

# WVDN MAY 17, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** FOR THE HOMETOWN WEST VIRGINIAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

DEAR ABBY

## Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Comes To An End For West Virginians

By [Author Name]

WEST VIRGINIA — The federal government's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which provided an additional \$600 per week to unemployed workers, will end on May 15, 2021. This means that West Virginians who have been receiving this benefit will no longer be eligible for it after that date.

The program was established in response to the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It allowed individuals who were unable to find work during the pandemic to receive additional financial support. However, as the economy begins to recover, the program is being phased out.

West Virginians who are currently receiving PUA should be notified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the program's expiration. It is important for these individuals to understand the implications of the program's end and to explore other options for financial assistance if needed.

## Ronceverte River Festival Will Return

By [Author Name]

RONCEVERTE — The Ronceverte River Festival, a popular annual event in the town of Ronceverte, West Virginia, is set to return this year. The festival, which has been held since 1978, is a celebration of the town's rich history and natural beauty.

The festival features a variety of activities, including live music, art displays, and food vendors. It is a great opportunity for residents and visitors alike to enjoy the outdoors and support local businesses. The festival is expected to be a successful one, as it has been in previous years.

## Lewisburg CYAC Receives State Funding

By [Author Name]

LEWISBURG — The Lewisburg Community Youth Activities Center (CYAC) has received state funding to support its programs. This funding will help the center continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for the youth of Lewisburg.

The CYAC offers a variety of programs, including sports, arts, and educational activities. These programs are designed to help youth develop their skills and interests, and to provide them with a positive role model. The state funding will be used to purchase equipment, hire staff, and cover other expenses.

## State Fair Officials Announce 2021 Concert Series Performers

By [Author Name]

STATE FAIR — State Fair officials have announced the performers for the 2021 concert series. The series will feature a variety of talented musicians, including country, rock, and bluegrass acts.

The concert series is a popular feature of the State Fair, and it provides a great opportunity for fans to see their favorite artists live. The performers for the 2021 series include [List of Performers]. The series will be held at the State Fairgrounds in [Location].

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# Table of Contents

- Ronceverte River Festival To Return In June ..... 1
- Emma B. Alderson Scholarship Winner Named ..... 2
- Spartan Baseball Splits Weekend Doubleheader ..... 3
- State Fair Officials Announce 2021 Concert Series Performers ..... 5
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance To End For West Virginians ..... 7
- Mack Donie “Tony” McCutcheon ..... 10
- Violette Boggs Wyatt ..... 10
- Online Ordering Now Available at St. Mary’s Galaxy for SNAP Recipients ..... 11
- Let Me Do You A Flavor: Chicken And Green Bean Casserole ..... 12
- May 17 Family Member Wants Flow Of Unwanted Junk Mail To Stop ..... 14
- Life Jackets Prevent Drowning Deaths ..... 15
- Hazel Marie Burger ..... 15
- Lady Spartans Rebound After Big Loss ..... 17
- Lewisburg CYAC Receives State Funding ..... 17

# Ronceverte River Festival To Return In June

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

Ronceverte River Festival committee members are excited to announce that the river festival will be making a return this June.

According to Ronceverte River Festival Committee Chair, Mark Mengel, the festival will kick off on Friday, June 11, with a grand parade and end with a fireworks display on Saturday, June 12.

Typically, the festival lasts three days, but due to the lack of fundraising activities, and the last-minute scramble to organize the event, the committee decided to make the festival the best that they could by omitting Sunday's activities.

It wasn't until March of this year that festival organizers even knew they would be able to have an outdoor event, Mengel said.

"It excited us, but we couldn't do what we wanted to do," Mengel continued. "This year, rather than a bigger event that would have been slapped together, we decided to have a smaller event, done well."

"The fact that we are having a festival is wonderful," he added.

As always, throughout the festival, children and adults will be able to enjoy live music, games, contests and enjoy the ever-popular Great Rubber Ducky Race.

Mengel also announced that the festival committee was able to contribute an additional \$2,000 toward what may be one of the best fireworks displays ever.

Also, the committee has been able to announce the Ronceverte River Festival Queen — Bridgett Altizer.

