

Mountain messenger

March 19, 2022

Vol. XXXIX, No. 12

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

Chocolate Chase returns April 9

The annual HospiceCare 5K and 10K Chocolate Chase are back for 2022! In conjunction with the Lewisburg Chocolate Festival on Saturday, Apr. 9, the races will start at 9 a.m. outside of the Greenbrier County Courthouse (912 Court Street N, Lewisburg). All proceeds will benefit HospiceCare's Lewisburg Office and The Peyton Hospice House.

The races start and finish at the courthouse in downtown Lewisburg. The 5K runners and walkers will turn around just past the I-64 overpass bridge and 10K runners and walkers will turn around at the water station at the 3.1-mile marker. There will be COVID-19 protocols in place for this event. We ask all participants to read and follow the protocols so that we can have a safe and successful event.

Runners and walkers can pre-register online at <https://www.ap timing.com/race/1363> or starting at 7 a.m. the day of the race.

Pre-registration costs are \$20 for the 5K and \$25 for the 10K, or \$25 and \$30 on race day.

T-shirts will be available for sale through the registration form and a limited number will be available at the race.

Contact Missy VanBuren at 304-645-2700 or mvanburen@hospicecarewv.org for more information.



Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4



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Mayor Beverly White (left) looks on as Deputy Chief Jonathan Hughes has his new badge pinned by his wife, Katie Hughes.

Hughes promoted to Deputy Chief

By Sarah Richardson

Lewisburg Police Department Lt. Jonathan Hughes was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police on Tuesday, Mar. 15, during Lewisburg City Council.

"It is indeed an honor to promote Lt. Hughes to Deputy Chief," said Mayor Beverly White. "We know he will do an outstanding job for our city, and we are blessed to have him."

With a number of friends and family in attendance, Hughes' wife did the honor of pinning his new badge to his uniform. Hughes will join Chief Chris Teubert in

spearheading the police department.

Councilmember Sarah Elkins added, "We got to learn a little more about you at the finance meeting and it seems as if we are in good hands, congratulations."

"First off, thanks again," said the new Deputy Chief, "I am very privileged to work for the city of Lewisburg, and I'm very grateful for this promotion."

At the same meeting, Council authorized the hiring of two new officers to the police force, Joshua Stevens and Jonathon Cosby.

SkyWest ordered to continue serving Greenbrier Valley Airport

By Adam Pack

On Thursday, Mar. 10, SkyWest Airlines Inc. informed Greenbrier County and the Greenbrier County Airport Authority that it intended to, in 90 days from Mar. 10, cease all Essential Air Services (EAS) at The Greenbrier Valley Airport. This declaration of intent was

also sent to 28 small/medium sized airports all across the nation. In support of their decision, SkyWest stated "Although SkyWest Airlines, Inc. would prefer to continue providing scheduled air services to these cities, the pilot staffing challenges across the airline industry preclude us from doing so." See "SkyWest" Page 2

WSS City Council signs MOU regarding opioid litigation, learns about DARRE downtown revitalization program

By Sarah Richardson

The White Sulphur Springs City Council met in regular session on Monday, Mar. 14. Agenda items included discussing the new billboard, hearing an update regarding the budget, and entering a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding ongoing opioid litigation.

City Attorney Fred Giggenbach gave an update on the opioid lawsuit of which the City of White Sulphur is participating in. "There has been a potential settlement reached, it's going to go through the Attorney General's office, and they are going to have a trust fund set up. About 75 percent of the money will be in that fund, and about a quarter will go directly to the cities and counties involved in this litigation."

He explained that towns involved in the litigation, such as White Sulphur, will be receiving 95 percent of the funds. Those not involved

will receive ten percent. Giggenbach recommended the city sign the MOU for the agreement.

"I can't talk numbers yet about how much you will receive, but you'll get the initial quarter, 25 percent, and then you'll have to apply for the rest. This will be money used for abatement, education, and reduction of the opioid problem."

According to a press release from Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's office, they have "reached an agreement with representatives of the state's cities and counties over how to allocate any settlement funds or judgments received in their various suits against opioid makers, distributors and other parties in the pharmaceutical supply chain. The agreement, called a memorandum of understanding (MOU), calls for

See "DARRE" Page 2

New Lewisburg Public Works building on the horizon

By Sarah Richardson

Lewisburg City Council met Tuesday, Mar. 15, with a packed agenda. One big-ticket item discussed was the new Public Works building, which will be located at Caldwell adjacent to the municipal water plant on recently-acquired property.

Attorney John Stump, bond counsel for the city, said that in order to finance a public building a building commission must act as a "conduit" for funding by permitting finances.

"First of all, congratulations on the quality of your building commission. We met earlier today and I am impressed with the group," said Stump.

He explained that the public works structure is provided for under state law, and that the building commission is a sub-unit of the city. The commission issues bonds, which he said is nothing more than a debt obligation, then the proceeds of the bond are loaned to the city for the purpose of acquiring, designing, constructing, and equipping the building. The city then leases the building from the building commission for the amount equal to the bonds issued.

Overall, Ordinance 302 authorizes the "conveyance of real property, fixtures and personal property and appurtenances to the City of Lewisburg Building Commission" where the public works building will be

See "Public Works" Page 4

219N sidewalk awaits alterations, Feamster Road sidewalk funding progresses

By Sarah Richardson

Roger Kennedy with Chapman Technical group has presented an update on the ongoing 219N sidewalk project, which runs from downtown Lewisburg toward Wal-Mart.

"Overall, the project is good," he reports, "The vast majority of the work meets plans and specs and has been accepted by DOH. We've reviewed it. As it spans, it's about 95 percent complete."

However, there are several areas of the sidewalk that do not meet ADA guidelines and standards, and therefore must be redone. Kennedy said there are 16 items along the sidewalk that are "not compliant."

"They are not acceptable, and they will not be paid for. We will not sign off on them until they are corrected," he said. Chapman Technical has reached out to the contractor leading the project to notify them of the needed adjustments, and are waiting to hear back.

"We have past experience with this contractor, which is why we are kind of scratching our heads in the first place. They've performed very

well on other jobs. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't have a doubt that they will pull through on this one," Kennedy explained.

"We are holding onto an amount of money in reserve, above and beyond everything else, until these items are corrected," he said. He recommends that once the contractor agrees to the adjustments on a reasonable schedule, they pay for the portion of the work that has already been successfully completed. As work progresses and is accepted as complete, further funds can be released.

"We will closely monitor the work, make sure that he's following what needs to be done to demolish, remove, and replace the items we've identified. I'm confident that we can work with these folks to get it done," said Kennedy.

Lewisburg City Council motioned to pay out roughly half of the funds remaining on the contract once the contractor agrees to the repairs, and the rest will be held pending completion of the adjustments.

See "Sidewalks" Page 3



SkyWest

Continued from Front Page

Shortly thereafter, Senator Joe Manchin wrote a letter to the office of Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. In his letter, Manchin said, "Air Service is critical for West Virginia, connecting our communities to the rest of the country, helping businesses export their products, and increasing tourism to our great state. I am requesting the DOT work to preserve the air service we have until another provider can be found." Manchin also highlighted the importance of air service to the Greenbrier Valley and all of southern West Virginia, claiming it has "a total economic impact of \$91 million."

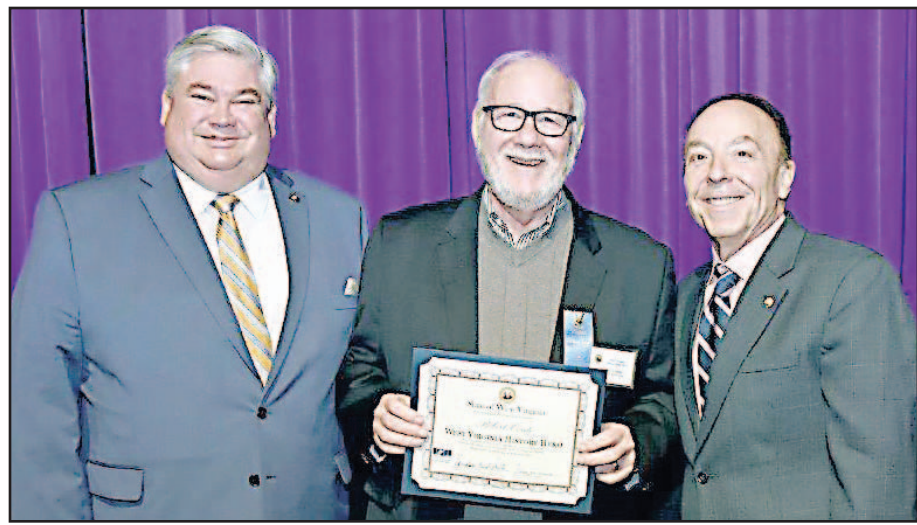
After Manchin's efforts, Buttigieg announced that his office would be putting a hold on the termination of these services, ordering SkyWest to continue the minimum requirements of its contractual obligations while and until replacement services can be established. Requests for proposals from all possible replacement options have been sent by the office of the secretary.

