

Table of Contents

- Businesses, Churches and Organizations Can Receive Help To Create COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics** 1
- Ronceverte Woman Charged With Two-Counts Of Forgery** 2
- Rupert Library To Host Earth Day Event** 3
- Alderson Seeks Resident Input For Vaccine Clinic** 4
- Free Narcan Distribution Doesn't Sit Well With Community Members** 5
- Legally Speaking: Cases Involving Officers Are Often Difficult** 7
- WVSOM Invites Residents To Stress-Reduction Sessions** 9
- Marshall to hold summer conference for high school teachers** 11
- Sunday's H.S. Boys Basketball Scores** 13
- Man's Tattoos Draw Fire From Disapproving Wife** 13
- Evelyn Winters Jenkins** 14
- Guest Commentary: Update From the 85th Legislature (4-13-21)** 15

Businesses, Churches and Organizations Can Receive Help To Create COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN APR 13, 2021



The WV Joint Interagency Task Force will provide businesses, churches and other organizations with resources for those who wish to hold COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Gov. Jim Justice stated during his Wednesday, April 7, coronavirus briefing that it is important for anyone who can receive the vaccine to do so, and the task force is prepared to help in any way possible.

“If you are 65 years of age or older and you don’t get your vaccine, you are making a terrible mistake,” Justice said. “I truly believe that if you are any age, 16 or up, you should be getting your vaccine.”

Director of the Joint Interagency Task Force, James Hoyer, said that they are prepared to work with any business, church or organization to help them get vaccinations for not only their employees, but employee family members as well.

Coronavirus Czar Dr. Clay Marsh said he is seeing a rapid increase in some states with UK variant cases and West Virginians should continue to practice social distancing and mask-wearing for a little while longer, at least until the majority of residents can get their vaccine.

Dr. Ayne Amjad added that as of Wednesday there are 142 UK variant cases in West Virginia, and about 160 cases of the California variant.

Most of the UK variant cases have been detected in 19 bordering counties, Amjad said. The main age group being diagnosed with these variants are those 19-40.

“We have got to watch our younger people from the standpoint of transmission,” Justice stated. For this reason, Justice said he would like to encourage younger people to receive their vaccines.

Additionally, for home-bound residents, Justice said to call the hotline number and tell them you would like the vaccine.

Someone will be out to help, Justice added.

As of Wednesday, 892,596 vaccines have been placed in the arms of West Virginians. Of those, 532,890 have received their first dose and 359,000 people have received their second dose of the vaccine, according to Justice.

To help those who may still have concerns or difficulties receiving the vaccine, Justice said that help is just a phone call away.

The West Virginia hotline number is 1-833-734-0965.

Ronceverte Woman Charged With Two-Counts Of Forgery

By Matthew Young | WVDN APR 13, 2021



A Greenbrier County woman was arrested on the morning of Tuesday, April 6, after allegedly passing more than \$750 worth of fraudulent checks.

Ramona Lucille Neal, 42, of Ronceverte has been charged with two counts of forgery, as well as a bond violation.

On Wednesday, March 31, law enforcement took a complaint from the alleged victim who claimed to have received two fraudulent checks from Ramona Lucille Neal (AKA Mona Whitt) in exchange for cash. At least one of the checks was for the amount of \$750.

According to the criminal complaint, the checks were written from a First National Bank checking account belonging to a "Wilma Grimmert". Both checks were written to the victim.

Officers attempted to contact "Wilma Grimmert," only to discover that she no longer resided at her previous address. Representatives from First National Bank further advised officers that Grimmert's account "had been closed 'for a long time' and it had not been an active account for a couple years."

During an unrelated traffic stop in which Neal was a passenger in the vehicle, Grimmert's checkbook was found in Neal's purse.

Ramona Lucille Neal is currently being held at Southern Regional Jail. She is not eligible for bail at this time.

Rupert Library To Host Earth Day Event

By WV Daily News | WVDN APR 13, 2021



The Rupert Public Library will be observing Earth Day, Thursday, April 22. The library will have interesting books relating to the subject of the environment. Everyone is invited to stop by the library and take home a free plant from Jeff's Greenhouse. Rupert Library hours are 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Alderson Seeks Resident Input For Vaccine Clinic

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN APR 13, 2021



The town of Alderson is considering having a vaccination clinic in town through the Greenbrier County Health Department.