The following is a schedule of events provided by the Ronceverte River Festival Committee:

## Friday, June 11

5:45 p.m. — Parade line-up starts at Island Park. Participants in the parade do not need to register, but must be present early enough for line-up. Trophies will be awarded for the best non-motorized miscellaneous, antique car, street rod, dance group, civic organization, float/walking group, motorcycle, farm/antique equipment, horse-drawn, equestrian, fire truck, EMS squad and festival committee favorite.

7 p.m.-7:30 p.m. — Buddy Allen and the Cheat River Band will perform at the amphitheater.

8:30 p.m. — The Victor Kent Family Circus performs at the Island Park.

## Saturday, June 12

10 a.m. — Rock painting, duck pond and best-dressed duck coloring contest continues.

11 a.m. — Strawberry shortcake sale sponsored by the Friends of the Ronceverte Library; children's games begin and the Victor Kent Family Circus performs.

11:30 a.m — Three on three basketball tournament sponsored by the Ronceverte Lions Club.

3 p.m. — Sale of the Great Rubber Ducky Race tickets ends, music by The Thomas Taylor Band and the Victor Kent Family Circus performs.

4 p.m. — The Great Rubber Ducky Race. Winners are notified by phone or mail following the race.

4:30 p.m. — More music by The Thomas Taylor Band.

5 p.m. — Duck hunt.

6 p.m. — Punt, pass and kick competition sponsored by the Ronceverte Raiders, the Victor Kent Family Circus performs, the best-dressed duck contest ends and judging begins.

7:30 p.m. — Fallen Rock performs at the amphitheater.

9 p.m. — The Victor Kent Family Circus performs and voting for best-dressed duck ends.

10 p.m. — Fireworks.

Tickets for the Great Rubber Ducky Race are currently on sale for \$5 at various locations throughout Ronceverte, Fairlea and Lewisburg.

Mengel added that volunteers are always needed for events at the Ronceverte River Festival. To become a volunteer, contact Mengel at 304-647-8864.

## **Emma B. Alderson Scholarship Winner Named**

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



Alderson Women's Club met on Tuesday, May 4 and announced the winner of The Emma B Alderson Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to a student who has previously attended Alderson Elementary School and is active in their community.

They are proud to announce that it is awarded to Azjah Woods who is a senior at GEHS. Azjah plans to attend WVU in the fall and pursue a degree in nursing. She is very deserving of this scholarship and has a very promising future. The club had several applicants to choose from and want to express our appreciation to each one.

Members of the club will also participate in a "Make it Shine" cleanup event on Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate can meet at the gazebo at the end of the old Alderson bridge. Supplies will be provided to help pick up trash around the river area. Contact Doris Kasley if you have any questions. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1 at 6 p.m. at the Old Victorian Inn and it will include a pot luck dinner. Please plan on attending and enjoying some good food and fellowship.

## **Spartan Baseball Splits Weekend Doubleheader**

By brandon baker wvbn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



The Greenbrier East Spartans offense was on full display all weekend when they beat John Marshall 15-14 in the first of two games on Saturday, May 15.

The thriller may have taken East's energy for the nightcap because East suffered an 8-3 loss at the hands of the Hurricane Redskins in game two.

Against John Marshall, the Spartans took complete control of the game early. In the bottom half of the first inning, Isiah Brooks, Darris Boswell and Noah Hanna all walked to load the bases. Tanner Skidmore then put the ball in play on a fielder's choice, but Brooks came around to score for a 1-0 Spartan lead. After yet another walk, this one by Jordan Mize, and a flyout, Zac Trump came to plate with two outs. On a 2-2 pitch, Trump ripped a two-run single to center and East led 3-0 after one.

The Spartans did not stop there either. More wild pitching from John Marshall starter Joel Wise included a couple more walks and he hit Cooper Via to start the frame. Later in the inning, Trump singled home Boswell and then Chris Heaster laced a two-run double that gave the Spartans a comfortable 8-0 lead. It went to 9-0 when Trump came across the plate.

JM would score five runs in the third aided by Jason Coffield's double and the Monarchs had cut the Spartan lead to 9-5 after three innings.

John Marshall then put up five more runs in the fifth after getting one in the fourth and stormed back to take an 11-9 lead. Wise homered, and Reid Wiley and Dillon Wright also hit doubles that fueled the Monarchs fire.