Airport Director Brian Belcher made it very clear that things will be business as usual. "SkyWest services are not changing anytime soon, they're not even leaving in 90 days because of the order [from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation]. Your tickets are safe, purchasing tickets is going to be safe, they will be valid.

There are always cancellations for various reasons of course, but there shouldn't be any more than what's normal."

Speaking of the future of the airport, Belcher went on to say that "we are actively looking for a replacement, during which time SkyWest will continue to be providing their services." The director mentioned concerns with the way in which SkyWest had decided to proceed, saying he wished "they had explored more options," because not only are they a "great carrier, which the community really loved," but with the termination of services to so many airports at once "that puts us basically in competition with all those other airports when it comes to finding a replacement; we'll all be looking at the exact same time."

Belcher was confident, however, citing that the airline industry has seen a sharp increase in leisure travel as opposed to business travel which has lagged behind in returning to its normal levels. This provides Greenbrier Valley with an advantage, as Belcher explained "that's really our principal area. We have some business travel, but we're mainly getting people in here for parks, The Greenbrier, and tourism related travel. Airlines know that trend as well, so airports that are more leisure than business are going to look more lucrative right now."



WV Senator Jack Woodrum (left) and Curator of the Department of Arts, Culture and History Randall Reid-Smith (right) present Dr. Robert Conte (center) with his History Hero Award. (Photo credited to the Department of Arts, Culture and History)

Dr. Robert Conte selected as History Hero

The Greenbrier Historical Society is exceedingly proud to have nominated Dr. Robert Conte for recognition as a History Hero by the Department of Arts, Culture, and History. He was selected and honored at an awards ceremony on Feb. 24 at the Culture Center in Charleston. Dr. Conte has been a Board member of GHS for many years, and is its longest-serving board member.

Dr. Conte has been the most visible representative of history in the Greenbrier Valley. He has been Historian at The Greenbrier since 1978 where he maintained the resort's archives and the President's Cottage Museum, worked with Public Relations, delivered lectures and tours, and wrote "The History of The Greenbrier." He retired in 2021. As the face and voice of the Greenbrier where anything historical was concerned, Dr. Conte appeared on national TV, including NBC's Today Show, regarding the release of information confirming the existence of the Bunker and many other issues. He has been quoted in many articles - or authored them himself.

GHS President Janice Cooley said, "The history of Greenbrier County will be forever impacted and recognized through the passionate work and contributions of Dr. Conte. This honor is well deserved."

Continued from Front Page

DARRE

the creation of a private, nonstock, nonprofit foundation for the purposes of distributing settlement or judgment funds awarded from litigation for abatement purposes. The agreement is required by the West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel to become eligible for any opioid settlement monies obtained pursuant to court orders."

The council voted unanimously to sign the MOU.

Council also heard a presentation by members of the DARRE downtown revitalization program, which is a part of the West Virginia Community Development Hub and Mon Forest Towns Partnership.

"The Appalachian Regional Commission recently announced the 2021 POWER grant awards, including Downtown Appalachia: Revitalizing Recreational Economies (DARRE), a partnership between the WV Northern Brownfields Assistance Center, Woodlands Development & Lending, Partner Community Capital (formerly Natural Capital Investment), and the WV Community Development Hub," states a release from The Hub.

"DARRE brings together numerous partners throughout the state and region to undertake a deliberate and concentrated approach to supporting the development and revitalization of historic downtowns. Downtown areas in these communities have rich histories and characters. However, they are all in very different states of activity. Additionally, each downtown building is unique and the path to redevelopment will not look the same for any two buildings. DARRE will bring effective inventories, tools, partners, and prioritization to these communities over the next three years, laying the groundwork for several completed projects in the long-term - projects that will serve as catalysts to holistic and sustainable downtown redevelopment. Connecting entrepreneurs with available downtown spaces and potential develop-

ers with building projects will bring visible impact to downtown environments. The partners working on the DARRE program will support the participating towns with the kinds of technical assistance that makes their downtowns 'development ready.'"

Overall, the DARRE program will allow organizations to continue working together and build new partnerships, each in their area of expertise and strength to bring maximum benefit to the communities and achieve the best results.

"They have a lot of tools in their toolbox," said Mayor Bowling. The three-year program will run through Sept. 2024, and they hope to be able to actively respond to opportunities by this spring and summer.

In other news:

- Councilmember G.P. Parker said there is "no good news here" when giving his finance and budget update to council. "We are in the red in all three funds: the general fund is negative \$121,001.07, water we are in the negative \$18,413.23, sewer fund is negative at \$76,852.27. I would recommend a no-purchase for all of our city managers, unless it's an emergency of course, and it has to go through the Mayor and financial secretary." Mayor Bruce Bowling said they have already implemented this.

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) committee recommended an expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the installation of commercial, fire-rated, ADA door opener on the front doors of City Hall. They also recommended up to \$2,550 be used for additional road signs to help direct traffic. Council approved both recommendations.

- Councilmember Mark Gillespie said the bill-

board promoting White Sulphur on I-64 East is being worked on as they finish updating the graphics needed for the sign. "It's probably going to be another 30 days," he reports. The sign will be up for two years.

- Mayor Bowling asked the police and fire chief to stop and investigate if a resident is burning items within city limits. "If someone burns within city limits, I'd like them to stop and see if they've got a permit," said Bowling. "If they don't, warn them first and the second time, that's fine, but this is ridiculous."

- Council approved \$1,000 for the White Sulphur Springs Greenbrier Girls Softball League.

- Maintenance Supervisor David Lovelace said that crewmembers from the Callaghan sawmill came to White Sulphur to clean up a hillside in town for Roads of Honor. They also cleaned the hillside last year. He also reports that the city's annual Spring Cleanup will begin on Mar. 21 and run through Apr. 1. Those interested in participating in the cleanup must call City Hall at 304-536-1454 to be added to the list. Cleanup items will be picked up on your regularly scheduled trash pickup day. No tires of any kind will be accepted. Batteries will be accepted. Cans of paint will be accepted if they have been mixed into a solid form using sawdust or cat litter.

- Councilmember Chris Hanna reported that the Planning and Zoning updates are nearing completion, saying that the draft copy should be done "any day. All the hard work is done."

Sobriety Checkpoint scheduled in Caldwell area

The West Virginia State Police will conduct a sobriety checkpoint on US Rt. 60 in the Caldwell area of Greenbrier County on Friday, Mar. 18. The checkpoint will be in operation between 6 p.m. Friday and Midnight. The purpose of the checkpoint is to detect and deter impaired drivers, as well as to educate the public about the dangers of driving an automobile while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

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

NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY:

Greenbrier Greeters

If you have recently moved to this area, please contact us for a free welcome visit. We would be glad to share gifts and information about the area, provided free by local businesses and professional services.

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

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PICK OF THE LITTER

MARLEY

Marley is a female hound mix. She is approximately 6 years old and weighs 45 pounds.



ROMEO

Romeo is a 1-2 year old male pit bull terrier mix and weighs 55 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.

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

OPINION

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist
Give Peas a Chance

Now is the time to start certain seeds, not all can take the low temps that will continue to dip into the 30's at night BUT many vegetables will germinate and grow quickly in the coming months. Traditionally St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is the time to start some cold hardy seeds in your outside garden.

