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# Kathryn Louise Slussar

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

## **SLUSSAR**

Kathryn Louise Slussar, 70, of Rupert, passed away June 1 in her home following a long illness.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Freeland and Eva Slussar; one brother, Freddie Joe Slussar; and her best friend, Rose McClung.

Left to cherish her memory are her brothers, Alvin Slussar of Akron, OH, Okey Slussar of Columbus, OH, Franklin Slussar (and wife, Beatrice) of Russellville, Arthur Slussar of Rupert, and Danny Slussar (and wife, Teresa) of Ashboro, NC; her sisters, Jeannie Bostic (and husband, Earl) of Rupert, Brenda Slussar and Tammy Slussar both of Ravenna, OH; and she will be missed by several nieces and nephews.

Kathryn was a minister who served the Lord her entire life. Her mission was to spread the gospel.

Per Kathryn's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no services at this time.

Please send online condolences at [www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com](http://www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com).

Arrangements by Smathers Funeral Chapel, Inc., Rainelle.

# Lisa Jo Ervin

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



## **ERVIN**

February 16, 1962

- June 1, 2021

Lisa Jo Ervin, from Lewisburg, went to be with her beloved parents, Bill and Emma Lee Morgan, on June 1, 2021.

Lisa fought a long battle, but continued to live each day of her life to the fullest and with the utmost grace. Lisa never let anything stand in her way of doing what she loved. Lisa was a beautician at the Upper Cut for 17 years. Even though being a beautician and riding horses were her passion, her most treasured role was being a mother to her two beautiful children, Gretchen Emily and Katie Ann.

On this earth, Lisa leaves behind her sister, Teresa Clower (Terry); brother, Barry Morgan (Donna); her husband, Julius Ervin; eldest daughter, Gretchen, youngest, Katie; and her best friend and furry companion, Fifi the Yorkie Marie.

Lisa could lighten up any room she was in and would always leave you laughing.

Please join the family in remembering the life of Lisa. The viewing will be held at the McCraw Funeral Home on Friday, June 4, 2021 at 12 p.m., and the services will begin at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Salem Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Organ Cave, WV, with a dinner to follow for anyone who would like to join.

McCraw Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of the arrangements.

# Greenbrier County Broadband Committee to Hold Rally for Rural Broadband Access

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

Now is the time to enhance broadband across West Virginia. If we all work together, we can connect the hills and hollows of rural America. And we need your help!

The newly-formed Greenbrier County Broadband Council will hold a rally for broadband on Friday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the greenspace in the center of downtown Lewisburg. First Friday activities also will be taking place.

The rally will bring together local and statewide partners to push for immediate action on broadband enhancement. Central to this expansion is the American Rescue Plan, which provides funds to counties, cities, and towns to decide how to best spend the funds to benefit their communities. Most importantly, public participation is needed. Attendees will be given opportunities to fill out a broadband survey, help out with mapping, and sign a petition for a special legislative session on broadband. There will also be an art project for children.

Participants include:

Senator Stephen Baldwin (& other legislators locally and from across the state)

Generation West Virginia & Generation Greenbrier Valley

Greenbrier County Commission & Region 4 Planning Commission

Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce

Greenbrier County Schools

WV School of Osteopathic Medicine

Robert C. Byrd Clinic

Greenbrier County Public Libraries

Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Authority

Greenbrier Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Greenbrier County Schools (including band & cheerleaders)

Office of Senator Joe Manchin

Additional information will be forthcoming.

# West Virginia Expands Prizes Of Lottery For Vaccinated

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia's vaccine lottery for those who received a coronavirus shot will include prizes ranging from hunting rifles to \$1 million.

Republican Gov. Jim Justice announced more details about the program on Tuesday. The first winners will be announced on June 20, which also marks West Virginia's birthday and Father's Day. It is also the date on which the statewide mask mandate will be lifted.

Prizes on that day will include two four-year scholarships to any higher education institution in West Virginia for vaccinated residents aged 12 to 25. The state will also give away two Rocky Ridge version Ford F-150 trucks, 25 weekend getaway packages to state parks, five lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, five custom hunting rifles and five hunting shotguns. One person will also receive \$1 million.

The weekly giveaways will last until August 4.

All West Virginia residents who have received at least one shot are eligible for the lottery.