East scored three runs apiece in the fifth and sixth innings to regain the lead.

Brooks scored on a passed ball and Logan Carr got a sacrifice fly in the fifth while Brooks, Boswell and Carr kept their personal hot streaks going in the sixth inning as well with clutch hits to give the Spartans a 15-11 lead.

But the Monarchs would not go away quietly.

They got four straight hits to start the inning—two doubles, a homerun, and a triple—to close the gap to just one run. Fortunately for the Spartans, Mize came in, stopped the bleeding, and retired three straight batters to secure the Spartans' victory.

Brooks led the way at the plate and went 3-4 with four runs scored. Carr and Trump had two hits apiece and Trump drove in three.

Jacob Rashau got the victory on the mound.

The Spartans led Hurricane 2-1 in the top of the fourth inning after a Hanna single in the first, and when Mize scored on an error by Redskins pitcher Bryson Rigney.

But things began to unravel for East in the bottom of the fifth frame. Two triples in the inning, including one that cleared the bases, elevated Hurricane to an 8-2 lead. Mize's RBI double in the sixth was the final run for the Spartans on the night.

Caleb Thomas took the pitching loss for East. He gave up seven runs in 4.1 innings, but only one of the runs was earned. Mize went 2-2 at the plate while Brooks was 2-4.

The Spartans are 12-3 on the season and are scheduled to play Shady Spring this Tuesday, May 18.

## **State Fair Officials Announce 2021 Concert Series Performers**

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



# the State Fair of West Virginia

*Traditions You Treasure*

The only thing as exciting as knowing the State Fair of West Virginia will return this year, is knowing which performers will be on stage at the Grandstand. Every single year around this time, excitement grows as to who will be coming to the fair. Now, we know.

Officials with the 96th annual State Fair of West Virginia have announced that feature performers, ranging from rap to country to rock and roll, will take over the Grandstand this year.

The dates and performers will be as follows:

August 12: Nelly;

August 13: Whiskey Myers with special guests The Steel Woods;



August 14: for King & Country with special guest Rebecca St. James;

August 15: STYX;

August 16: Mac Powell;

August 17: Shenandoah;

August 18: TBA;

August 19: Tracy Lawrence and Tracy Byrd;