Peas please! Let's soak the pea seeds for a few hours in warmish water and prepare the soil with finished compost. Peas like to send out tendrils to climb upwards so think about setting up something they can climb on. We use chicken wire screening held upright with two poles and set that securely into the ground. Because peas and their vines are lightweight, you don't need to use a super strong trellis even a netted trellis will work. They will climb about three feet high sending out the tendrils to grab hold and anchor themselves. To plant the seeds, poke a shallow hole about 1 1/2 inch deep and drop in one pea seed. Move along two inches and drop another pea seed. Peas are prolific and if you have more than you can eat, a quick blanching and then freezing is a perfect option.

Water your newly planted seeds and keep checking them every few days if there is no rain. Don't allow the vines and the ground to dry out but you don't want them soggy either. Gently pull out any straggler weed without disturbing the pea shoots. Use small garden scissors to snip off and kill fine weeds so the soil is not disturbed.

Peas do not grow well in heat and hot sunshine. Once we get into the warmer months, keep your peas growing by providing a bit of shade, an old sheet will suffice to drape over your trellis to lower the temps for the peas. Constant picking is the best way to obtain crunchy peas and it forces the plant to put out more flowers. More flowers equal more peas.

Snow Peas are flat, stringless pods and contain small peas. These are great additions to Asian dishes along with bean sprouts. My favorite recipe is to sauté devined, cleaned shrimp in butter, add a clove of chopped garlic, toss in fresh snow peas, and give a squeeze of lemon to the pan. You can serve this over egg noodles, vermicelli, or pad thai noodles. Spice it up with some crushed red pepper flakes or one tablespoon of siracha sauce for heat. Optionally ingredients: thinly sliced cooked cabbage, diced sweet peppers, a dash of soy sauce, and cilantro.

Sweet Peas can be eaten raw right off the vine. It is hard to not eat them all before you get into your kitchen to cook them up. Another reason to grow a lot of peas. The pods are inedible and stringy. Shelling peas is a relaxing pastime of folk who raise their own food and kids love to get involved, too, as long as they don't eat all the peas! We make a quick frittata for breakfast or lunch using fresh peas, diced cooked asparagus, chopped sprigs of mint (5 sprigs), 1 teaspoon of lemon juice and add all



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The Mountain Messenger is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Lewisburg, West Virginia. The known office of publication is Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 USPS 031784 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901

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this to your beaten eggs. 10 eggs will serve 4-8 servings, depending on your sliced wedge sizes. Option: grated cheese of any kind will add flavor.

Snap Peas have edible pods and seeds. I grow these by the bushel. Easy to prepare in any cooked dish because shelling is not needed and no strings to remove. Quickest way is to heat butter or olive oil in a pan and sauté fresh peas. Add salt and pepper to your own taste. These are great when mixed in basmati rice, mashed potatoes, or couscous. Pair up with spring lamb, grilled chicken, or sautéed tofu. Yum.

Pass the peas, please!

(Karen Cohen is a Master Gardener, organic grower, photojournalist, DJ, and explorer. Email your tips, questions and comments to natureswaykaren@gmail.com)

Lori, a local gardener, emailed her tip on making a tonic from thyme: 1 cup boiling water poured over 2 tablespoons dried thyme or 4 tablespoons fresh thyme. Let steep for 10 minutes. Strain. Add 1 teaspoon lemon juice and 1/2 cup honey. Refrigerate for 1 week. Take 1 tablespoon as needed.

Commentary

What's in a gas bill?

By Charlotte Lane

Chair, WV Public Service Commission

People often ask how the Public Service Commission determines utility rates. Ratemaking is a precise and complicated process, and most utilities have so many variables that the process is difficult to explain in this space. However, natural gas bills are fairly straightforward, so let's use them as an example.

Residential gas bills are determined in three types of cases. The cost the company incurs for obtaining gas is set in the annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA). Expedited recovery of costs related to infrastructure replacement and expansion is determined in what is known as a 390P case (named for the bill passed by the Legislature in 2015 that authorized this process). And base rate cases determine the rate of recovery for all other expenses.

The PGA component makes up roughly half of a typical residential natural gas utility bill. The PGA compensates the utility only for what it pays for gas - it does not include any profit for the company. Annual PGA proceedings are filed in late summer and adjusts rates based on a projection of costs utilities expect to pay for gas from their suppliers for November 1 through October 30 of the following year and a true-up of actual costs for

the previous year. The Commission does not regulate the price of natural gas, which is determined by competitive markets, however, we do carefully examine the utilities' purchasing practices to ensure that they do everything possible to obtain a reliable gas supply at the lowest possible market price.

The other half of a residential gas bill is made up of the 390P surcharge and the base rate. The 390P rates cover the approved projects to improve and expand the utility's infrastructure. The base rate includes all the other costs borne by the utility to install, operate and maintain the utility's system in order to provide natural gas service to the customer. It includes the initial investment in facilities, equipment, structures and property; all operation and maintenance costs; working capital to provide utility service; and improvements and repairs on lines, plants, vehicles and other facilities. It also includes all federal, state and local taxes; depreciation expenses; return on investment for the company; staff salaries, benefits and pensions; rents; fees and interest payments on debt.

Through these cases, the PSC strives to establish fair and reasonable rates for natural gas service and to appraise and balance the interests of current and future utility service customers with the general interest of the state's economy and the interests of the utilities.

Public Works

erected, and allows the leasing of that property back to the city. The document states that the principal amount of the lease revenue bonds is not to exceed \$5 million.

"We are not taking any action this evening that is final, or commits the city to do anything at all," said Stump. "If you get bids in and the public works building project comes in at \$10 million, which we certainly hope doesn't happen, and you decide not to build it, you don't have to do anything. You simply elect not to move forward."

The first reading of the ordinance was passed unanimously.

Council also approved the first reading of Ordinance 301, a Home Rule amendment for municipal sales and use tax. In November, council motioned to recommend a sales tax adoption to the Home Rule Board. The proposed one percent tax will be for "mainly retail" transactions within the Lewisburg city limits. The funds will go directly to city maintenance, improvements, and daily operations, which council cited as vitally important as Lewisburg continues to grow.

"With raising one percent here, we would lower one percent of the Business and Ordinance tax," not-

ed City Manager Misty Hill. She said an estimated \$1,891,309.71 would have been generated in just the last fiscal year if this tax was in place. Only a small handful of similarly-sized cities in the state do not implement a one percent sales tax.

Proposed projects that this tax could fund include funding the parks department relocation, possible upgrades at the Caldwell boat launch, potential upgrades at Dorie Miller Park including the idea of a dog park and short pump track, additional parking areas downtown, expanding the Lewisburg Police Department, and more.

The one percent sales tax would not go into effect until July 1, 2023.

In other news:

- The North House Museum has been working with the city and New River Technical College to take ownership of the lease of the old library building on Courtney Street. "They are going to take the remaining lease from the New River College," explained Hill. "We've met with Dr. Copenhaver [of NRCTC] and she is extremely excited, North House is extremely excited, they've already written a grant that will hopefully help take on the exterior construction that needs done there

The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



The purpose of the legislative session is for priority bills to become law. Thousands of bills are introduced; this year, 293 bills became law. It's hard to keep up with them all, so here's a brief rundown of major bills that became law...and bills that did not.

BILLS THAT PASSED. 2023 budget, DHHR split in two, creation of microschoools, abortion restrictions for unborn children with disabilities (such as down syndrome), creation of a new suicide hotline, film tax credit, an 5% average pay raise for all public employees, a \$10,000 raise for state troopers, a 20% raise for all DHHR social services employees, tuition credits for students who complete Americorps/VISTA, putting one person in charge of substance use disorder response statewide, studying creation of a veterinarian school in WV, 50/50 custody law changes, forced pooling of mineral rights owners, and giving legislature control over all education policies (if the voters approve it on the 2022 ballot).

BILLS THAT DIED. Foster care, insulin price cap of \$35/month, "anti-racism" history, unemployment benefit cuts, restoring voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, and rare earth mineral tax credits.

I now want to spend some time focusing on a few particular/thorny issues which resolved themselves, one way or another, in the final days of the session.

STATE PARKS. My first stop when I came home from the legislative session was taking my son to the Greenbrier River Trail, which is technically a state park. I love our state parks and promote them at every chance! HB4088 did end up passing, and I received more calls/email/messages about it than any other bill this session. It began as a bill allowing privatization of state parks. I adamantly opposed that, because it could've led to ATVs on the river trail or private companies taking over entire parks. The final version of the bill only allows privatization of new recreation or lodging at state parks. I still voted no due to concerns this could set a precedent in the future. But I am hopeful the effect of the bill will be limited in scope.