The purpose of this would be to allow seniors and anyone with limited transportation to get vaccinated. Alderson Mayor Travis Copenhaver is asking for feedback on how many people would be interested. They need to get an accurate count of how many vaccines would be needed. In a recent Facebook post, inquiring about the vaccination clinic, the town is also asking those who see the post to reach out to elderly neighbors and anyone who may not be on Facebook but would be interested in the clinic. That way, they can get the most accurate count.

To be counted, reach out to Alderson's Facebook page Town of Alderson, West Virginia, or call town hall. If utilizing the Facebook page, there are two options, the first is to comment on the original inquiry post. The second is to send a direct message to the page. To reach the Alderson Town Hall, call 304-445-2916.

Free Narcan Distribution Doesn't Sit Well With Community Members

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN APR 13, 2021



A community Narcan distribution in the Lewisburg Fire Department parking lot did not go over well with some residents last week, prompting a heated response from Fire Chief Joseph Thomas.

On April 7, representatives of Seneca Mental Health set up in the fire department parking lot on Route 219 North to distribute free Narcan to anyone who wished to have it.

According to event organizer and recovery support specialist for Seneca Mental Health, Jo Chestnut, the distribution took place from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

During the distribution, 27 kits were handed out, Chestnut said. Each kit contains two doses of 2mg Narcan, a drug used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose, complete with an auto-injector.

When the kit is opened and ready for use, a recorded voice walks a person through each step. The auto-injector is placed against a person's outer thigh and a needle is deployed, Chestnut explained. Once the Narcan has been administered, the needle safely retracts back into the unit.

Due to the ease of use, these kits can be beneficial for anybody willing to save a life.

Business owners, family members and those in the community were at the distribution to collect the kits, and learn more about them, Chestnut said.

Even though this distribution was a last-minute decision, Chestnut stated she felt as if it were needed in the community.

In the last three to four weeks, at least three people have overdosed resulting in death, Chestnut said. The

most recent death was a well-known person in the community who just couldn't get away from demons.

The majority of drug overdoses in the area result from fentanyl-laced heroin, but some have happened as a result of using pure fentanyl, Chestnut continued.

"We wanted to be proactive and get out in the community," Chestnut said.

That day, there were no real issues during the distribution, according to Chestnut. However, the next day, Thomas wrote the following message in a Facebook post:

"For the members of the community that are upset that the Lewisburg Fire Department assisted with a free Narcan Distribution yesterday, we want you to know we had nothing to do with this event other than allowing the workers from Seneca Mental Health the use of our parking lot.

I would like to address the numerous complaints that I have taken over this event and let members of the community know how disappointed I am in many of you.

Whether you like it or not, the Lewisburg Fire Department is here to serve and protect ALL citizens of our community. It disappoints me to have people say we should not help people that overdose.

I realize these people may have caused their own harm, but when we as a society lose compassion to the point just to say let them die, I ask you what group of people will be next in line.

I have to admit we do sometimes get tired of having repetitive offenders, but I will make the promise that we will do everything in our power to save anyone we are able to save.

I ask anyone that has an issue with Seneca handing out free Narcan to please stop complaining and do something productive about this issue! Blowing the Lewisburg Fire Departments Facebook page up with complaints and calling me to complain about this issue is not going to make me or my members do OUR JOB any differently.

As for the people who have the complaint of "where is my free medicine?", I am sorry the government has not decided to hand your medicine out free yet. I promise if they do, the Lewisburg Fire Department will allow that medicine to be handed out in our parking lot as well. Until then, remember, the members of the Lewisburg Fire Department are here to serve the community. We do not have control over what medications are to be given away.

Please contact your government representatives if you would like to complain about this issue. If you do not get satisfaction when you contact them, I suggest you remember that when you cast your ballot next time."

Chestnut concluded that she will not let the opinions of others deter her from conducting free Narcan distributions around Greenbrier County in the future.

"Nobody gave up on me," Chestnut, who is four years clean, said. "I am not giving up on them."