## City Of Ronceverte Meeting Agendas

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

City Finance Meeting Agenda:

Ronceverte City Hall

Monday, June 7 at 5 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes
2. Budget adjustment
3. Other business
4. Comments
5. Adjournment

City Council Meeting Agenda:

Ronceverte City Hall

Monday, June 7

6:30 p.m. Special City Council Meeting

7 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

1. Call to order
2. Meet as Board of Canvassers for the June 1 Ronceverte Municipal General Election

3. Meet as Board of Canvassers to possibly publicly declare the election results
4. FY21 budget announcement
5. Water R
6. related business
7. Shentel franchise agreement
8. Ronceverte Library board appointments
9. "American Rescue Plan Act 2021" bank account
10. Reports
11. Other business
12. Council members comment
13. Adjournment

## Sponsors hail Naomi Osaka's 'courage' on mental health

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

By MAE ANDERSON and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — A few years ago, a star athlete dropping out of a major tennis tournament over mental health issues might have been seen as a sign of weakness.

Today, at least for Naomi Osaka's corporate sponsors, it is being hailed as refreshingly honest.

That would explain why so many of them have stuck by Osaka after the four-time Grand Slam champion announced Monday that she was withdrawing from the French Open because she didn't want to appear for the requisite news conferences that caused her "huge waves of anxiety."

Osaka, who also acknowledged suffering "long bouts of depression," received criticism by some who say the media events are just "part of the job." But Nike, Sweetgreen and other sponsors put out statements in support of the 23-year-old star after she revealed her struggles.

"Our thoughts are with Naomi," Nike said in a statement. "We support her and recognize her courage in sharing her own mental health experience." Sweetgreen tweeted that its partnership with Osaka "is rooted in wellness in all its forms." And Mastercard tweeted: "Naomi Osaka's decision reminds us all how important it is to prioritize personal health and well-being."

Allen Adamson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce, said that Osaka's disclosure has made her a more authentic spokesperson — and more valuable to corporate sponsors.

Osaka, who was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Haitian father, moved to the United States with her family when she was 3, and now lives in Los Angeles.

She has taken a leading role in protesting the deaths last year of George Floyd and other Black people who died at the hands of the police, wearing a mask with a different victim's name on each match day at the 2020 U.S. Open. She was named the 2020 AP Female Athlete of the Year.

According to Forbes, Osaka is the world's highest-paid woman athlete, earning \$37 million in 2020 from blue-chip sponsors such as Tag Heuer, AirBnB, and Louis Vuitton in addition to Mastercard and Nike.

Nike has stood by sports stars after other controversies, including Tiger Woods after his 2009 sex scandal and former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick after he knelt during games to protest police brutality against Black people. But it recently dropped Brazilian soccer star Neymar after he refused to cooperate with an internal investigation into sexual assault allegations from a Nike staffer.

Osaka's disclosure comes as celebrities and other public figures openly address their own issues with depression and anxiety. Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan Markle, shared their experiences in a televised

interview with Oprah Winfrey and have since teamed with her to create a mental health focused series called "The Me You Can't See," in which Prince Harry talks about working through anxiety and grief. Osaka also joins a growing list of top-tier athletes speaking out about mental health. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, NBA players Kevin Love and DeMar DeRozan, and the WNBA's A'ja Wilson have all spoken very publicly about their bouts with depression, sharing both the successes and setbacks. The four Grand Slam tournaments reacted to Osaka's withdrawal by pledging to do more to address players' mental health issues. The episode also could serve as a tipping point for the professional tennis tours — and leagues in other sports — to safeguard athletes' mental, and not just physical, health, said Windy Dees, professor of sport administration at the University of Miami. "It's absolutely a growth opportunity for the (Women's Tennis Association) and all leagues, there's a lot of work to be done," Dees said.

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AP Sports Writer Howard Fendrich in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

## English Country Dance is Alive and Revived

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



English Country Dance (ECD) is starting up again on Friday, June 11 from 7-9 p.m. at St. James Episcopal church on Court Street in Lewisburg. ECD is similar to contra dance and shares some figures with square dancing. There are no fancy steps. Couples dance various figures with a brisk walking step set to beautiful music. (What better way to get some mental and physical exercise.)