FOSTER CARE. The most important bill of the entire session - foster care reform - was tabled on the final day of session. This was after most of the key provisions had already been removed. Frankly, the legislature should be ashamed. They talk about making kids a priority all the time, but their actions spoke loud and clear in failing to make it a priority. DHHR lobbied behind the scenes to defeat the bill, for it would've demanded their transparency and accountability. This is not over; I will continue to fight for our foster children.

CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE. Related, when they tabled the foster care bill, they tabled the changes to the child abuse hotline I proposed in response to the death of five children in Williamsburg. It is an absolute disgrace that DHHR refuses to take responsibility and make changes.

UNEMPLOYMENT CUTS. On the final night, I employed a procedural tactic to defeat the bills cutting unemployment benefits for seasonal workers. Those bills would have devastated workers at The Greenbrier and in the fields of hospitality, tourism, and construction. It's a shame so much time is spent defeating bad bills, but I am proud to stand up for our workers any day (or night, as was the case this time).

BUDGET ITEMS. The final budget includes funding to repair the Monroe County Courthouse and to build the full veteran's nursing home in Beckley. Many thanks to Governor Justice's support for making these local issues a priority!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. I'll be hosting legislative recaps across the region in the coming weeks at civic group meetings. 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, TikTok, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)

e-mail news stories and letters to the editor to news@mountainmessenger.com

Continued from Front Page

to repoint and do some brick and mortar and repaint the building." The city approved the lease agreement.

- Councilmember John Little thanked the public works department for taking care of dog waste around town via "dog pots" that offer bags for dog waste and trash cans that the city maintains.

- Sarah Elkins reports that the Parks Commission met and has decided on colors for the new pickleball court, which will be gray and blue in the center (the city's colors) and green everywhere else. There are also 16 newly-planted trees outside of the pickleball and skate park fence for privacy and sound dampening.

- Arron Seams said that the Finance Committee considered an Arts and Humanities grant application filed by the Lewisburg Foundation that will go toward landscaping at the Confederate Cemetery. The mulch will be changed to grass, and several boxwoods will be planted. This amount will not exceed \$5,622.77. Mayor White noted that the cemetery is "the most visited area in the city of Lewisburg" and said that the beautification is a reflection of the city. The changes will also cost less with regular upkeep and maintenance.

CLUB & CHURCH

Winter break is over for Williamsburg CEOs

After a long winter break the Williamsburg Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) Club met for their March meeting at the home of Loretta Shirley. After a delicious cornbread and beans lunch prepared by Loretta and "It Tastes Better Than?" dessert prepared by Cassandra Perkins, members made plans for the coming month.

It was decided that the club would prepare Easter baskets at the next meeting for the youth at the Greenbrier Valley Children's Home. Members then enjoyed stuffing themselves, I mean, stuffing heart pillows to be given to hospitals for heart surgery patients to use in their recovery.

The club happily welcomed back mailbox member Shela McComsey



who was able to attend now that she is living in a closer location. Also participating were Barbara Deeds, Blanche Knicely, Linda Spencer, Laura Sevy of Americorps Seniors, Patty and Burl Post, and LauraAnn

and Denver Tiller.

A happy and memorable time was had by all. The club will meet on Tuesday, Apr. 12, beginning at noon to learn about "Railroads That Carved West Virginia." The program will be presented by LauraAnn Tiller. All are welcomed to attend.

Contact the WVU/Greenbrier County Extension Office at 304-647-7408 for more information.

Church Bulletin

Tilapia To-Go Dinners will begin Friday, March 18

At a recent meeting of the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, final plans for the traditional "tilapia walk in to-go" dinners for this year were set. The dinners will begin on Friday, Mar. 18, in the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Butler Hall on West Main Street in White Sulphur Springs, and will run from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

"We crunched the figures of the new costs to us for the dinners and concluded we had to raise the cost to match the increased costs," announced Grand Knight Perk Berry.

Dinners this year will be \$13 each or two for \$25. While the dinners are all "to go," patrons are welcome to sit at the few available tables in Butler Hall and eat their dinners with friends, but there will be no table service. "We will sanitize the tables after each use," Berry said.

The dinners will be served Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8, 22, and 29 and will consist of tilapia, scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, a hard roll, sauces, dessert, and a drink and utensils.

For more information call the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley at 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus at 304-645-1373.

Book Review

Tuscawilla Stories of a Farm

Submitted by Robert Tuckwiller

It is difficult to determine the impact that a family farm can have on a community and a state, but the book, Tuscawilla Stories of a Farm, makes a determined, and I believe, successful effort, to do just that. The book, written by Jane Cary, and compiled and edited by Kaaren Cary Ford, chronicles the life and times of the landmark farm, Tuscawilla Farm, located just south of Lewisburg, West Virginia, along Route 219. The musical sounding name, Tuscawilla, comes from a Seminole Indian word meaning land between two lakes. The book is an exciting story of the farm's early days from 1844 through several generations until present day. The two families involved, the Knights and the Carys, shared an extraordinary working relationship that built the farm and helped it prosper.

The late Jane Cary held the narrative and history of the farm, and her niece, Kaaren Cary Ford, compiled the stories in a pleasing way that is both informative and exciting. This book is entertaining and easy to read, but it is also important in that it preserves the impact that these families and this farm had on the growth and development of the county we know as Greenbrier and the state that we know as West Virginia. It is a compelling read for those who want to learn more about local history.

Jane Cary's vivid and often humorous memories of her time at Tuscawilla and the history that she learned from her ancestors are a treasure. Her memo-

ries and notes provided an exceptional timeline of events. She could recall names of workers, incidents, details, and even favorite recipes from lye soap to blackberry jam cake. The farm was ahead of its time in being sustainable and practical. They used what they had and made the most out of it. Large gardens, several ponds, a sawmill, crops, and livestock produced cash crops and enterprises that came in by the seasons. At one time the farm had over 1,500 apple trees planted there, many of which were heirloom varieties that still flourish in the region today. The foods they produced and the celebrations they hosted were enjoyed by many. The farm employed many workers from the area who today would be considered specialists in their field. There were occasional setbacks and accidents, but with the help of local people, the farm persevered and grew. Finding markets for their products, including livestock, meant taking advantage of the trains going through Ronceverte to transport them to buyers far away. The cattle, pigs, horses, and other animals were the some of the best in the area and with successful exhibitions in other states the reputation of the farm was widely known and respected.

This book will forever be a resource for those interested in local history and the fact that these stories are now preserved make the book a treasure to read and share with others. Whether you are a long-time resident, a native, or new to the Green-

brier Valley it is truly a gem and a wonderful account of times gone by.

(Robert Tuckwiller, a professional artist and writer who was born and raised in Greenbrier County, grew up on a farm just west of Lewisburg. He is a graduate of Concord University, holds a Master's Degree from Hollins University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concord University in 2019.)

Community Market seeks vendors

The Alderson Community Market is looking for vendors that produce garden items, foods, and crafts. The first vendor meeting is Tuesday, Apr. 5, at 3 p.m. in the Market Pavilion beside Fruits of Labor Cafe in Alderson. The market is on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Market Pavilion. The cost is \$5 per week or \$20 for the season. The season begins Apr.

26 and goes until October. We will have live music, activities for children, cooking demonstrations and lots of other fun activities for all ages, as well as lots of great food, crafts and produce! For further information please check out Alderson Community Food Hub on Facebook or call Lisa Carter at 304-661-4306. Watch for more updates as the season progresses.

A Look Back



Courtesy of West Virginia University Regional History Center.

By William "Skip" Deegans

In 1951, a bottle of RC Cola was a nickel. That year, West Virginia governor Okey L. Patterson proposed a one-cent tax on bottles of soda in order to build medical and dental schools at West Virginia University. West Virginians called sodas "pop" so the tax quickly became known as the pop tax. Patterson said, "I am confident that this tax would not be considered as a burden but as a privilege tax by our citizens who

fully realize the alarming shortage of doctors and nurses." There was fierce opposition to the tax stirred up mainly by Coca-Cola. Many West Virginia towns had small bottling businesses (Coca-Cola in Ronceverte and RC Cola in McRross, for example) that were split over the tax. Some thought it would be a quick way to raise the price to ten cents and others feared it would diminish sales.

