

# WVDN APR 21, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

50% | 48°/20°

**Justice Clarifies COVID Restrictions; Lifts Social Gathering Limitations**

**SBA Approves Funding For Alderson Elem.**

**Walter Mondale, Carter's Vice President, Dies At 93**

**Alderson Police Department Provides Officer Introductions**

**Freeze Watch Is In Place For April 23-22**

50% | 48°/20°

# Table of Contents

- Lewisburg City Council Meeting April 20 ..... 1**
- Justice Continues To Urge Residents To Get Vaccinated ..... 1**
- Ronceverte Announces Partial Closure Of Main Street Through Thursday ..... 2**
- Eastern Spotted Skunk Seen in Southern West Virginia ..... 4**
- Experience The Louvre from Home ..... 5**
- Russell Lee Johnson ..... 6**

# Lewisburg City Council Meeting April 20

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN APR 21, 2021

The Lewisburg City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on April 20 via Zoom. The agenda included a second reading of the proposed addition of Planned Unit Developments (PUD) in the city zoning ordinance. In addition, other items on the agenda included multiple proclamations, the laying of the levy and improvement plans for Hollowell Park.

After multiple changes put the Planned Unit Development ordinance back to a second “first” reading, the April 20 meeting finally saw a second reading. The mayor opened the public hearing for comment, but no comments were made. Council members then proceeded to a vote in which they unanimously passed the ordinance for the second reading without further changes or discussion.

Another recurring topic is Hollowell Park. The turf project is continuing to move forward. The turf is currently being manufactured. Also, the Parks Commission met on April 6 and discussed a comprehensive plan for improving Hollowell Park at length. According to the Parks Commission report, a group of students from Greenbrier East High School is joining the efforts to improve Hollowell Park. They will be undertaking various improvements utilizing a team effort.

The laying of the levy also took place during this meeting. The levy rates, which according to Mayor White have not changed for an extended period of time will be; Class 1 \$12.50, Class 2 \$25 and Class 4 \$50. The mayor opened up the discussion for public comment. After hearing no public comment, council unanimously voted to approve the laying of the levy.

Multiple proclamations were read during the meeting including one to recognize April 30, 2021, as Children’s Memorial Flag Day. The purpose of this is to memorialize all of the children that lose their lives every year to violence. The day will honor all children who have lost the fight against abuse and neglect. Other proclamations include proclaiming April 30 as Arbor Day in Lewisburg, Osteopathic Medicine Week as April 11 – 18, National Osteopathic Medicine Week as April 18 – 24 and Drinking Water Week as May 2 – 8.

The Lewisburg Fire Department is welcoming a new member. This person is a certified Firefighter and EMT and with council’s approval will move forward with their year of probation. Council expressed no concerns.

## Justice Continues To Urge Residents To Get Vaccinated

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN APR 21, 2021

With 2,800 West Virginian lives now lost due to COVID-19, Gov. Jim Justice continues the effort to get all residents vaccinated.

During his Wednesday, April 21, press conference, Justice announced that 687,045 West Virginians have received the first dose of a Coronavirus vaccine and 520,206 have received their second dose. A total of 1,179,328 vaccines have been administered.

However, it has been rumored that at least 40% of residents have announced they will not get a vaccine at all. If this number is correct, Justice said that is concerning.

After some quick math, Justice declared that he will call his next focus on beating the pandemic Beat 588,000 Bad. This is the number of residents who will need to be vaccinated in order to cross that 40% no vaccination hurdle, Justice explained.

According to Justice, when the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was paused, it caused a lot of people to be scared. But he added that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are still available to those aged 16 and above, and have not been found to be unsafe.

“You have got to really trust all these people who are really, really on their game,” Justice said. “You have got to trust us.”

James Hoyer, director of the Joint Interagency Task Force, stated that West Virginia has “hit a vaccine hesitancy point that we need to get past.”

He added that more West Virginians need to get on board and get vaccinated.

Coronavirus Czar, Dr. Clay Marsh, stated that there are 402 active cases of the UK variant in West Virginia and one Brazilian variant case.

“In Brazil, over half of the patients in the ICU are under 30,” Marsh said, speaking of the Brazilian variant.

For this reason, younger people should continue to get their vaccines, Marsh continued.

Additionally, Justice stated that the mask order is still in place, and will be until he receives guidance from the CDC and other health experts.

