating.

Following the services there will be a luncheon held in the Church's Fellowship Hall.

Memorials may be made to the Schroom Lake Library in Schroom, NY (15 Leland Avenue, Schroom Lake, NY 12870) or White Sulphur Springs Library in White Sulphur Springs, WV (344 W. Main Street).

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Hilda Elaine Leaseburge



Lewisburg-Hilda Elaine Leaseburge, 81, passed away Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, at Greenbrier Healthcare Center.

Born Jan. 6, 1940, in Buckhannon, WV, she was the daughter of the late Claudius McClellan Blankenship and Mae Doris Martin Blankenship.

Elaine was a member of Rhema Christian Center and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Emory J. Leaseburge; sons, Emory Lewis Leaseburge of Lewisburg and Kenneth Lynn Leaseburge (Leslie) of Bluefield; daughter, Lori Ann Leaseburge (David Taylor) of Jacksonville, FL; brothers, Barry Blankenship (Leann) of Kent, OH and Noel Blankenship (Nancy) of Kent, OH; grandson, Emory Liam Leaseburge; step-grandchildren, Asher, Rowan, McKenzie, Piper and Walker; and several nieces, and nephews.

It was Elaine's wish to be cremated.

A memorial service will be held later.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral

Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Peter McClintock Curtice, Sr.



March 30, 1945 - January 7, 2021

On Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, Peter Curtice passed away peacefully at home at the age of 76.

He was born on Mar. 30, 1945 in Petersburg, VA, to Charlie and Peggy Curtice and was a 1963 graduate of Petersburg High School and a 1968 graduate of Campbell College. Following college graduation Peter began a 33-year career of service with the U.S. Social Security Administration, retiring as a Regional Manager.

Peter's life was happily spent primarily in his three hometowns: Petersburg, VA, where he was raised and developed a talent for shenanigans; Elizabeth City, NC, where he spent the majority of his working years and raised his children, and Lewisburg/Keister, WV where he retired to cooler temperatures and fantastic river and mountain views. There he spent the last ten years building his dream home, mostly by hand. In each of these wonderful communities Peter developed deep and enduring friendships. He was loving and he was loved.

Fairness, equality, democracy, trying your best and helping others were some of Peter's defining values and traits. His greatest gift was living those values for his children and grandchildren to see and hopefully emulate.

A man of many talents, some more useful than others, Peter could fix and build just about anything

(not quickly, though). He was also skilled at all things camping, burning stuff, slow play practical jokes, joke telling in general, canoeing, labeling with specificity, perfectly scrambled eggs, being thrifty, and creating unique yard art. His sweet tooth was legendary!

Peter was preceded in death by his father, Charlie, his mother, Peggy, his brother Buck and his beloved daughter Jess. He is survived by his sons Pete and Andy, his grandchildren Jack, Noah and Barrett; his sister, Anne; six nephews; his best friend, Louise Peltier; and his lifelong close friend and adventure buddy, John Charles Smith.

A memorial service will be held in Petersburg, VA, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation <https://www.christopherreeve.org/donate> are always needed and appreciated.


Julie Ford



Julie Ford passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 2, 2022, surrounded by loved ones at the age of 86.

She is survived by her loving companion, Randolph Knipp; her two daughters, Charlotte (David) and Sarah (Roger); her grandchildren, Christopher (Mellisa), Julie (Michael), Matt (Lauran) and Laura; and three great-grandchildren.

She was married to Todd Ford for 57 happy years until he passed away in 2015, also on January 2 at 86 years old. Julie loved Lewisburg and was involved in her community through Play Readers, her bridge



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Alice Hollingsworth 304-645-3788
greenbriergreeters@gmail.com

club, St. James Episcopal church, several book clubs, cultural events at GVT and Carnegie Hall, the library and her many, many friends.

She retired in 1993 after 30 years teaching in Greenbrier County. Her students remember her for her compassion and genuine interest in their lives, and her ability to make English class uniquely engaging and entertaining.