Legally Speaking: Cases Involving Officers Are

Often Difficult

By fred giggenbach attorney at law | WVDN APR 13, 2021



Law enforcement officers have very difficult and dangerous jobs. Many times, officers must make split-second decisions that determine life or death. They do all of this with the mantra of protecting and serving the public.

As a general rule, officers may use deadly force when there is a significant risk of serious bodily injury or death to themselves or others. The vast majority of law enforcement officers are honest, brave individuals who run to perilous situations when others flee. However, just like with any other profession, at times officers can cross the line or find themselves in unenviable positions.

Derek Chauvin is the former Minneapolis Police officer who is accused of using excessive force in May of 2020 resulting in the death of George Floyd, an African-American. Chauvin used a “knee to the neck” maneuver. That case led to race riots all over the country last year. The trial is occurring now and is available to watch via live stream on the internet and television. I have watched some of this trial so far and it is very likely Chauvin will be convicted of something despite Floyd initially resisting arrest with suspected drug use.

The Chauvin trial reminds me of a few cases I prosecuted related to police officers. I can tell you from experience that these are difficult cases all the way around. Most jurors are law-abiding citizens who are reluctant to convict police officers.

In Gilmer County, I assisted with a case where a small-town officer chased a speeding young man well outside of his jurisdiction. The officer then t-boned the driver’s vehicle in a field and fired a shot through the vehicle door area, just barely glancing the driver’s back. The driver continued to flee and hid in a house with others, even more miles outside of city limits. The officer and a trainee went into that house without a warrant, holding several people at gunpoint. We secured a felony conviction against the officer but it was later

overturned by the West Virginia Supreme Court, in part due to a judicial error on a jury instruction.

As I recall, the case eventually ended in a misdemeanor conviction.

In another case, I prosecuted a case in Jackson County against an officer who was accused of partying with teenage girls and having sexual relations with them. Several of these girls testified against the officer.

In that case, five or six other officers came to the jury trial, all in civilian clothes and wearing sidearms. They sat on the defense side of the courtroom. I objected to that armed show of support. I remember leaving court one day and driving back to Charleston. A deputy literally rode my bumper for about 5 miles, which was unnerving. That case resulted in a hung jury and the officer eventually pled to a misdemeanor.

In another case, I prosecuted a Charleston police officer for excessive speed in a downtown business district where the officer struck and killed an elderly lady driving across the street. The officer was running with no lights and siren responding to a 911 call. That case also resulted in a misdemeanor. I declined to prosecute an eastern panhandle sheriff for utilizing a dual pager that forwarded deputy pages.

While I did not try this case, I followed a trial where a Charleston police officer was accused of double-dipping by working security at the mall while being on duty as an officer. The officer had an outstanding defense attorney (who later became a federal magistrate judge). He was one of the best trial lawyers I have ever seen. When he spoke, he controlled the courtroom.

The jury acquitted the officer.

Many times, officers are the victims. I handled a case once where a suspect pointed a gun at a Charleston police officer, at close range, pulled the trigger but the round did not fire. Somehow, that officer showed enough restraint to merely tase the suspect and not shoot him dead. We had a discussion about the use of force standards and the fact it was also important for the officer to stay alive.

Sadly, a young female Charleston police officer was recently killed in the line of duty in a similar situation.

I prosecuted a fellow for attempting to outrun a state trooper on a motorcycle while having a backpack of methamphetamine materials and a passenger on board. The motorcyclist wrecked and engaged the trooper in hand-to-hand combat while reaching for the trooper's gun. Most of this was caught on in-car video. The trooper was big and strong but became so tired fighting this guy, the trooper had to ask passersby for assistance. The suspect was eventually subdued, charged, convicted at trial and went to prison. I have a photograph of multiple smiling state troopers in the courtroom after the trial was over.

In another case I prosecuted a young female in Charleston for assisting in a fleeing from police situation. She threw items out of the window at police officers who were pursuing her boyfriend. That case ended with an officer being shot and killed from friendly fire. The fleeing driver rammed police cruisers and was also shot and killed by police. That was a very tragic case where the deceased officer left behind a grieving wife.

In another matter, I was special prosecutor where a man was accused of simply walking up the Mingo County Sheriff and shooting him in the head while the Sheriff ate lunch in his cruiser. I believe that case is still pending.