## **Ronceverte Announces Partial Closure Of Main Street Through Thursday**

By Matthew Young | WVDN APR 21, 2021



Portions of Main Street in the City of Ronceverte will be closed on Wednesday, April 21 and Thursday, April 22 due to the completion of demolition work.

In a Tuesday evening post on social media, city officials said, "Main Street on the east side will be blocked-off at the four-way (bottom of Ronceverte Hill) all the way down to the Armory tomorrow (Wednesday, April 21) and Thursday (April 22).

Everyone has been asking when the old 'shack' will be taken down. That day is finally here. Reclaim has asked everyone to stay clear of that area."

The West Virginia Daily News will provide updates regarding the partial-closure of Main Street in Ronceverte as additional details are made available.

# Eastern Spotted Skunk Seen in Southern West Virginia

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN APR 21, 2021



An Eastern Spotted Skunk was recently seen in the Marlinton-White Sulphur Springs District. The official Facebook page for the U.S. Forest Service - Monongahela National Forest posted on March 25 that “at least one, possibly two, spotted skunks were caught on camera the second week of the spotted skunk survey on the Marlinton-White Sulphur District...”

One of the reasons this sighting is so exciting is that the Eastern Spotted Skunk or *Spilogale Putorius* is an endangered species. Not only that, but according to the U.S. Forest Service, they are incredibly sneaking and hard to spot. When many people think about skunks, they think only of the striped variety. This is largely because they are so much more prevalent than the spotted skunk.

The Eastern Spotted Skunk is native to North America and can be found throughout the Eastern United States. They are also sometimes found in areas of Canada and Mexico. According to Animal Diversity Web and material based on work supported by the National Science Foundation, the Eastern Spotted Skunk’s habitat is primarily wooded areas and tall-grass prairies. They also occasionally prefer rocky habitats.

The typical mating season for Eastern Spotted Skunks is March and April with the exception of some females in southern states. These females may not mate until July or August based on information compiled by Animal Diversity Web.

Like most skunks, they are mostly nocturnal creatures. Also like other skunks, their defense mechanism is the noxious smell of an oily secretion projected from the animal's anal glands.

According to easternspottedskunk.weebly.com, the Eastern Spotted Skunk is classified as a furbearer in West Virginia and may be trapped during legal trapping season or hunted year-round. However, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has been conducting a study of the spatial ecology and natural history of the Eastern Spotted Skunk. For most of 2019, the West Virginia DNR Eastern Spotted Skunk Study posted regularly to a Facebook page by the same title.

For more information on the Eastern Spotted Skunk or why the sighting was so amazing, reach out to the WVDNR by calling their Wildlife Resources Department at 304-558-2771

## Experience The Louvre from Home

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN APR 21, 2021



Like many businesses around the world, the Louvre in Paris, France, has been closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, they have been implementing virtual options that allow anyone with reliable internet access to visit the home of the famous Mona Lisa. Therefore, even though the Musee du Louvre and Musee National Eugene

Delacroix remain closed “until further notice,” it is possible to enjoy them from the comfort of home. They have issued a notice that for anyone who has purchased a ticket for this period, a refund will automatically be issued.

Speaking of the well-known piece by Leonardo da Vinci, the Louvre now has a virtual reality app centered around the painting, *Mona Lisa: Beyond the Glass*. The experience is unique and is based on knowledge obtained and compiled by Louis Frank and Vincent Delieuvin, the curators of the exhibition. The application is available on both the Apple app store and Google Play.

The link to both is provided at [www.louvre.fr/en/what-s-on/life-at-the-museum/the-mona-lisa-in-virtual-reality-in-your-own-home](http://www.louvre.fr/en/what-s-on/life-at-the-museum/the-mona-lisa-in-virtual-reality-in-your-own-home).

In addition to the *Mona Lisa Virtual Reality* experience, the Louvre is also offering virtual tours. The available tours include *The Advent of the Artist*, *Power Plays*, *Founding Myths: From Hercules to Darth Vader* and *The Body in Movement*. These are the first, second, third and fifth editions of the *Petite Galerie*.

There is also an extensive children’s section virtually available. There are multiple videos included for children to watch. Even though the videos are in French, most are equipped with English subtitles.