August 20: Brantley Gilbert; and,

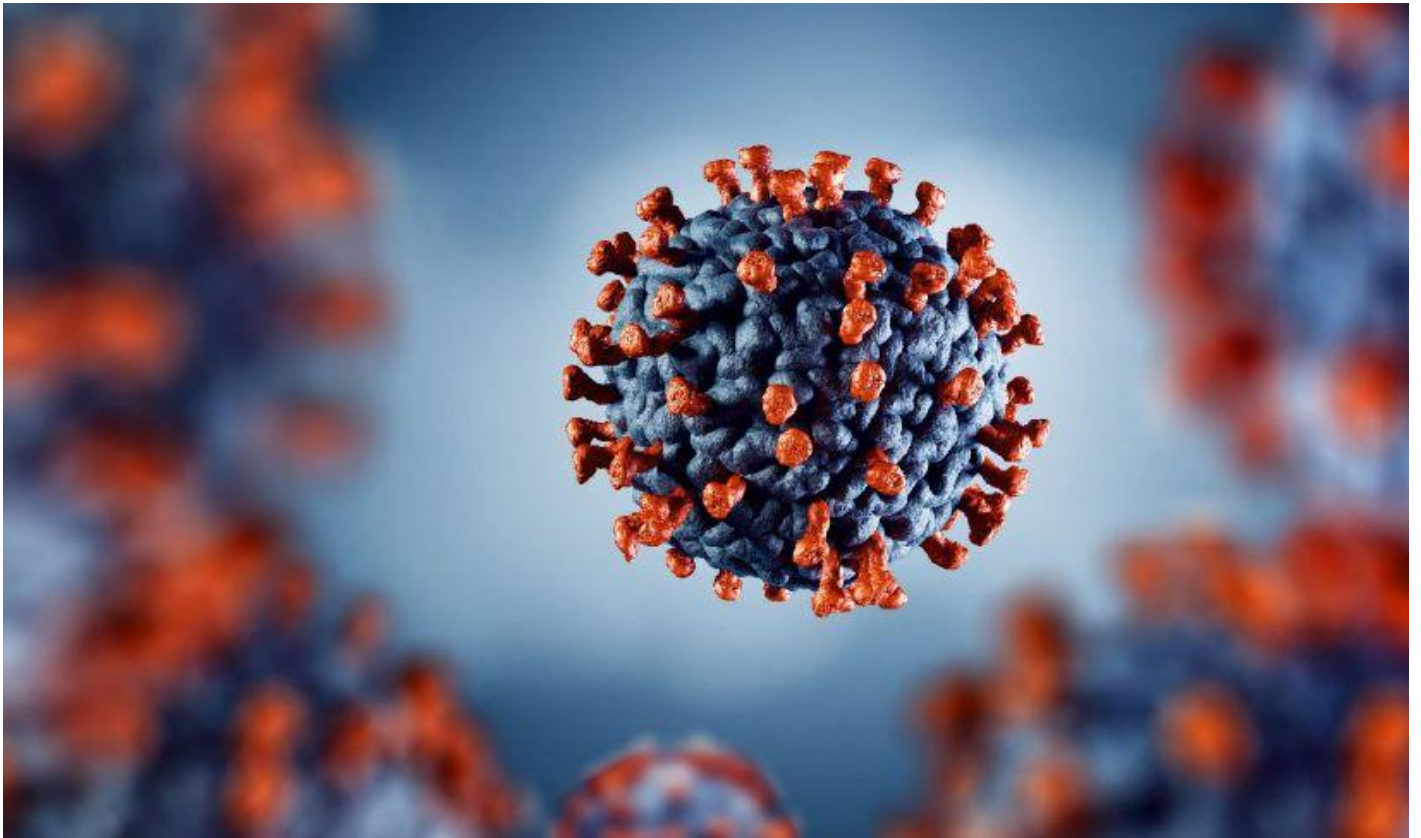
August 21: Buckin' B Bull Ride.

Tickets for all shows will go on sale Friday, May 21, at 10 a.m. and may be purchased by calling 1-800-514-ETIX(3849) or by visiting [www.statefairfowv.com](http://www.statefairfowv.com).

The theme of this year's fair is "Brighter Days Are Here." The State Fair of West Virginia will take place from August 12-21.

## **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance To End For West Virginians**

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



West Virginia will no longer participate in federally funded pandemic unemployment compensation programs effective June 19.

Gov. Jim Justice made this announcement during his Friday, May 14, Coronavirus press briefing.

“West Virginians have access to thousands of jobs right now,” Justice said. “We need everyone back to work. Our small businesses and West Virginia’s economy depend on it.”

“We’ve got to have you back to work,” Justice continued. “America is all about work. That’s what has made this great country. For us to not be back to work, if you’re just taking advantage of these programs, that time is over. It needs to end and we need to move forward.”

Before Justice’s announcement, many local businesses were feeling the effects of needing employees, but not having any applicants to fill those positions.

Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ashley Vickers said that because so many local businesses need employees, the chamber is planning to host a job fair.

An exact date or location for the job fair has not been set, but Vickers said they are looking at hosting the event in June.

However, some business owners, like Wayne Rice, owner of Kirk’s Restaurant in Hinton, said that he decided not to participate in a job fair in Summers County recently because he knew no one would come to fill out applications.

“I have 9-10 job openings, but no one to fill them,” Rice said.

At the start of the pandemic, Rice had to shut the doors to his business when the dining rooms were closed to

the public. He said he tried to do take-out orders only, but after only a week, he ended up losing money. Then, when he was able to open the dining room on restricted hours, he and his wife, Kathy, both got Covid, which caused the restaurant to be closed for 3-4 more weeks.

Since fully reopening, Rice said that he has been working with a staff of only eight people. As a result, he is only able to keep the restaurant open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

“Nobody has been wanting a job,” Rice said. “This is just ridiculous. Right now we have record unemployment in this country, but businesses can’t find people to work. We have never been in this situation in America — record unemployment, but yet nobody can find anybody that will work.” “How do you get in that kind of situation?,” Rice continued. “The government has hindered business to the extent that business can’t even operate.”