Julie attended Randolph-Macon Women's College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She and her sister Helen were raised in Lynchburg, VA, by their parents Charles and Julia Gremmels. She attended E.C. Glass High School where she met Randolph Knipp, with whom she'd later reconnect and share six and a half years traveling, sharing many interests and spending time at their camp by the river. Julie will be remembered for her joyous spirit, her intelligence and her sense of humor. In her last weeks she told her granddaughter Laura, "I have no regrets. I've had a wonderful life - and two wonderful men."

To honor her memory friends may make a donation to the Greenbrier County Library, 152 Robert W. McCormick Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

A celebration of her life will take place later in the year - date to be announced.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Leula Underwood Blankenship



Williamsburg-Leula Underwood Blankenship, 82, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, at Beckley ARH.

Born Jan. 8, 1939, in Renick, she was the daughter of the late Woodrow Wilson Underwood and Margie Reed Underwood.

Leula was a homemaker. She enjoyed her flowers, cooking, canning, and spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Alva William "Rocky" Blankenship; two sons, David and Michael; a daughter, Patricia; sister, Denia Cunningham; and three brothers, Kenneth, George, and Johnnie Underwood.

Survivors left to cherish her memory include two sisters, Mary Jeffries and Regina Hawkins both of Pennsylvania; daughter, Hilda Wilburn (Ronald) of Daniels, WV; six

sons, Alva Blankenship (Cindy) of Maxwelton, Melvin Blankenship (Loretta) of Williamsburg, Carl Blankenship (April) of Williamsburg, Jimmy Blankenship (Laura) of Union, Bobby Blankenship (Kathy) of Union, and Dennis Blankenship of Williamsburg; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, 21 step-grandchildren; and several nieces, and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Pastor Marshall Cochran officiated.

Burial followed in the Andrew Chapel UMC Cemetery, Williamsburg, WV.

Visitation Monday evening, Jan. 10, at the funeral home.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Nina Ray Morrison



Iron Gate, VA-Nina Ray Morrison, 81, passed away on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, at the Brian Center in Low Moor, VA.

Nina was born Dec. 29, 1940, at Sunlight, WV, the daughter of John Mack and Edna Stanley Ray.

She was a homemaker and CNA at Brian Center.

In addition to her parents Nina was preceded in death by her husband, Archie; son, Johnlee; three daughters, Carolyn, Donna and Bobbie Jo; three grandsons; two brothers, David and John Ray; and sister, Shirley Skiles.

She leaves behind a son, Charles and wife Debbie of Iron Gate, VA; grandsons, David and wife Ada and Lee Morrison all of Iron Gate, VA; granddaughter, Kimberly Cooper of Clifton Forge, VA; sister, Elizabeth Ray Canada and husband, David of White Sulphur Springs; several great-grandchildren; and two nieces, April Palmer and Janet Gordon of Dayton, OH.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg. Burial followed in the Morningside Cemetery, Renick.

Visitation was Wednesday before the service at the funeral home.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net

Darrell C. Beaumont

College Station, TX-Darrell C. Beaumont, 59, passed away on Sept. 8, 2021 after a short illness in College Station, TX.

He was preceded in death by both parents, Ramona Sweptson and Don Beaumont; and grandparents, Kermit and Catherine Smith from Ronceverte.

He is survived by his stepmother, Barbara Beaumont, IL; and three half brothers, Ed (Mary) Sweptson, Reg-

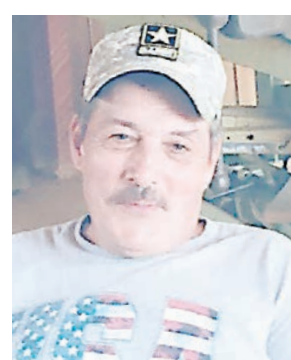
gie (Tair) Sweptson and Jerry (Myra) Sweptson all from the Ronceverte area. He will also be missed by lifelong friend, David Linder, TX; and very special friends and guardian angels, Nancy and Chuck Killom of Brenham, TX.

Mr. Beaumont was an avid reader and a U.S. History buff. He was a former ExxonMobil employee and assistant manager at the Waller County Golf Course, Waller, TX.