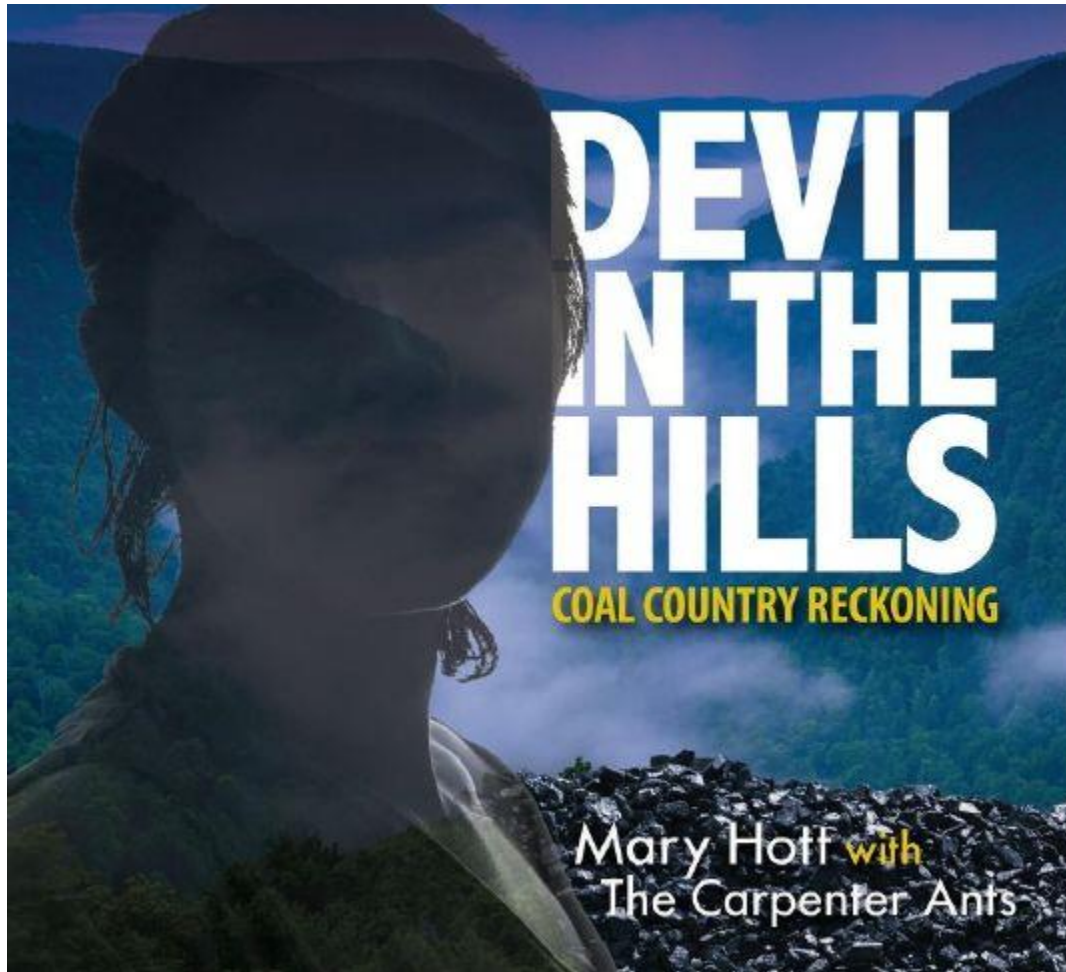
ECD has a long tradition dating back to the 1600s. Dances from these early years are still danced today although many modern dances and music have also been choreographed and composed.



Beginners are welcome. We will be starting with simple dances. Come single or together. Wear comfortable shoes. The cost is a donation (\$5) to the church for using the space and utilities

## Music Review: Mary Hott Brings Wrongs To Light Regarding W.Va. Mine Wars

By steven wine associated press | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



Mary Hott with the Carpenter Ants, "Devil in the Hills: Coal Country Reckoning" (Harmonic Alliance)

This is grim history beautifully told.

Mary Hott has put to music the tragic tale of West Virginia's mine wars. They ended 100 years ago this summer, but her songs show the resulting emotional damage still lingers in the region.

No wonder: In Hott's telling, the wars were a violent clash of rich and poor involving terrorism, slave labor and sexual exploitation often kept secret. "Devil in the Hills: Coal Country Reckoning" brings the wrongs to light in a powerful way, and the album package includes extensive, informative liner notes.

"If you don't believe me," Hott sings, "then shame on you."

Hott is a seventh-generation West Virginian who had a career in software engineering before returning to her native Morgan County to run the local arts council. She released her first album of original material in 2014 and wrote seven of the songs on "Devil in the Hills." Among the three covers is a moving rendition of "Take

Me Home, Country Roads,” with Hott backed by gospel piano.