Rice said that the starting wage for an employee is \$8.75. However, if a person has experience and the ability to work well, he will offer more money.

As for incentives designed to recruit or keep employees, Rice said that he has decided not to offer them.

“I know some people who have offered \$1,000 incentives to get their employees to stay with them for three months, but that is a big mistake,” Rice continued. “I refuse to offer incentives because I am not going to get into a match with the federal government when they are going to pay them more than I possibly could — with my tax dollars.”

As for this summer, Rice said he worries that any support provided by the government will come too late to allow him to train employees and get the restaurant running at full capacity.

“I am just taking this one day at a time,” Rice said. “The business is out there if you can take care of it, but, right now, we can’t take care of it.”

He added that he does feel blessed that he was able to fulfill his dream of opening his own restaurant 28 years ago, and although he has no intentions of closing, he does worry about what the future might bring.

“We are in a place right now where our local legislators must change something to save our state — like Florida, Texas, South Dakota and Montana have done,” Rice said. “They are totally getting away from unemployment by not taking the federal funds anymore. They are making people get back to work,” Rice stated.

As for West Virginia officials, Rice said they should have reacted to this a long time ago.

When President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance was extended until September 6, 2021.

This meant that thousands of people who lost their jobs because of the Coronavirus pandemic could receive extended benefits with a weekly supplemental benefit of \$300 per week.

This was great news for those receiving the unemployment benefits, but following Justice’s announcement, West Virginia will be heading in a different direction.

According to information provided by those with Workforce WV, federal pandemic unemployment programs set to end on June 19 include the following:

— Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which provides for an additional \$300 weekly

payment to recipients of unemployment compensation;

— Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides benefits for those who would not usually qualify, such as the self-employed, gig workers and part-time workers;

— Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides for an extension of benefits once regular benefits have been exhausted;

— Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC), which provides an additional \$100 benefit to certain people with mixed earnings.

Acting WorkForce WV Commissioner Scott Adkins stated “Workforce West Virginia stands ready to help West Virginians return to the workforce. We know last year was incredibly difficult for many workers in West Virginia and we want to remind folks we are here for them.”

Any weeks filed before June 19 that are eligible under federal program requirements will continue to be processed.

## **Mack Donie “Tony” McCutcheon**

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

### **MCCUTCHEON**

Mack Donie “Tony” McCutcheon, 62, of White Sulphur Springs passed away at his home of natural causes.

Born April 4, 1959 in Ronceverte, he was a son of the late Mack Dempsey and Erma Violet Abbott McCutcheon. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Teddy Abbott and David McCutcheon.

Tony was a landscaper, carpenter, and jack of all trades and a master of none.

Survivors include wife, Connie McCutcheon; sons, Charles Michael Cason Kessinger and significant other, Maira Espinoza of Marlinton, and Brian Deskins of Ronceverte; daughter, Traci Deskins of Alderson; twelve grandchildren; three sisters, Ruth Lephew of Lewisburg, Sonja Kay Pounder and husband, Sam of Fountain, FL, Rhonda Lee Surgeon of Alderson; many nieces and nephews.

Tony will be cremated with a memorial service held May 22, 2021 at 2 p.m. at the camp at Fort Springs.

Online condolences may be made at [Lantzfuneralhome.com](http://Lantzfuneralhome.com).

Lantz Funeral Home in Alderson is in charge of arrangements.

## **Violette Boggs Wyatt**

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



## **WYATT**

Violette Boggs Wyatt, 88, of White Sulphur Springs, passed away Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Born October 27, 1932 at Alvon, WV, she was a daughter of the late Lewis B. Boggs and the late Mary Pearl Campbell Boggs.

Violette was a graduate of White Sulphur Springs High School and was employed at the Greenbrier Hotel, until she became a stay-at-home mother.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John S. "Dickie" Wyatt; four brothers, Lonnie, Chester, Forest, and Gordon Boggs; one sister, Margaret Boggs Neudorfer.