A private graveside service was held by the family.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg submitted this information.

Bennie Albert Shifflett



White Sulphur Springs-Bennie Albert Shifflett, 68, passed away at his home on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022.

Born Sept. 18, 1953 in Neola, he was a son of the late Hollis (Sonny) and Mary Ryder Shifflett.

Bennie moved to Dayton, Ohio, when he was 3. He graduated from Belmont High School in Dayton. He enlisted in the US Army and retired from the Army, having served in Desert Storm. Upon retirement from the Army he went to work at The Greenbrier Hotel as a chef in the cafe for 20 years.

He enjoyed working in his flower beds and with his farm animals. He was a caretaker for May Chapel Cemetery.

Bennie was a member of the Masonic Lodge #65 Huntersville, WV, and the Shrine at Antioch Dayton, Ohio.

Survivors include his wife, Robin, of 43 years; two sons, Dustin Shifflett, and Chad Shifflett of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Shay, Tallahassee, and Maggie; great-grandchild, Donta; three brothers, Gary (Leta) Shifflett, Hollis (Rona) Shifflett both of Dayton, Ohio, and Henry Shifflett of White Sulphur Springs; two sisters, Kathy (Randy) Wells of Xenia, Ohio and Rita (Curtis) Kincaid of White Sulphur Springs; sister-in-law, Donna Shelton of Virginia Beach, VA; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Jan. 13, at May Chapel Church in Neola where Pastor Lowell O'Dell officiated. Burial followed with Military Rites in the May Chapel Church Cemetery.

Visitation was held one hour prior to services at the church.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com

Herbert Ray Loudermilk

Lewisburg-Herbert Ray Loudermilk, 92, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2022 at his home in Lewisburg.

Herbert was born Sept. 24, 1929 at Clintonville to the late John Washington and Bertha Elizabeth Bryant Loudermilk.

Herbert joined the US Army at the age of 17 and served in the military for 22 years. He then began work with the Virginia Department of Transportation for 22 years.

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Fairlea.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his first wife of 42 years, Hildegard Langosch Loudermilk; brothers, Guy, Glen, Gray, Gordon, Garland, Gerald, William, Alvin and Earl; and sister, Gracie Hinkle.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Evelyne Loudermilk; daughter, Renee Rehmar; step-daughter, Chrestia Bradley; brother, Robert Loudermilk; and sister, Maryetta Martin.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, with Pastor Roger Adams and Pastor Don Yeager officiating.

Entombment with Military Honors will follow at Wallace Memorial Mausoleum in Clintonville.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Friday.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Charles William Tripi



Renick-Charles William Tripi, 76, passed away Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, at Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, VA.

Born Oct. 24, 1945, in Buffalo, NY, he was the son of the late Anthony Tripi and Beatrice Catherine Wiseman Atkinson.

Charlie was self-employed as a carpenter and was a councilman with the Town of Renick for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Henrietta Tripi; daughters, Eva Sawyers of Fairlea, and Hannah Tripi (Benjamin) of Fairlea; grandchildren, Breanna and Kaleigh Porterfield; sister, Paula Wykle (James) of Renick; nieces, Michelle Painter (Matt) of Spencer, and Leslie Marcinkowski (Tom) of Renick; nephews, Jason Wykle of North Carolina and Paul Wykle (Teresa) of Renick; special cousin, Bill Rexrode (Gracie) of Clintonville, and their children, Rebecca Aken of Wirtz, VA, and Mark Rexrode of Anderson, SC.

Funeral service will be at 12 noon, Friday, Jan. 14, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg.

Burial will follow in the Morningside Cemetery, Renick.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service, Friday at the funeral home.

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

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrange-

ments by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Patricia Ann Weikle



Caldwell-Patricia Ann Weikle, 85, passed away Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born Apr. 11, 1936, in Union, she was the daughter of the late Earl Cecil and Rose Ann Bostic Hall.

Mrs. Weikle was a homemaker and was a member of Zions Light Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Weikle; half-brother, Earl Cecil Hall, Jr.; brothers, Ernest and James Hall; sister, Ina Grubb; and granddaughter, Jennifer Weikle.