The West Virginia Legislature passed the tax, and on March 15,

1951, Governor Patterson signed the tax increase into law. This legislation was passed well before the adverse health impacts of sodas were commonly known. The initial projection for the medical complex was \$12 million, and the tax was anticipated to raise \$3.5 million annually. This week's 1954 photo shows the excavated site for the medical schools and hospital as the first steel was being delivered. The University Hospital opened in August 1960 when

WVU president Elvis J. Stahr, Jr. announced it would accept the first 66 patients. The first MD degrees were awarded in 1962.

In 2021, the pop tax continued to generate \$14-15 million a year for WVU medical facilities. Last week, the West Virginia legislature repealed the tax.

Sources: The Charleston Daily Mail, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Raleigh Register, Hinton Daily News, WVU School of Medicine.

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OBITUARIES

Nora B. Judy

Williamsburg-Nora B. Judy, 80, died as she wished at her home in Williamsburg on Saturday, Mar. 12, 2022 after a short illness.

Born June 27, 1941 near Fort Spring, she was the oldest daughter of the late Fred and Agnes Burns.

Nora graduated from Greenbrier High School in 1960 and married Darrell "Lefty" Judy in 1962. Together they moved to Williamsburg and were married for 43 years until Lefty's passing in 2005.

Several other family members predeceased her including two sisters, Mary Johnson and Dorothy "Dottie" Fisher; and six brothers, Edward Burns, Howard Burns, William (Jr.) Burns, Alvin Burns, Jimmy Burns and Freddy Burns.

Nora's family meant everything to her. Survivors include her daughter, Debbie Sizemore and husband Tucker of Williamsburg; son, John Judy and his wife Lorena of Williamsburg; grandsons, Channing Judy and wife Autumn of Ronceverte, Christopher Sizemore and wife Tiffany of Covington, VA, Devin Judy and wife Barb of Lewisburg, and Joey Atkins and Justin Atkins of Union; and special neighbor grandson, Clyde Lyons. Her smallest and most precious survivors are her five great-grandchildren, Dani Rai Judy, Sawyer Judy, Colton Sizemore, Corey Kimberlin and Elaina Kimberlin. Also surviving are her sister, Jenny Francisco and two brothers, Larry Burns and Lewis Burns; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A celebration of life was held at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, on Wednesday evening, Mar. 16.

Per her wishes, Nora will be cremated and her ashes will be scattered with those of her husband back on the mountain at a later date in a private service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Kanawha Hospice, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

The family would like to express its deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to women who assisted us by providing such patient loving care at the end of Nora's life.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.wallaceandwallacefh.com

Danny Earl Lambert



Frankford-Danny Earl Lambert, 66, went home to be with the Lord, Thursday, Mar. 10, 2022, at Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, VA.

Born June 12, 1955, in White Sulphur Springs, he was the son of the late Earl Foster and Rosa Violet Fury Lambert.

Danny was retired from BUTA as a truck driver. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who loved classic cars. Danny was an amazing husband, father, brother, and friend.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Billy Lambert.

Survivors include his loving wife of 41 years, Goldie Hamilton Lambert; daughter, Melody Thomas (David Jr.) of Frankford; brother, Gary Lambert of White Sulphur Springs; sister, Jan Fisk (Doug) of Lewisburg; and several nieces, and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, Mar. 16, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Rev. John Taylor officiated. Burial followed in the Hillcrest Cemetery, White Sulphur Springs.

Visitation was Tuesday evening, Mar. 15, at the funeral home.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net

Richard Kyle Feamster



Alderson-Richard Kyle Feamster, 81, passed away on Saturday, Mar. 12, 2022 at LewisGale Hospital Allegheny in Low Moor, VA, following a short illness.

Born Mar. 15, 1940 in Alderson, he was the son of the late George Samuel Feamster, Sr., and the late Lena Karnes Feamster.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Frank Feamster; and two sisters, Rebecca Loudermilk and Martha Feamster.

Mr. Feamster was a 1958 graduate of Alderson High School in Alderson, and attended National Business College in Roanoke, VA. Following retirement, he enjoyed working at Lowe's Home Improvement Store. He attended Flat Mountain Missionary Baptist Church in Alderson, served on the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Council on Aging, and enjoyed volunteering at the Alderson Senior Center. Mr. Feamster enjoyed hunting and fishing, gardening and lawn care, and doing anything outdoors, but above all, he loved to spend time with his family, especially his companion, Joyce Smithson.

Survivors include his

companion and love of his life, Joyce Smithson of Alderson; his daughter, Charlotte Feamster Waugh and husband John of Covington, VA; his son, Richard Kyle Feamster, Jr. and wife Rebecca of Gloucester, VA; two brothers, Henry Feamster and wife Dru of Lindsie, and George Feamster, Jr. and wife Sandy of Hinton; three sisters, Marjorie Sharp of Newport News, VA, Mary Phillips and husband Jim of Forest City, NC, and Rachel Goodall and husband Kenneth of Alderson; two granddaughters, Kimberly Waugh and her companion Anthony Gadlage of Centennial, CO, and Johnna Waugh and her fiancé Jeremy Berberette of Clifton Forge, VA; two great-granddaughters, Norah and Hazel Berberette of Clifton Forge, VA; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Mar. 17, at the Lobban Funeral Home Chapel in Alderson, where Pastor Randy Burdette officiated. Burial followed at the Lewis Cemetery at Blaker Mills, near Alderson.

Friends called Thursday, Mar. 17, before the service at the funeral home.

Family and friends served as pallbearers.

For those considering an expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Flat Mountain Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 777, Alderson, WV 24910.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the Feamster family at www.lobbanfh.com

Arrangements by Lobban Funeral Home, Alderson, WV.

Edwin Jerald Pauley



Loveland, CO-Edwin Jerald Pauley, 91, passed away on Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022 in Loveland, CO.

He was born on Apr. 1, 1930 in Ronceverte, WV, to Perry Webster Pauley and Lula Morgan Pauley.

Edwin graduated from Greenbrier High School in West Virginia in 1948 and furthered his education by attending West Virginia Business College (Junior Accounting) in 1949. After graduating college Edwin decided to join the Air Force and proudly served his country from 1950 to 1954 earning the Korean Service Medal before being honorably discharged.

Edwin decided to go back to school after his release from the Air Force and attended West Virginia University from 1954 to 1958 (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration).

Edwin is preceded in death by his father, Perry Webster Pauley and mother, Lula Morgan Pauley.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are sisters, Winifred Pauley and Emily Holswade of Ronceverte and Brenda Jacobsen of Phoenix, AZ;

and brother, Perry Pauley of Ronceverte.

A memorial service for Edwin will take place at the Pauley-Massey family cemetery in Ronceverte at a later date.

Douglas Andrew Brackenridge

Lewisburg-Douglas Andrew Brackenridge, 61, passed away Sunday, Mar. 13, 2022 at his residence.

He was born July 6, 1960 in Clifton forge, VA, the son of the late Bobby Gene and Norma Ruth Smith Brackenridge.

Doug was a crane operator for Metromont.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, Dewayne Brackenridge.

He is survived by his daughter, Crystal Dolan of Atlanta, GA; his sons, Robert Hyde of Atlanta, GA, and Shannon Brackenridge of Duo; brothers, Dennis of Georgia and Dwight of Rupert; sister, Phyllis Massie of Alderson; grandchildren, Jonathan Hyde, Allison Dolan, Andrew Hyde, Bailey Dolan, Peyton Dolan and Rebekah Dolan; and great-grandchild, Paisleigh Blankenship.

A gathering to celebrate Doug's life was held on Thursday, Mar. 17, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Rainelle.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Rainelle are in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.wallaceandwallacefh.com



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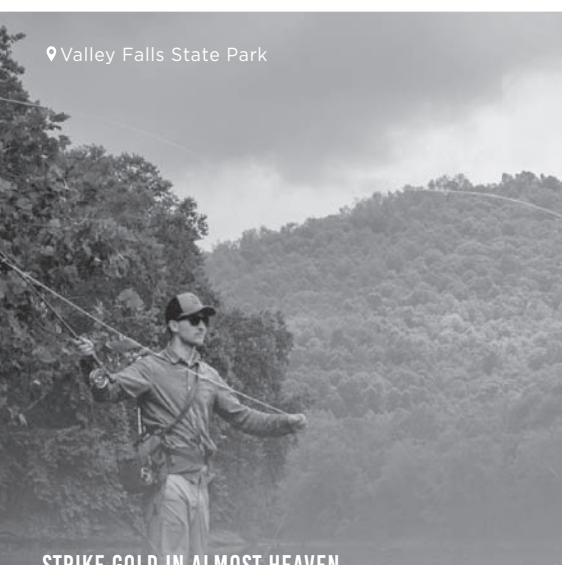
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Application deadline is March 31, 2022.