Survivors include three children, Dr. Richard Wyatt and wife, Angie of Huntsville, AL, John Wyatt and wife, Belinda, and Valerie Wyatt Sabbag, all of White Sulphur Springs; two sisters, Geneva Kitchelt of Bowie, MD and Agnes Surbaugh of White Sulphur Springs; one brother, Emmitt Boggs of Murrells Islet, SC; five grandchildren, Jacob Wyatt, Molly Wyatt Boynton (Jimmy), Wyatt Hunter Sabbag, Anthony Sabbag, and Matthew Wyatt; and three great-grandchildren, Cooper, Talia, and Quincy Sabbag.

Funeral service will be 12 p.m. Monday, May 17, 2021 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, White Sulphur Springs, with Pastor Wes Comer officiating. Burial will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

The family will receive friends 11 a.m. until time of the service on Monday.

We will be following Covid-19 regulations and ask all guests to wear a mask.

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.

# Online Ordering Now Available at St. Mary's Galaxy for SNAP Recipients

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) announced the addition of online purchasing at St. Mary's Galaxy for West Virginians using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This benefit is available through the West Virginia Mountain State Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program and the West Virginia Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program beginning May 12.

"Offering safe grocery options for EBT and P-EBT cardholders in West Virginia remains important as the COVID-19 pandemic continues," said Jacquelyn Hoppe, director, DHHR's Office of EBT Banking Services. "We are pleased to expand online ordering for shoppers at St. Mary's Galaxy."

For more information about West Virginia Mountain State Electronic Benefits Transfer or P-EBT, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/ebt/>.

# Let Me Do You A Flavor: Chicken And Green Bean Casserole

By Lindsey Wolford WVDN Columnist | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



Hey, welcome back! This week I have an easy recipe that is sure to please the entire family, won't break the bank, take very little prep work and is bursting with flavor. So pour a drink and sit back and relax because that is what you will be doing while this meal cooks itself!

This week I am bringing you an easy casserole that you can prepare the night before or throw together at dinnertime and still have time to spare — this is a Chicken and Green Bean Casserole that has all the fun parts of green bean casserole with a kick. For this recipe you will need:

- 1 bag of Tyson grilled chicken breast strips (found in the freezer section)
- 1 medium onion
- 1 50-ounce can of green beans (or several smaller cans)
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 cloves of garlic, freshly minced
- 1 bag of French fried onions
- Paprika
- Salt and pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 cup water
- 2 dashes of Worcestershire sauce

Cook the frozen chicken in the microwave according to the package directions — this should take less than 10

minutes. Preheat the oven to 350°. While the chicken is cooking dice the onion. When the chicken is done cut it into bite-sized pieces.

In a large bowl combine all the ingredients except the fried onions. Mix well and pour into a large casserole dish.

Bake for 35-45 minutes, then remove from the oven and spread the entire bag of fried onions on the top and bake for an additional 10 minutes. Voila, dinner is served. When I talked with Annie and Clay at the Village Wine Shop about a possible wine pairing for this week's dish, here is what they had to say:

"To enhance any delicious, creamy dish, regardless of your recipe, a light Pinot Grigio will give that much-needed "quench" at just the right moment. The Pinot Grigio grape craves that balance of strong and delicate! A well-suited partner in wine. Of course, there is always the superstar to any creamy, garlicky creation called Chardonnay! Different than the contrast of the bold and beautiful, this is a match made in Heaven. The quintessential Chardonnay grape can be aged in lots of ways such as Stainless Steel or French Oak. Both give this beauty a firm foundation to shine like the star she is.

Some chardonnay is citrusy, bold, semi-dry and rarely sweet, then some are fat, bold, butter bombs like our favorite, Rombauer! It's the battle of the butters when this commanding libation enters stage left, to accompany the garlic, the cream, the onion, the cheese....to center stage! Best served at 41°, your chardonnay or pinot grigio will kick up the heat in the kitchen, especially when you cook with it! You can even add some to the dish!"

Recently I made this and served it with fried portabella mushrooms, but you can make an easy side salad or some rice and serve it over rice. You can add other veggies like mushrooms, peas and carrots to bulk it up a little — as usual the options are endless as long as you keep an open mind.

This casserole costs \$15.28 to make and would easily serve 4-6 people with leftovers — that's \$2.55/person!! While this casserole is cooking take the time to hang out with family or friends and prepare your side dish. This is also a great casserole to take to someone who is recovering or going through a tough time and needs a pick-up.

I hope you enjoy and as always, I am sending love from my kitchen to yours!