Survivors are two sons, Michael Weikle (Pat) of Organ Cave and Gregory Weikle (Donna) of Pickaway; two daughters, Brenda Bostic (Ronnie) of Beckley and Carol Allen (James) of Lewisburg; brothers, Robert Hall of Sinks Grove and Charles Hall (Elizabeth) of Union; five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, Jan. 4, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Pastor Gary Baker officiated. Burial followed in the Greenbrier Memorial Gardens.

Visitation was Tuesday at the funeral home before the service.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net

Martha K. Brackman McClung



December 22, 1950 - January 6, 2022

Martha K. (Marky) Brackman McClung passed away Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. She had suffered a long illness.

Marky had several passions which included her family and their athletic endeavors, breaking bread together with her friends, and her sense of style, to which gaudy was never a bad thing.

She was always one to put others before herself. As strong as she was in her convictions, she was committed to loving her family and friends. Her sense of flair and passion will be greatly missed by all those who knew her, whether it be by friend, mother, granny, wife, or sister.

She was preceded in death by her parents, E. F. (Brack) Brackman and Annabel Sweet Brackman, and sister Dana Weese, and four nephews.

She is survived by her husband, Michael F.

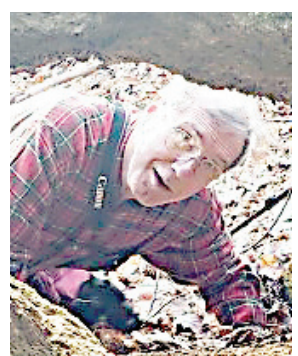
(Mike) McClung; five children, Shawn McClung (Bobbie), Marcus McClung (Lenoir), Tempest Lowman (Bruce), Seth McClung, and Sam McClung (Pixote); ten grandchildren, Lauren, Anna, Mac, Halen, Madison, Fallon, Brack, Cam, Zeke, and Luke; and one great-grandchild, Lyla. She is also survived by seven siblings, Pam Stelling, Christine Feamster, George Brackman, Linda Spear, Janie Kellogg, Bill Brackman, and Beckey Owens; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Saturday, Jan. 15 at Enon Baptist Church at 11 a.m. followed by her funeral at 12:30 p.m. Enon Baptist Church is located at 4488 Vago Road, Frankford.

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

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Clifford Fry Lindsay



Frankford-Clifford Fry Lindsay, 75 passed away Monday, Jan. 10, 2021.

Born Nov. 13, 1946, in Bedford, VA, he was the son of the late John Crawford and Joyce Fry Lindsay.

Cliff graduated from William and Mary with a B.S. in Chemistry, Virginia Tech with a MS, and PhD in Mining Engineering. He was a retired Mining Engineer. He had a passion for everything that dealt with geology.

He was an avid mineral collector, but his main passion was the caves of the Greenbrier Valley. He spent over 50 years mapping and exploring the underground. Cliff was a life member and fellow of the National Speleological Society, a 50-year member of the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies and a founding member and director of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. He and his wife, Lois received the Virginia Region's Landowner of the Year award for their stewardship of Fuller's Cave. Cliff was also working on a book of the caves and karst in the area around Renick. It is ready to be published. Cliff's love of caves is what brought him to settle in West Virginia for the last 30 years of his life.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John M. Lindsay and his wife, Jane.

Survivors include his loving wife of 43 years, Lois Blevins Lindsay; and a very special niece and Goddaughter, Jessica C. H. Lindsay and fiancé Nathaniel Milder of Rockville, MD.

It was Cliff's wish to be cremated. A memorial service will be planned later.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

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BUSINESS

New job opportunities in Meadow River Valley



A new business is ramping up in the Meadow River Valley. MRV Beverage is located east of Rainelle in the former RC bottling plant and is bottling and shipping Langers Juice products for distribution to grocery store warehouses in the eastern

United States. MRV Beverage is owned 50% by Langers and 50% by David Catlett and John Yates.