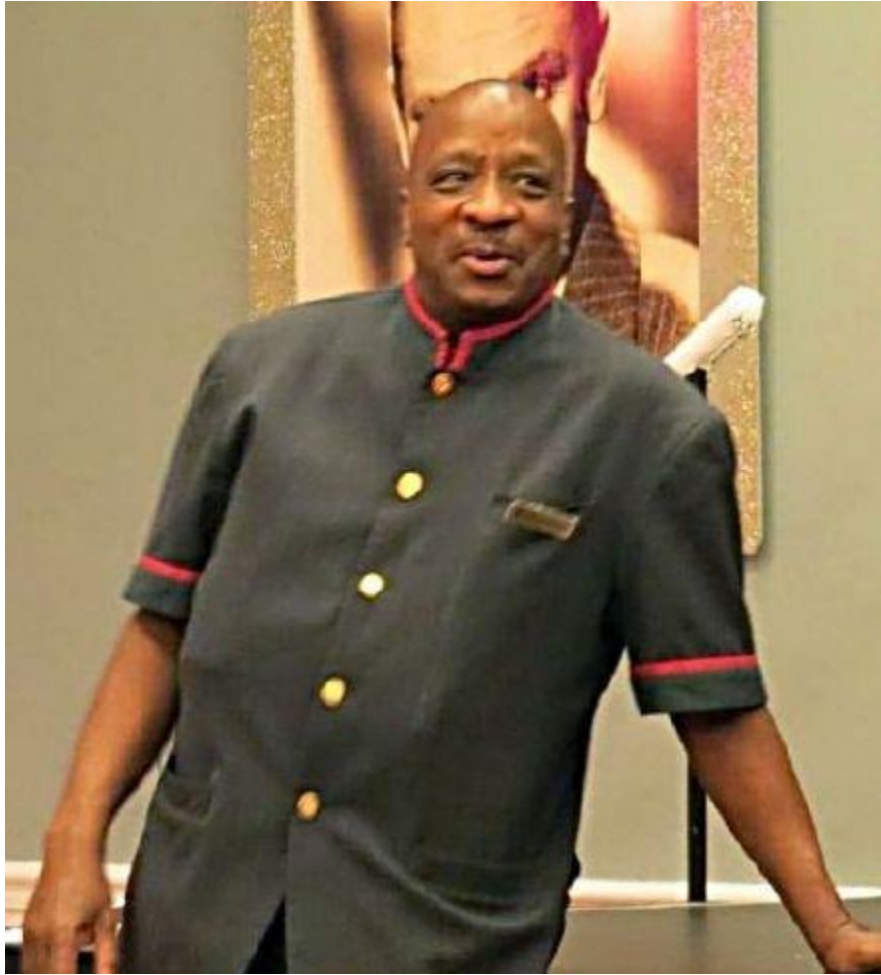
All of the tours and the entire children’s section are free to access. Simply go to [www.louvre.fr/en/online-tours](http://www.louvre.fr/en/online-tours) and click on the desired tour.

In addition to all of their virtual features, The Louvre announced a new acquisition for the Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities in March 2021. This new addition is a marble sculpture that represents the god Harpocrates. According to Greek mythology, Harpocrates was the God of silence and secrecy.

## **Russell Lee Johnson**

By WV Daily News | WVDN APR 21, 2021





## **JOHNSON**

Russell Lee Johnson, 73, of White Sulphur Springs transitioned peacefully from this life to be with his Lord on April 15, 2021, following a short illness at Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem, VA.

He was born February 9, 1948 in Talcott, WV and was the son of the late Charles and Lena Brooks Johnson.

Russell was a member of Faith Outreach Ministries, Pipestem, WV. After graduating from Talcott High School, he went to work at the Greenbrier Hotel as a bellman for 45 years.

Russell had a great passion for fishing and spending time with his grandchildren. He was recognized for his kindness, laughter, and a huge sense of humor.

Preceding Russell in death, other than his parents, was a brother, Charles Johnson, Jr.; sisters, Ella, JoAnn and Marva Johnson.

Those left to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Dreama Boone Johnson of White Sulphur Springs; son, Chris Johnson (Stephanie) of Virginia Beach, VA; stepson, Ariel (AJ) Boone of White Sulphur Springs; daughter, Chasity Johnson of Beckley, WV; six grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many, many friends.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 1 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs with Pastor Rick Whittaker officiating. Interment will follow at the Mt. Zion Baptist Cemetery in Sinks Grove, WV.

The family will receive their family and friends from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m.

The family expresses a special thank you to the staff at Lewis-Gale Medical Center of Salem, VA, the staff at White Sulphur Springs Family Care Center, and the White Sulphur Springs Rescue Squad.

Please use guidelines for Covid-19, masks, and social distancing.

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

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.