## May 17 Family Member Wants Flow Of Unwanted Junk Mail To Stop

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

**Dear Abby:** Like many people in this country, my family has an aversion to throwing things out that might still be useful. Rather than load up the van and head to Goodwill, they give the stuff to me — partially used bottles of shampoo, a half-used pack of wipes, hair conditioner that smells too awful for them to use but they're sure I'll like, unwanted change purses and jewelry I would never wear, even puzzles with missing or dog-chewed pieces. They have also tried to offload old sewing machines, DVDs they won't watch and craft supplies for projects I don't enjoy.

Once, a sister tried to give me an old toaster oven filled with burnt breadcrumbs. (I have celiac disease.) Another time, Dad gave me a gift certificate for an oil change my mother won in a raffle after telling me he



and another sister won't go to that auto shop because they damaged my sister's engine and did a lousy job working on my parents' car!

It's not like I'm so poor I can't afford my own toaster oven or wipes, but if I turn down their unwanted items, as politely as I can, they become defensive with me. So I usually just say thanks and either toss the stuff in the trash or load it into my van and take it to Goodwill myself. But I'm tired of feeling like the family dump and wish I could find a way to get it through their lovingly muddled heads that I'd rather not be "gifted" with their junk. Any thoughts? — **Thanks But No Thanks in Mississippi**

**DEAR T.B.N.T.:** The next time your parents and siblings call to tell you they're coming over with more discards, tell them you know they mean well, but NO. And keep repeating it until they finally get through their lovingly muddled heads that you mean it.

**Dear Abby:** I am writing because I'm in a tough situation and not sure what to do. I was recently told by a family member that my 24-year-old son is gay. (He hasn't given me any indication that he is, other than not dating anyone for several years.) He had a bad experience with a girl in his teens and I assumed that was why he hasn't dated.

My question for you is, should I confront him about it or wait until he tells me? I have come to terms with the possibility and will stand by him no matter what. I am also concerned that his father (we are divorced) will disown him if he finds out. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. — **Mom in Ohio**

**Dear Mom:** It would be interesting to know why this relative thinks your son is gay. Did your son tell the relative? I don't think you should "confront" your son. In time his sexual orientation will become apparent whether he's gay, straight, bi, asexual, etc. It should be his choice to reveal it — or not.

P.S. If he is gay, your ex-husband's inability to accept his son, regardless of his sexual orientation, may be the reason he hasn't spoken up.

*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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## Life Jackets Prevent Drowning Deaths

By matthew young | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

Statistics from the United States Coast Guard indicate that, in 2019, 86% of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents where cause of death was known were not wearing life jackets. The National Park Service reports that drowning is the top cause of visitor deaths in national parks and that nearly all of those deaths are preventable.

One of the simplest ways to prevent drowning is to follow the advice of the NPS and wear a life jacket at all times when near or in the water. This includes when wading, swimming, fishing, boating, and engaging in watersports or other water-related activities. The NPS notes that there are three types of life jackets, but only two come in child and infant sizes. Inherently buoyant (primarily foam) life jackets and hybrid (foam and inflation) life jackets are available in child and infant sizes. The NPS recommends both types of life jackets for swimmers and non-swimmers. People who intend to engage in water sports should know that some hybrid life jackets are designed specifically for such activities. The third type of life jacket is inflatable life jackets, which are only available in adult sizes and should never be worn by poor or non-swimmers.

# Hazel Marie Burger

By WV Daily News | WVDN MAY 17, 2021



## **BURGER**

Hazel Marie Burger, 89, of White Sulphur Springs, WV, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 14, 2021, at Peyton Hospice House surrounded by her family. Hazel was the last member of her immediate family.

Born in Green Sulphur Springs, WV, on June 28th 1931, she was the daughter of the late Thomas Vernon and Dorothy Farland Fox Reynolds.

She was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. Hazel graduated from Cosmetology school in Bluefield. Following graduation, she worked as a beautician at the Greenbrier Hotel; she then decided for a career change and became hostess at the O'Neil's Restaurant; and then she moved on to cook for Bone's Diner, becoming well known for her signature sandwich, the "Big D", as well as her homemade pies. While raising her family, she enjoyed gardening and raising flowers and had a great love for animals, which often times, the family would be surprised by a new resident that she took in (animal).