Job interviews were recently held for the production line, maintenance, and support staff, including accounting and

traffic. Within a year to 18 months, the facility is expected to reach its full capabilities, employing a team of 56 people. All positions pay above minimum wage and include insurance and paid holidays.

New positions will open as needed un-

til they reach full production. If you're interested in employment, please send your resume to humanresources@mrvbeverage.com. You can also follow the facility on the MRV Beverage Facebook page to learn more about the company.

Mon Forest Towns Partnership adopts five year strategic plan for sustainable recreation and economic growth

White Sulphur Springs included as one of 10 gateway communities

Eighteen months after formally establishing the Mon Forest Towns partnership, an initiative involving West Virginia University, USDA Rural Development, Monongahela National Forest, the Woodlands Development Group, and ten gateway communities, momentum continues to grow with a new five-year strategic plan.

The formal strategic plan was developed with participation from all the partners and will focus the towns on seven goals to help guide them individually and collectively toward sustainable recreation and economic growth:

- Goal 1: Improve community health and wellness through promotion of outdoor recreation activities and infrastructure improvement.
- Goal 2: Develop an outdoor recreation entrepreneurial culture by supporting the creation and growth of local recreation and tourism-based businesses.
- Goal 3: Promote the uniqueness of the Mon Forest Towns and recreation opportunities in the region through collaborative regional marketing.
- Goal 4: Develop world-class trails and outdoor recreation opportunities in the Mon Forest Towns region.
- Goal 5: Increase employment opportunities in recreation-related fields to build a year-round recreation economy.
- Goal 6: Create a downtown experience that recreationists would enjoy.
- Goal 7: Develop a Sustainable Partnership Framework

The partnership has recently hired a grants coordinator and two new AmeriCorps members have joined the team through a partnership with the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area. These positions will help increase capacity to leverage partnerships and secure funding through grants to build a sustainable economy around outdoor recreation while promoting healthy lifestyles and creating economic oppor-

tunities for residents.

Other recent achievements of the partnership include the grand opening of the Mower Basin Trail System as a part of the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center; the installation of signs, way-finding, and kiosks identifying points of interests in each of the ten Mon Forest Towns; the establishment of formal marketing and grant committees; and the selection of a grant-funded marketing agency to assist in further strategic planning and marketing.

Mountain biking continues to be a major focus for the partnership, especially with the recent establishment of the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center. There are several trail systems that are designed, ready to be built or planned for future that will be added to the Ride Center at the following locations: Green Bank Observatory, Monday Lick Trails, Watoga State Park, and additional trails at the Mower Basin Trail System and Snowshoe Mountain.

With funding from the Benedum Foundation and WVU, a team is working to gather information and gauge attitudes on recreation economic development in the Monongahela National Forest area. They have developed a survey to provide data about regional collaboration on the recreation economy from residents who live in one of the eight counties (Grant, Tucker, Randolph, Greenbrier, Webster, Nicholas, Pendleton, and Pocahontas) in the Mon Forest Towns partnership.

Adult residents can access the survey at https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40mvthfETWOhT80. The data gathered will help the team understand opinions on recreation economic development and will be used to strengthen the link between communities and public/private sectors in promoting sustainable community development around recreation.

Learn all about the Mon Forest towns partnership and recreational opportunities at <https://monforesttowns.com>. Be sure to check out the most recent newsletter for all the latest happenings and follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/monforesttowns>

A whole new spin on doing laundry in Rupert

Opening its doors last April, the new Laundry Lounge in Rupert is bringing affordable and efficient laundry services to the community in a clean and positive environment.

The laundromat serves customers with regular-sized and oversized laundry machines, an attractive lounge area with a flat-screen TV, local cable channels, vending machines, soap and fabric softener, games, and a gumball machine for kids - and adults.

The Laundry Lounge is open from 6 a.m. to midnight every day. The business functions remotely, with streaming cameras for security and a "help" button inside the laundromat where customers can directly contact the owner, Brandon Black.

The Laundry Lounge is excited to bring a needed, affordable service to Rupert and hopes that the laundromat sparks other entrepreneurs to consider opening a business.