Applications may be downloaded from wvpress.org

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director **Don Smith** at donsmith@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

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SCHOOL

The Schoolhouse Hotel and Briergarten partner on Fat Tuesday fundraiser

The Schoolhouse Hotel, located in White Sulphur Springs, and the Briergarten in Lewisburg teamed up this past month for a Fat Tuesday fundraising effort to support the White Sulphur Springs Community Center and food pantry.

The Briergarten, a German-inspired beergarten in Lewisburg's newest development Stratton Alley, hosted The Schoolhouse Hotel's executive Chef Adeyemi Allen and his son, Sous Chef Corte Allen, as they fried up oyster and shrimp po' boys and some tasty gumbo. "It was a great event for an even greater cause," says Josh Baldwin, one of the owners of Briergarten. "The food that Chef



Allen and Corte put out was delicious and got rave reviews, including some high praise from a local couple that moved here from New Orleans literally a month ago."

As The Schoolhouse Hotel

prepares to open its doors this spring, the chefs of their flagship restaurant The Varsity Club were itching to get out and cook some food for the public. The Fat Tuesday event was the perfect collaboration between the two entities and allowed the hotel's food and beverage team

to meet with the public and talk about the upcoming hotel and restaurant, including The Roof-top bar.

"It was a great evening to be out in the community and represent The Schoolhouse Hotel," said Greg McMillion, Food & Beverage Manager. "It was great to meet community members that have a connection with the school and talk about the plans for the new hotel. Everyone has a story and memories of their time at the school. The excitement is really building for the opening of the Varsity Club and the Roof Top. The Schoolhouse Hotel is a proud sponsor of the White Sulphur Springs Community Center and the Food Bank. It was an honor to participate in the fundraiser for the Food Bank

on Fat Tuesday."

"As we get ready to open the doors to The Schoolhouse Hotel, it was exciting to be able to get our chefs out into the community and showcase what they can do," explained Genny Freiman, Project Manager for The Schoolhouse Hotel. "We were also pleased to be able to raise these funds for the White Sulphur Springs Community Center and in particular the food pantry there."

The Schoolhouse Hotel will open this spring and rooms are already available for booking at www.theschoolhousehotelwv.com. The Briergarten is getting ready to celebrate their one-year anniversary on Apr. 1 and 2. For event details, find them at www.briergarten.com

New River nursing programs accepting applications for fall

New River Community and Technical College is accepting applications for fall class starts for both the Practical Nursing Program and the LPN to RN Bridge program.

"With an increased demand for nurses in the state, we've seen an increase in interest in nursing programs at the college," said Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and the New River CTC Foundation Michael Green.

The Certificate of Applied Science in Practical Nursing is offered at the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg, Nicholas County Campus in Summersville and Raleigh County Campus in Beaver. Once accepted, students can earn their practical nursing certificate in 11 months. New class starts for the Practical Nursing Program are scheduled each fall

The LPN to RN Bridge associate of applied science program is designed to help LPNs with an unencumbered license prepare to

practice as Registered Nurses. The 16-month bridge program meets at New River CTC's Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg

The fall 2022 Practical Nursing Deadline is Apr. 1, and the deadline to apply to the LPN to RN bridge program for fall is May 1. Nursing student applicants must apply to New River CTC and be accepted to the college before applying to the college's nursing programs.

TEAS testing will be offered remotely for nursing student applicants.

For information on the Practical Nursing Program contact Perry at jperry@newriver.edu or 304-883-2429 or Administrative Secretary Tina Bryant at 304-883-2444, and for information on the LPN to RN Bridge Program email rn-program@newriver.edu. Visit www.newriver.edu, email admissions@newriver.edu or call 866-349-3739 for information about admission to New River CTC or other degree programs.

Mayor White visits LES students



Mayor Beverly White visited Mrs. Crane's First Grade Classroom at Lewisburg Elementary School to answer questions and explain what a mayor does. She wrote personal messages and read them to each student. We enjoyed learning about Mayor White and her job as the Mayor of Lewisburg!

Free Folk Arts and Culture Workshops

presented by High Rocks in partnership with Berea College, March 19 – May 14

Maple Magic Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Yew Mountain Center, Hillsboro

Join the open house event for Mountain State Maple Days. High Rocks will be cooking buckwheat pancakes from a cast iron pan and serving them for free, along with handing out recipes.

Trout-to-Table Saturday, March 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m. at Knapps Creek Trout Lodge, Marlinton

Enjoy a trout cleaning demonstration; participants will receive a cleaned trout and have the opportunity to prepare, cook and eat it. Two sessions available, with a capacity of 15 trout per session. Slots are filled on a first come, first served basis by registering at 304-653-4891.

Ramp up at High Rocks Saturday, April 2, 3 - 5 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

Join us for a day of ramps as we learn about identifying, sustainably harvesting and eating this mountain treat!

Value-Added Products: Ramp Salt & Ramp Pesto Saturday, April 9, 3 - 5 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

Sticking to the ramp theme, this workshop discusses value-added products. Sample some local products and see what goes on behind the scenes of adding value to your raw product.

Seed-to-Skillet Thursday, April 14, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. at Ruby Grow Hillsboro site

Tour High Rocks' Ruby Grow farm in Hillsboro. We will discuss some of the main components of having a successful gardening season, which can mean more delicious local food for you!

Morel Mushrooms Saturday, April 16, 3 - 5 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

Join us for a day of food, fellowship and fun as we go for a walk through the forest and discuss tips for identifying morel mushrooms.

Pepperoni Rolls: Food of our People Friday, April 22, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

High Rocks welcomes special guest facilitator Sally Cobb as she takes us through the process of making homemade pepperoni rolls! We will prepare and eat these delicious treats and learn about how they became an Appalachian favorite.

Appalachian Apple Baking Saturday, April 30, 3 - 5 p.m. at The Hub Café, Lewisburg

Meet at High Rocks' Hub Café in Lewisburg for an afternoon of Appalachian apple baking! We will enjoy tasty food and discuss the prominence of our state fruit, the apple.

Campfire Cooking Saturday, May 7, 3 - 5 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

Everyone should enjoy a warm meal from a campfire every now and then! Join High Rocks and learn to set yourself up for success when planning a campfire meal; and of course, we will be eating around a campfire together!

Shitake on Logs Saturday, May 14, 3 - 5 p.m. at High Rocks, Hillsboro

Join High Rocks as we demonstrate the beginning process of growing shitake mushrooms on logs. High Rocks will provide mushroom spawn and logs; we encourage you to bring your own log!



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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,
I use many alcohol wipes to clean my glasses. Once the paper dries, can it go into office paper bin?
Likes to See Clearly

Dear Likes to See Clearly,
Alcohol wipes, baby wipes, and moist towelettes are all made of synthetic fibers, thus are neither recyclable nor compostable. Additionally, they are not biodegradable, so most of them end up in landfills where they add to the already huge amounts of non-biodegradable waste. Although some wet wipes are advertised as "flushable," they should not be flushed down the toilet. These wipes do not disintegrate like toilet paper does and can form masses that clog sewer systems and block drains. They also contain a mixture of chemicals that can be toxic and harmful. For your good health, and for the sake of the environment, try some of the more eco-friendly choices, such as paperless towels, waterless wipes or good old-fashioned washcloths.