Other than her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Lewis Burger; her children, Sherry Lynne Russell, and Thomas Ray Burger; she is also preceded by her siblings, Enos Reynolds and Elizabeth "Betty" Burdette; and son-in-law, William Billy Ewing.

Survivors include her daughter, Sandy Ewing; granddaughter, Tracey Boggs and husband, Denny; grandson, Brandon DePriest and wife, Kelly; great-grandchildren, Micheala Boggs, Nathaniel Boggs, Kayli DePriest, Laney DePriest, and Harlow DePriest; 3 special children, Carolyn Taylor Feury, Catherine Fife Heilig, and Emmett Sullivan.

The family would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to Greenbrier Health Care Nursing Home (Stacey O'Dell and Connor Pyles) and Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, beginning at 1 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, WV, with Pastor Michael Neel officiating. Burial will follow at Allegheny Memorial Park in Low Moor, VA.

Visitation for the public will be held one hour prior at the funeral home.

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.

## **Lady Spartans Rebound After Big Loss**

By brandon baker wvdn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

The Greenbrier East Lady Spartans met their match on Wednesday, May 12 when they lost to the St. Albans Red Dragons 8-0.

East did not get a hit and committed five errors in the field in a game that will be the anomaly of the season.

However, the Spartans bounced back in a big way and looked like their old selves again when they shutout the Oak Hill Red Devils 11-0 on Friday, May 14.

Taylor Graham shut the Red Devils down as she threw a complete game shutout. The senior went five innings, gave up just three hits and struck out four.

East secured the victory thanks to eight runs in the fourth inning. The rally was led by an error on a ball put in play by Annabelle Honaker and Aubrey Glover, a walk by Brooke Davis, and a double by Graham.

Brooke Spangler took the loss for Oak Hill. She lasted four innings, allowed eight hits and 11 runs while striking out two.

The Spartans (10-2) collected eight hits on the day. Graham, Olivia Plybon, and Josie Patterson each had multiple hits. Glover had five stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 17 total.

East Spartans did not commit a single error in the game.

Kylie Pelky went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Oak Hill.

## **Lewisburg CYAC Receives State Funding**

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN MAY 17, 2021

The Child and Youth Advocacy Center (CYAC) will receive another year of funding after Gov. Jim Justice awarded \$2,118,674 to 22 advocacy centers throughout the state.

The Lewisburg-based CYAC will receive \$100,777 to continue addressing the growing problem of child abuse and neglect, according to a press release from the office of the Governor.

Staci Russell-Teaney, executive director of the CYAC, said these funds are awarded yearly and are used to

support employee salaries, especially the prevention education coordinator who teaches body safety and anti-bullying curriculum at local elementary schools. The money also goes toward training, community outreach and providing children with a safe environment to discuss events in their life.

One of the most important components of the CYAC is forensic interviewing, Russell-Teaney said.

“When there is a child alleged or suspected of being the victim of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or drug endangerment; or if they witnessed a violent crime or domestic violence in the home, or some other form of violent crime, they come in and meet with one of our forensic interviewers,” Russell-Teaney explained. “The forensic interview helps the child provide details that an investigator would need to follow up on a crime.”

All interviews are conducted in a non-threatening way to the child, Russell-Teaney added. “Our focus is on the child’s well-being and what is in their best interest.”

Additionally, the CYAC provides advocacy services to children and non-offending family members who need help with the court system, or who need therapy services, Russell-Teaney said.

On average, the CYAC helps 200 children in Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas counties annually, she continued.

Without state funding, Russell-Teaney said the CYAC wouldn’t be around to offer any services to those in the community.

“It supports our salaries so we can provide free services to everyone who walks through our door,” she concluded.

Justice stated in the press release that he believes programs like the CYAC stand up for kids “who truly need it the most.”

“When it comes to severe cases of child abuse and neglect, these are situations that no child should ever have to go through,” Justice stated. “They are flat-out unacceptable, and I believe we need to do everything in our power to hold whoever would do these kinds of things accountable and bring them to justice.”

The funds are provided by the state of West Virginia and are administered by the Justice and Community Services section of the West Virginia Division of Administrative Services.