"I hope it continues to grow and help the people of the community. I also hope it gives other building owners hope that a new business will survive

and to take a chance on the community," says Black.

What else should folks know about the Laundry Lounge?

"We appreciate the sup-

port from everyone," notes Black. "I'm open to ideas or suggestions from everyone. If people have any suggestions, please message me on Facebook."

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DISTRICT Ronceverte Corp MAP PARCEL

You will take notice that Robert L. or Georgene Deitz, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 132191, located in Ronceverte Corp District, 20x100 Reserved in Deed 92/180 which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of Wright R L & Maggie G, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on 10/04/2021. Robert L. or Georgene Deitz requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 03/02/2022, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 03/02/2022 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 03/02/2022.	\$ 213.79
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 03/02/2022.	\$ 0.00
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 03/02/2022.	\$ 1035.03
Additional statutory Fees with Interest to 03/02/2022.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to the The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and of Greenbrier County.	\$ 1248.82

You may redeem at any time before 03/02/2022, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand 1/5/2022.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

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SCHOOL

Transforming lives for a healthier WV

The West Virginia Junior College and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center have partnered to offer a hybrid online nursing program. Students can live and work in the Meadow River Valley while earning their Associate Degree in Nursing in less than two years.

The program includes online learning blended with in-person clinical and lab experiences. A Mobile Nursing Lab will travel throughout the state bringing hands-on simulation experiences to the stu-

dents. Online coursework allows students the flexibility of learning at home, while the in-person clinical and lab experiences ensure students have the practical experience needed for highly skilled nursing. This one-of-a-kind nursing program brings high-quality education to rural communities in West Virginia. To learn more about the program, go to <https://www.wvjc.edu/online-nursing-program/> or email Samantha Esposito at sesposito@wvjc.edu.

Zachary Ramsey earns a spot on Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University

Nearly 2,500 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester, including Zachary Ramsey, a Marine Science major from Caldwell, West Virginia.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, SC.

CCU offers baccalaure-

ate degrees in 95 major fields of study. Among the University's graduate-level programs are 27 master's degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research, and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County receives Pyles & Turner Grant Award

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County is the proud recipient of the Pyles & Turner 2022 mini grant. The \$750 award will assist in the continuation of free services CISGC provides to Greenbrier County's at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Last year, more than 4,600 students benefited from services CISGC provided in Greenbrier County. Of the total students served, more than 340 received individualized case management.

Operating as a 501(c)3, CISGC provides school-based and individualized services to every public school in Greenbrier County. As the level of need for Greenbrier County's most vulnerable youth continues to rise, CISGC

continues to expand its program—increasing service hours by 76% over the last two years.

Due to the much-needed expansion, CISGC actively seeks additional funding from community members, local businesses, and private foundations. CISGC could not carry out our mission "to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life" without partnerships such as these and is grateful for the generosity of its partners. For more information about CISGC, please call 304-661-1018, email director@cisgc.org or visit www.cisgc.org. You can also stay up-to-date through our Facebook page.



Carnegie Hall Homeschool

Scholarship available for Carnegie Hall Homeschool Series

Carnegie Hall invites students from the age of 6 -12 to come join in the fun and explore the wonderful world of the arts. Create your own clay creatures, visit outer space, and launch marshmallows from catapults built in class. Be a part of an archaeological dig, learn to paint like a Viennese artist, and learn how to play the recorder.

Carnegie Hall is offering Tuesday afternoon classes aimed at providing hands-on arts and sciences educational opportunities for homeschool and virtual school students. The 12-class Series takes place at Carnegie Hall on Tuesdays, March through May. Limited scholarships are available.

The STEAM oriented series begins with Build A Clay Animal, taught by Amy Durrman. The series continues with Painted Gourd Shakers (Sharon Ginsburg), An Intro to the Universe (Dave Buhrman), Art Journaling (Kathleen DeRouen), Build a Marshmallow Catapult (Harmony Flora), Learn to Play the Recorder (Susan Adkins), Draw & Paint Hundertwasser Style (Jennifer Orr), Can You Dig It? (Sean O'Connell), and Kids In the Kitchen (Harmony Flora).