WVSOM Invites Residents To Stress-Reduction Sessions

By WV Daily News | WVDN APR 13, 2021



LEWISBURG, W.Va. – Members of the public are encouraged to participate in free stress-reduction sessions incorporating the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) protocol at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM).

The sessions will be offered through WVSOM’s Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) and will take place at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., April 17 and 18, on the WVSOM campus in Lewisburg. Face masks are required during the session and will be provided, and participants’ temperatures will be checked at the door. Additional COVID-19 safety precautions will include social distancing, the use of sanitizer, and the wearing of masks and gloves by those performing the protocol.

The NADA protocol is a form of acupuncture in which small needles are placed into specific areas on the exterior of the ear. Stress reduction is one of many benefits of the technique, which also can be used to reduce cravings for drugs and minimize withdrawal symptoms, ease symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and improve sleep. The protocol has been in use since the 1970s.

In the April sessions, the NADA protocol will be performed by new trainees. Deborah Schmidt, D.O., who chairs WVSOM’s osteopathic principles and practice department and is a member of the West Virginia Board of

Acupuncture, said the sessions are valuable to health professionals because they help them learn to administer the protocol.

“We appreciate the public joining us for these stress-reduction sessions because it helps in the training of NADA acudetox providers. The goal in training these providers in southern West Virginia is to offer an inexpensive, nonpharmacologic method to assist those struggling with addiction and recovery,” Schmidt said. “Participants will have the opportunity to experience a simple, minimally invasive treatment that helps bring down stress levels and allows a chance to focus on well-being.”

In West Virginia, individuals permitted to administer the protocol include physicians and student doctors, physician assistants, registered professional nurses, practical nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, social workers, professional counselors, correctional officers and emergency medical services providers.

Individuals who want to receive stress reduction through the protocol may attend any of the sessions, which will be conducted in the WVSOM Student Center, and must preregister by 4 p.m., April 15, with Jenna Hinkle at 304-793-6584 or jhinkle@osteo.wvsom.edu. Attendees should park in the area beside the center’s second-floor entrance and enter through the door marked “NADA training.”

WVSOM’s CRCH is presenting the sessions with funding from the State Opioid Response Grant through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources’ Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities.

Marshall to hold summer conference for high school teachers

By The Associated Press | WVDN APR 13, 2021



HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Marshall University will host a free online summer conference for high school STEM teachers.

The Department of Computer Sciences and Electrical Engineering will host the conference June 14-18 for teachers in science, technology, engineering and math, the university said in a news release.

The conference will be offered with support from a grant from the National Science Foundation and National Security Agency. Participants will receive a \$1,250 stipend for attendance and meal support, and will receive free materials to use in the conference.

The conference will offer ways to integrate cyber subjects into high school courses. Participants will engage in hands-on exploration of cyber security, including ethics, networks, phishing, social engineering and robotics systems, the statement said.

Participants also will earn a graduate-level professional development course credit from Marshall.

The application deadline for the conference is May 7.

Online:

www.marshall.edu/gencyber/teacher

Sunday's H.S. Boys Basketball Scores

By The Associated Press | WVDN APR 13, 2021



BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Berkeley Springs 74, Trinity 72, OT

River View 52, Meadow Bridge 47

Man's Tattoos Draw Fire From Disapproving Wife

By abigail van buren | WVDN APR 13, 2021

Dear Abby: My tattoos are destroying my marriage, and I just don't understand why. I'm a 56-year-old elementary art teacher and the father of three grown children. Since I was young, I have loved the artistic expression of tattoos, and I ALWAYS envisioned having them, lots of them.

It had been about 10 years since my last one, but I decided to get another one. Telling my wife about wanting another one was awful. My wife of 28 years hates tattoos. We have terrible arguments every time I get one. I

have covered my entire upper body. (Other than my hands, none of them are visible while I'm wearing my work clothes.) I love them.

I just returned home with roses tattooed on my hands, and my wife is ready to leave me. She says I have gone too far with all my ink. I'm a responsible and respectful person. I don't drink, smoke, gamble or have any destructive vices. I'm highly regarded as a leader and role model at my school.