Dear Recycle Lady,
The top on my plastic water bottle says to recycle the bottom top with the bottle. Why doesn't the

Recycling Center accept these bottles with the tops on them? What can be done with the plastic tops that are on plastic bottles?
Bottled Water Fan

Dear Bottled Water Fan,
Plastic bottle tops and plastic bottles are made from two different kinds of plastic. Each kind of plastic has its own melting point, so must be processed differently. Large cities have special equipment that exposes the plastics to a brief flash of light that identifies each type of plastic and properly sorts them. Unfortunately, the Recycle Center does not have this technology available so must depend on recyclers to remove the bottle tops before putting the bottles in the bins. At the present time there are no manufacturers converting plastic bottle tops into new items, thus plastic bottle caps have no market value. Until there is a use for them, plastic bottle caps go in the trash.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Why are black plastic bottles not recyclable?
Likes Black

Dear Likes Black,
Black plastics of all kinds are not recyclable for several reasons. According to greenmatters.



com, black plastics contain unknown amounts of toxic chemicals, including heavy metals and flame retardants, and could be hazardous to your health. Also, black plastics create a problem for recycling centers as they contaminate other plastics. To compound the problem, the black color prevents the light beam from identifying and sorting the various types of plastic. Even worse, black plastic does not biodegrade and will remain in a landfill for millions of years, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Fun Fact: In 2008, a leatherback sea turtle migrated from Indonesia to Oregon in the United States, an astonishing 12,774 miles across the Pacific - a new record for vertebrates! (fto.com)

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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Carnegie Hall presents America's Got Talent finalist Catapult on April 13



Catapult

Carnegie Hall presents Catapult Dance Company, finalist on Season 8 of America's Got Talent, on Wednesday, Apr. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Hamilton Auditorium. The all-ages special event is part of Carnegie Hall's Spotlight on Schools program in partnership with the Greenbrier County Board of Education.

As Howie Mandel put it: "Catapult Entertainment has been CATA-PULTED"! Millions of people were amazed by the company and fell in love with its four network television presentations on the number 1 hit show America's Got Talent. Howard Stern bowed to them and called them a "million-dollar act," Heidi Klum still has a crush on them, and Mel B wanted our bodies! Offers to per-

form overwhelmed them like a tidal wave.

Catapult has been touring worldwide ever since. They have performed live for the royal family in Saudi Arabia, wowed audiences in Geneva, Stockholm, Vilnius - Lithuania, Lagos Nigeria, Monte Carlo, Lincoln Center in New York and of course Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, Catapult has grown a devoted audience in Germany which has commissioned extensive touring for the fourth year in a row. Each year our touring has grown until now they are doing four months and over 88 shows all over the country. Plans are underway already for tours of Italy, Spain, France, and England.

Catapult has provided shadow choreography for an original musical bound

for Broadway next season and continues to create new work and to innovate within the genre. No other company has the proprietary technology for creating color shadows and their dance "Angel Heart" is unlike anything else out there.

Many major corporations have hired Catapult to represent their brand and tell their story. Here is a list of just some of them: Bridgestone Tires, Girl Scouts USA, John Deere Tractor, William Raveis Realty, Project Hope, YMCA, Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical, Abbot Pharmaceutical, National Association of Homebuilders (the biggest convention of its kind in the world), Ultimate Software, UPS and many more.

Catapult was recently a special guest on the television show, Italia's Got Talent and their other Television and film credits include four network appearances on America's Got Talent, several films for internet and appearances by the company's director, Adam Battelstein, on Good Morning America, The Today show, The Conan O'Brien show, The Oprah Winfrey Show and the 2007 Academy Awards.

There is no question that Catapult is a rising star with a bright future and the premiere company of its kind in the world.

Tickets are \$20/adults and \$10/students and may be purchased by visiting www.carnegiehallwv.org, calling the Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, or stopping by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Carnegie Hall's Spotlight on Schools program gives students unique opportunities to see, feel, hear and experience the performing arts. The series presented by Greenbrier County Schools, in partnership with Carnegie Hall, presents culturally diverse music, dance, and theater performances which are held at Carnegie Hall or in the school auditoriums.

DINING & entertainment guide

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Local

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ACROSS

1 Passengers
7 It's used for simmering
14 Good for farming
20 Texas wildcat
21 Huffington of HuffPost
22 Hooded snakes
23 Noted WikiLeaks whistleblower
25 Potato, yam and rutabaga
26 Impressionist painter Mary
27 Toaster waffle brand
28 Ancestry
29 Not needing an Rx
30 Unkempt sort
33 Swimmer who won six Olympic gold medals
35 It has triceps
38 Radical type
40 Work units
41 Author of the Edgar-winning novel "New Orleans Mourning"
45 "TRL Top 10" channel
46 Wig makeup

DOWN

1 "The Famous Teddy Z" actor Alex
2 Old Apple instant-messaging app
3 Reduce in intensity
4 Pipe bends
5 Civil rights figure Parks
6 Leaves in, to an editor
7 On the — (fleeing)
8 "... boy — girl?"
9 Claret, e.g.
10 Plane houser
11 Mystery
12 Irk
13 Dog's jingler
14 Role-playing
15 Boxers' units
16 Nuns' place
17 Period of rest
18 Jumbo-sized
19 Ruhr city
24 Fla.'s ocean
28 Future flies
31 Yes, to Pierre
32 Deli classics, for short
34 Critters' doc
36 Irks
37 Israel's
39 — McAn (shoe brand)
41 7, monthwise

HER LEADING FATHER

42 Part of UCLA: Abbr.
43 Reggae grew from it
44 Taxi ticker
45 Saharan illusion
46 Longtime Ritz rival
47 "How sad!"
48 As to
49 Enjoy a book
52 Ice — (longtime skating show)
53 Netflix alternative
55 Crooner Murray
56 Heathland
58 "You know who I am"
60 Merman of old musicals
63 Full of tumult
66 Fedora fabric
67 Still having a shot to win
68 Qatar's capital
69 Van Devere of "The Changeling"
70 Hoodwink
71 "There, I did it!"
72 Said aloud
73 Bound along
76 — Detoo ("Star Wars" droid)
77 Neighbor of a Pole
78 Frozen drink brand
79 Beach bird
81 In a prying way
82 Admin. aide
84 W-2 pro
85 "Yeow!"
88 Hearing pair
92 Clumsy ox
94 Suture
95 Baby whales
96 Mount St. —
97 Add-on cost for a science course
98 Shortly, informally
100 Fonda and Austen
101 Really praise
102 Gunpowder component
103 Dewy-eyed
104 The Pine Tree State
106 "— bin ein Berliner"
107 Totally lose it
109 Charlotte — (rich dessert)
110 Anesthetic of old
113 Flabbergast
115 451, to Nero
116 Keats poems
118 Dosage amt.
119 By birth
120 100 in a cen.

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hockey stick is missing. 2. Tassel is shorter. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Sign is different. 6. Log is shorter.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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 page!

ORBETS
Asteroide
REMOETE
Plod
GUDTER
Celebration
GETANAP

TODAY'S WORD

It wasn't a romance — it was just a few dinner dates to help with my

THEATER 8
MOVIES
Showtime: 7:45 pm
R

Growing A Climate for Tomorrow

MARCH 22, 2022



About Ag Day

March 22, 2022

is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- 1 understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- 2 value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- 3 appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- 4 acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

Growing a Climate for Tomorrow



Agriculture Council of America
11020 King Street, Suite 205
Overland Park, Kansas 66210
(913) 491-1895
www.agday.org

Why Celebrate Ag Day?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize—and celebrate—Ag Day each year:

Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture. Career choices include:

- farm production
- agribusiness management and marketing
- agricultural research and engineering
- food science
- processing and retailing
- banking
- education
- landscape architecture
- urban planning
- energy
- and other fields.

Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Download more helpful tools at www.agday.org!

You'll find:

- Talking points about the importance of agriculture
- Ag Day logos
- Press release (to download and modify for your event)
- Social media
- Print advertisements

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CELEBRATE AG WEEK MARCH 20-26, 2022

How agricultural technology can help improve sustainability



Sustainable agriculture technologies can help modern farmers and their successors meet the needs of a rapidly growing global population.

Sustainable agriculture is an approach to farming that will allow modern farmers to meet the needs of a growing population while enhancing environmental quality. That can benefit both current and future generations, and technology will play a vital role in realizing the goals of sustainable agriculture.

According to the National Sustainable Ag-

riculture Coalition, sustainable agriculture is designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. That's a worthy goal, especially in the face of a growing global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion persons by 2050.

There are numerous benefits to utilizing sus-

tainable agriculture technology, which can be especially advantageous to modern farmers.