Individual class dates and times are Tuesdays, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, and

24, from 1-2:30 p.m. There is no class scheduled for April 5. These workshops are small, socially distanced, in-person classes. Maximum class size is 12 students. All participants are required to wear masks while in Carnegie Hall.

The Homeschool Series cost \$180 for members and \$200 for nonmembers. The price includes all

materials. Thanks to generous support from Carnegie Hall sponsors, there are scholarships available that allow students to pay only \$80 for all twelve classes. To enroll or for a complete list of classes and workshops visit carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops or call 304-645-7917, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SNHU announces Fall 2021 President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 President's List: Felicia Ritter of Ronceverte and Mary Tincher of Lewisburg.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

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STEPPIN' OUT

Crys Matthews to hold 'Calling Them In' at The Wild Bean



Crys Matthews

On Saturday morning, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m., Carnegie Hall presents "Calling Them In" at the Wild Bean in downtown Lewisburg with Crys Matthews. "Calling Them In" is a frank discussion about some of the challenges of activism in

the 21st Century. Matthews will discuss how she, as an activist, continues to walk the walk when it is so easy to simply call out and not call in. This is a free event and everyone is welcome.

This event was originally scheduled for 11 a.m. Please

note the time change.

This special event is in conjunction with Carnegie Hall's first Mainstage Performance of 2022 which features Matthews on Friday evening, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the renovated Hamilton Auditorium.

For more information call Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, or stop by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg, West Virginia. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Governor's School for the Arts now accepting applications for 2022

The West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) is accepting applications from current high school sophomores to attend the 2022 session to be held June 26 through July 16 at Marshall University. The GSA is a three-week residential program providing individual and in-depth group instruction in the arts for current high school sophomores living in and attending school in West Virginia.

Artistic areas addressed are acting, creative writing, dance, instrumental music, studio art and vocal music. Skilled artists and teachers will work with students who demonstrate interest in those areas. In addition, the GSA attempts to broaden the students' understanding of the arts through interdisciplinary courses focusing on common elements in the arts disciplines.

"The GSA has a strong tradition in our state of helping students expand their horizons and develop their talents," State Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch said. "The impact this program has on our children cannot be overstated because it immerses them in a community of fellow artists where they share and grow with like-minded people. In addition, they are guided by teaching professionals who provide content knowledge and real-world expertise in their fields of interest that enrich the experience even more."

GSA is provided by the State of West Virginia at no cost to the students or their families.

Applications and directions for preparing for admissions can be found on the Governor's Schools website at govschools.wv.gov/gsa. Specific questions may be addressed to Sherry Keffer, the Governor's Schools coordinator, at cheryl.keffer@k12.wv.us. The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 28, with audition videos or portfolios due Feb. 4.

For media inquiries, contact Christy Day, West Virginia Department of Education Office of Communications, at 304-558-2699 or Christy.Day@k12.wv.us

Fifth Annual Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive 'very successful' for children

The fifth annual Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive, which provides Christmas toy gifts for children in need in the Meadow River Valley in eastern Fayette County and western Greenbrier County, was "tremendously successful" according to Patti Burwell, a spokesperson for the drive.

Financial support for the fifth annual drive was provided by members of Davis' family in the area including cousins and friends, the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 of Knights of Columbus, McElhenney Church of Dawson, Sacred Heart Catholic Churches of Rainelle and Springdale, and several individuals.

Donald Davis lived in Northern Virginia, and every year at Christmastime would load up his vehi-

cle with new toys and bring them to the Fayette/Greenbrier area for children who would not have had a toy for Christmas otherwise.

After his passing several years ago, his family members in the area and friends began to carry on his generosity benefiting the children in the area.

In addition to toys, the Donald Davis Drive also provided new coats, toboggans, hoodies, gloves, and some gift cards to three different public schools in the eastern Fayette/western Greenbrier area.

The committee in charge emphasized their appreciation to all those who contributed to the fund and all who worked hard in wrapping and distributing the gifts to the children.



The toy collection for 2021 was a success.

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