Friends, colleagues — even strangers — compliment me on my tattoos. However, you would think my tattoos and I are the devil in my wife's eyes. Am I the problem, or is her perception of tattoos the issue? Please, any advice would be greatly accepted. I can't understand her stance on this. — **Art In Las Vegas**

Dear Art: It is your body, and you have the right to do what you want with it. While not everyone is a fan of body art, I assume that you had tattoos before you and your wife married. It is possible that over the years, when you told your wife you were getting more, knowing her feelings about it, it came across to her as disrespectful of her feelings. As you have acquired more and more, it may have felt to her like one insult piled on another.

Having never spoken with your wife, I can't guess her reason for talking about leaving you, but it's important you ask why those roses were the last straw. (Am I correct in assuming there's no place else on your "canvas" that hasn't been illustrated?)

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been married 20-plus years. His mother has never liked me. I have never done anything to her or her husband.

My father-in-law passed away two years back, and my mother-in-law is older. If something happens to her, how am I supposed to react? I know I have to be there for my husband. My husband and I get along wonderfully, but at the same time, I would feel like a hypocrite if I went to her funeral. We haven't spoken in over a year.

Other family members have repeated things she has said about me as well as my family. I put up with her behavior for years. I only quit talking to her or going around her a year ago. — **Hates Hypocrisy In Michigan**

Dear Hates: Funerals are for the living. Do not succumb to the temptation to use your mother-in-law's as a platform to demonstrate your dislike of her. Attend the funeral and comfort your husband, who likely will be hurting and need your support. And when you do, ABOVE ALL, refrain from humming, "Ding, Dong, the Witch is Dead."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Evelyn Winters Jenkins

By WV Daily News | WVDN APR 13, 2021

JENKINS

Evelyn Winters Jenkins, age 70, of White Sulphur Springs, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2021.

Evelyn was born on September 22, 1950 in Greenbrier County, WV to the late Osee Miller and Evelyn (Vaughn) Miller. She met the love of her life, Jack Jenkins, and they wed March 2, 1972. Early in their marriage, they lived in Roanoke, VA, but Evelyn lived most of her childhood and adult life in White Sulphur Springs.

If you were lucky enough to have known Evelyn, you would know she had a heart of gold. She always had a smile on her face and lived life fully with an innocence and childlike joy that made you want to be around her. She loved Christmas - watching and re-watching every Hallmark movie that aired, and the Christmas Story. She enjoyed playing Cornhole and board games with her family, especially Apples to Apples, Yahtzee, and Catchphrase.

She will be remembered by her family for her caring heart, wonderful home cooked meals, and love of God. She always made you feel special with comforting words, a smile, and her spiritual wisdom. As she would say to her family often, "I am highly favored and greatly blessed!"

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Jenkins; and her brothers, Edgar Miller and Glen Miller. She is survived by her children, Jennifer Hancock (Ron) of Lewisburg, WV, and Matthew Jenkins (Karen) of Chillicothe, OH. She was dearly loved and will be missed by her four grandchildren, Noah, Grace, Jack, and Addison; and siblings, Gloria Sparks, Larry Miller, Pattie Blake, Linda Pirkle, Robin Robinson, Carolyn Morgan, and Bobby Miller.

She was absolutely one of the sweetest, kindest people ever on Earth and will be greatly missed, but her family knows they will be with her and their father, Jack, again in Heaven.

Evelyn will be cremated and a private celebration will follow at a later date.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

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

Guest Commentary: Update From the 85th Legislature (4-13-21)

By todd longanacre delegate 42 district wv house | WVDN APR 13, 2021



The final week of the West Virginia Legislature regular session brought about some pride in the political process as well as some disappointments.

Recently a state senator stated that there was a “mini-insurrection” when several dozen house republicans attempted to attend a public open-door meeting between house and senate leadership.

The senate conference room is quite small so the house republicans in attendance were made to stand outside in the hallway. Everyone who has ever taken a tour of the West Virginia Capitol building knows that the ceilings are high and even the most moderate of conversations can echo in the halls.

Now imagine multiple simultaneous sidebar conversations with some laughter among members and it is easy to see why some timid souls could think people were “...chanting, yelling vulgarities, and trying to intimidate senators into changing their votes” and, perhaps, even feel intimidated.