Efficient land management

Modeling technologies

can be utilized to make more efficient use of land. According to Sustainable Brands, a global community of brand innovators, modeling technologies can be employed in a host of ways, including to identify tillage practices and the status of tile drainage. Certain agricultural technologies have been designed to predict the performance of cropland, which can allow farmers to more effectively and efficiently use their land. Farmers also can employ modeling technologies to determine soil health and water needs and usage, which can benefit the land and ensure resources aren't wasted. Utilization of such technologies ensures farmers can meet the needs of modern consumers without affecting future farmers' ability to do the same.

Reduce runoff

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that runoff poses a significant threat to the environment. When runoff occurs, fertilizer, bacteria and other pollutants find their way into streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Sustainable Brands notes that nanotechnology is an efficient way to deliver nutrients to crops that can improve both the efficacy of the nutrients and reduce runoff.

Protect crops

Sustainable Brands notes that agricultural biologicals are inputs derived from natural materials that have low toxicity. That low toxicity reduces their environmental impact. Agricultural biologicals utilize the properties of such things as bacteria, fungi and even insects to support healthy crops, potentially improving yield without adversely affecting the environment.

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STEPPIN' OUT

Trillium is back and celebrating 40 years



After two long years Trillium Performing Arts is back in full swing with live performances plus celebrating 40 years of dance, music, theatre, film, and education.

In February, Friday Night ALIVE! for mature audiences started, and it was a great hit. There were music, skits, comedy, and film. The next FNA will be Mar. 25 at 7:30 p.m. This

show is for the whole family with dancing, music, and video by local performers including Alex DeGraff, Karl Behrens, Trillium's School for the Performing Arts, and more. There will be additional FNAs in the coming months. If you wish to participate, call 304-645-3003.

Trillium Performing Youth is celebrating 25 years and will be performing a Reunion Showcase on Apr. 8 at 7:30 p.m., and Apr. 9 at 1 p.m. The concert will showcase dances performed by current TPY and feature some works by former members including Ross Honaker and Faith Levine. RADAR, co-directed by alum Laura Gorsuch, will share three group works. RADAR recently received 2021 Professional Dance Company of the year from Richmond Dance Awards. TPY also performs free shows for schools and senior centers in the spring.

On Saturday, May 28, at 3

p.m., is Trillium's School for Performing Arts dance recital. Instructor Hannah Morningstar-Stout says, "Our students have been hard at work preparing this production inspired by your favorite music from movies and Broadway. In all my years I've never had such passionate and creative students."

These events are held at the historic Lewis Theatre in downtown Lewisburg.

The Trillium Garden Party is returning to the gardens of the Historic General Lewis Inn on June 9 at 5:30 p.m. A great time is had by all with music, dancing, food, and laughter. There is a silent auction and a cash bar.

Also in the works are Trillium's Murder Mystery nights. Zona's Revenge will make a ghostly reappearance, as well as a new mystery. These are audience participation events, so bring your friends and sleuthing abilities. Stay tuned for dates

and locations.

In the fall, Trillium will again be performing free, entertaining, science-based school shows. These are original works that Trillium introduced five years ago, and have been a great hit with students and teachers alike. At the end of each show the students are allowed to ask questions. A fifth grade student said of Final Frontier, "I really like how you put in fun and mixed it with learning." During the COVID-19 shutdown, a video version of Weathering the Elements was created and will be distributed to schools around West Virginia at no charge.

For ticket prices and more information go to Trilliumperformingarts.org or call the office at 304-645-3003. Also like us on Facebook.

If you would like to get involved with Trillium please email us at trilliumbizwv@gmail.com

CARNEGIE HALL PRESENTS

The Honey Dewdrops on April 1

Carnegie Hall Mainstage Performance Series continues with acoustic duo The Honey Dewdrops on Friday, Apr. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hamilton Auditorium.

Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish, together known as Americana duo The Honey Dewdrops, have long felt the push and pull between their original roots in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and their current home in Baltimore, Maryland. It is in the sound of their harmony-soaked songs, blended with the tones of guitar, banjo, and mandolin and in the group's songwriting, which reflects the beautiful and hard realities of today. Artistically, Wortman and Parrish are inspired by American folk and traditional music and their sound expands on that style and showcases the dynamism and intimacy of musical duos.

The newly renovated Hamilton Auditorium's HVAC system is equipped with MERV13 filters and has an air exchange ratio or 7-8 times per hour per air handler (there are two) within the audi-



The Honey Dewdrops

torium. An economizer has been added which allows the space to draw 100% outside air as opposed to recycling ambient air should the need arise.

Tickets for the mainstage performance start at only \$17 and discounts are available for Carnegie Hall members, students, senior citizens, and military. To purchase

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

For more information on The Honey Dewdrops visit www.thehoneydewdrops.com.

WV Humor writer to present latest book at A New Chapter

Native West Virginian Richard Hartman, historian, writer and humorist, will present his latest book, *A Night in the Woods*, at A New Chapter bookstore in downtown Lewisburg on Saturday, Apr. 2, at 1 p.m. The book is a collection of humorous short stories and poems. The stories are based on true events in the author's life in West Virginia, and several historic events including the most documented account of Greenbrier County-born French, the Alderson Lion, the details of which include new information on his life.

Hartman is a retired history professor, having taught at Marshall University and West Virginia State University. He enjoys a close 40-year connection with Lewisburg as his family has a cottage on the Greenbrier River near Ron-



Richard Hartman

ceverte and had in-laws living here.

West Virginia author Colleen Anderson describes Mr. Hartman's book as "like sitting around a campfire listening to a good storyteller with wit, grace, and a gift for laugh-out-loud metaphor."

Jerry L. Hurley, author of *Wildcrafting Days*, says, "Richard Hartman is a new voice sharing a life interestingly lived."

The author will be available for questions on writing, and will sign his book at the event.

Painting/drawing workshops upcoming with John Coffey

Carnegie Hall's Classes & Workshops continue with teaching artist John Coffey presenting Basic Drawing and Watercolor Painting. This unique learning opportunity is taught in small group settings in the Art Studio at Carnegie Hall.

Basic Drawing takes place on Saturday, Mar. 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This class, designed for beginners and the more experienced wanting to refresh their basic drawing skills, will focus on drawing and sketching techniques, materials and methods of drawing. The class will include instruction in drawing and sketching simple still life, landscapes, and people. Although different materials will be introduced, most of the class will focus on pencil and charcoal drawing. Students are asked to bring a pad of drawing paper. All other materials are provided.

Coffey will host two watercolor classes, one for beginners and one for intermediate level painters. The first, An Introduction to Watercolors, is scheduled for Thursday, Mar. 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. This course is intended for students with very limited experience. Students will focus on the basics of watercolor painting, exploring the different materials used (paints, paper, brushes, etc.), basic drawing and watercolor techniques, how to stretch paper, and how to plan your painting. All materials provided.

The Intermediate Watercolor Painting class takes place Friday, Apr. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. This course is for students who have had some basic knowledge and experience with watercolors and are ready to improve

their skills and take their painting to the next level. The class will focus on technique and composition, working primarily from photographs. Students should bring a photograph of their choice, but it must be a photograph taken by the student. Students at the intermediate level may bring their own brushes if they choose. All other materials will be provided by the instructor.

John Coffey is a watercolorist specializing in landscapes and buildings, primarily in and around southern West Virginia. He grew up in Monroe and McDowell Counties, WV, and currently lives in Mercer County.

Coffey majored in art at Concord College in the 1960s, but didn't teach himself to watercolor until the late 1980s.

Coffey is a member of the West Virginia Watercolor Society as well as being a Tamarack juried artisan and a past member of the Mahoning Valley Watercolor Society, the Appalachian Artist Association, and the Beckley Art Group. He has been awarded Tamarack's Best of West Virginia show 2011 - Award of Merit; Beckley Art Group / Cynthia Bickey Gallery, West Virginia Memories Show - Best of Show, and various other Beckley Art Group shows.

Registration is \$140 (\$125 for members) for each workshop and class size is limited. Students must be 18 years of age. To enroll or for a complete list of classes and workshops and visit carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops or pick up a Classes & Workshops brochure at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

CARNEGIE HALL

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCE SERIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

THE STEEL WHEELS

Americana Roots Folk Rock



FRIDAY, APRIL 1

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