I was present during this so-called “mini-insurrection.” I did not hear chanting or vulgarities. However, as the House GOP leadership entered the conference room the other delegates did render enthusiastic applause. But when the meeting was called to order the hall became extremely quiet save for a sidebar conversation or two at the far end of the hall farthest away from the conference room door.

Also, while I personally did not hear it, I was told that a single GOP delegate did address a GOP senator with a vulgarity at the end of the meeting. While I personally condemn this behavior, it hardly amounted to an insurrection...not even a mini-one! In fact, I remember giving a fist-bump to the same democrat senator while saying “Good morning. We need your help this morning on this bill” as he entered the noisy hallway prior to the meeting.

I have no idea why the same senator characterized the incident as a “mini-insurrection,” particularly since everyone present had the right to be there for this public meeting and nothing happened which could remotely be considered an insurrection. Perhaps this fabrication was created to somehow score political points?

The meeting was about limiting the powers of the executive branch during a state of emergency so that a single individual can no longer be able to issue mandates indefinitely without soliciting input from the lawmakers after a reasonable amount of time. The senators desired to gut the original house bill with amendments to the point of it having no teeth and rendering it neutered and worthless.

The senators in the room used the excuse that the original house bill — the one that had teeth before the Senate amendment — was “unconstitutional.” This particular senate leadership team then refused to let it go to the floor for a full vote and it died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Despite this fact, their narrative is now that the house GOP killed the bill and that it is “on their hands” (referring to the House GOP Caucus). My guess is that the Senate did not have the spine necessary to challenge the executive branch by letting this bill run and sending it to the Senate floor for a full vote. The big question is why? Backroom deals? Gentlemen’s agreements? Unethical promises of future political positions? Time will tell.

H.B. 2363: The Best Interest of the Child Protection Act of 2021. This bill is designed to change the way family courts render judgments on child custody cases. The goal is to set the conditions for the element of fairness for both parents. It does not automatically favor one parent over the other at the beginning of each case. I supported this bill.

H.B. 2694: The Second Amendment Preservation Act. If the governor signs this bill into law, it will forbid local and state law enforcement officers from assisting in federal-level firearms investigations or arrests for infractions of unconstitutional executive orders, etc. It will further protect said officers from liability unless said infractions are in violation of state-level firearms laws. All who opposed this bill in the House were Democrats. I was happy to support this bill.

S.J.R. 4: If it becomes law would give churches and religious denominations the option of incorporating. I supported this bill as it provides options for faith-based organizations.

H.B. 2982: The Second Chance at Life Act of 2021. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill which would mandate that physicians or staff at abortion clinics are required to make women aware that there is an opportunity to chemically save the life of her baby within the first 24 to 48 hours of ingesting an abortion pill, should she change her mind and decide to carry the child full term. I am very proud of this bill.

H.B. 2368: Mylissa Smith’s Law. Another great bill which will mandate that elderly care facilities and hospitals permit family members to visit terminally ill patients so that they do not die alone. If this bill becomes law these health care facilities will not be permitted to use “the virus” or a “state of emergency” as an excuse to not permit family visitation.

S.B. 332: Providing procedure for West Virginia to select delegates to an Article V Convention. While it was amended in the house and passed on Friday, unfortunately, time expired on Saturday when it would have had to be voted on again on third reading. For reasons unknown to this freshman delegate, the leadership held this until the very end of the evening on Saturday night. I hope that was not by design? Sadly the bill died in the house. This was very disappointing as I was looking forward to voting for this bill. It would have set the conditions for a meeting of state delegations for the purpose of addressing an increasing number of federal-level unconstitutional mandates by executive fiat. Congressional term limits, the national debt, the nature of executive orders, and perhaps even stacking the U.S. Supreme Court could have been addressed. Opponents say that a convention of states would lead to the “REWRITING of our Constitution.” I say that this

constitutionally permissible act would lead to a REMINDING of the U.S. Government that We the People are still in control and we want to strengthen and conserve our Bill of Rights, not rewrite them. We will try again in the future.

This will be the last legislative update for a while. I will provide reports during the interim legislative sessions throughout the year as well as other updates as necessary. I encourage everyone to visit www.wvlegislature.gov to see all the other pieces of legislation that made their way through the process this past week.

Godspeed!

Todd Longanacre
Delegate, 42nd District, WV House
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