She has a first-rate supporting cast in the Carpenter Ants, with indie rock veteran Don Dixon and Mountain Stage house band guitarist Michael Lipton co-producing. The music is rootsy rock with echoes of Appalachia that perfectly suits Hott’s appealing alto and honors a singular genre: history matters.

## **Monroe County Health Department To Give COVID Vaccination During Farmer's Day**

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

On Saturday, June 5, the Monroe County Health Department will be administering COVID-19 vaccines during Farmer’s Day from 8:30-11 a.m. The vaccine is available to those 12 years of age and older. Minors must have a parent or guardian with them to receive the vaccine.

The MCHD is located at 200 Health Center Drive.

## **Farmer's Day Horse Show To Host Food By Reining Warriors**

By Theresa Flerx WVDN | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



The 66th Annual Farmer's Day Horse Show will see a new nonprofit concession stand to offer snacks and lunch while benefiting a great cause.

The 2021 event will host food by Reining Warriors.

"It is our first year serving at Farmer's Day. Funds benefit the care of our horses and facilities as it directly benefits our veterans, first-responders, and our kids doing our Pony Tales program," said Sonya Fullen, wellness advocate with Reining Warriors.

Pony Tales is an equine-assisted learning program providing beginning horsemanship lessons and support with reading and math skills for children.

Horses Healing Heroes provides hands-on support for servicemen and women, and first responders through a specific eight-week equine-assisted program focusing on equine care, management, groundwork and horseback riding, as well as, therapeutic healing techniques to assist the recovery process.

The beneficial partnership between horse and rider has been recognized throughout history, even being acknowledged in Winston S. Churchill's famous quote, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."

Food is also known to bring comfort and in the case of Saturday's concessions, it will help to provide funds to bring the healing qualities of beasts to mankind. Reining Warriors will be serving barbecue, hot dogs, nachos with chili and cheese, chips, drinks, candy, cookies and fried apple pies.

Visit Reining Warrior's Facebook page for more information on this nonprofit organization located in Pickaway. The Southern WV Show and Trail Horse Club Farmer's Day event will be held on Saturday, June 5, at Cecil Hinkle Jr. Field, with registration starting at 11 a.m. Showtime is set for 1:30 p.m.

Registration for equine entries in Saturday's parade will begin in the same field at 8 a.m., with all other entries registered on Mountain View Drive. The parade will start at 11 a.m.

Sponsored by the Union Chamber of Commerce, Farmer's Day is an "old-fashioned annual event honoring

Monroe County's agricultural heritage. Highlights of the event are street dance, photography show, parade, free hot dog supper and family field day, karaoke, and fireworks."

Farmer's Day events begin Friday, June 4, and run through Sunday, June 6. For information on events and the horse show schedule, visit the Union Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

## **Celebration Of Life To Be Held In Honor Of Carol Marie Dean**

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



Larry, Gary and Kenny Dean cordially invite you to attend a "Celebration of Life" in honor of Carol Marie Dean, our loving wife and mother.

Carol Dean, also warmly known as Mrs. Preacher to many, touched the lives of each person with whom she came into contact as she worked alongside her husband, Pastor Larry Dean, at Liberty Baptist Church from 1980 to 1998. Today, she is in Heaven with Jesus and we wish to celebrate her life and remember all of the lives she has touched with this event.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, June 5 2021 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene, located on Dawkins Drive. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the celebration.

# Greenbrier County Courthouse News May 28 - June 3

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

## Marriages

Evan Orlie Beavers to Kendra Faith Roy;

Laken Lewis Waid to Lauren Nicole Straub;

Kevin Wayne Miller to Audrey Milton Nadicksbernd;

Christopher Matthew Hayslett to Emma Jane Coole.

## Fiduciaries

William Charles Hazlebeck IV, Executor of the Jeannette Louise Hazlebeck estate;

Virginia Hukins, Executrix of the Pattie Stroud estate;

Amanda C Daniels, Administratrix of the Pamela Ellen Capaldo estate;

Nickie Charles Glover, Executor of the Gloria G Glover estate;

Paul S Nester, Executor of the Velva Inez Nester estate;

Juanita Spinks, Administratrix of the Ricky Allen Spinks estate;

Lottie Sue Morgan, Executrix of the Jesse Webster Morgan estate;

Linda Darlene Morgan, Administratrix of the Jane Charlotte Tomlinson estate;

Cathy Johnson, Administratrix of the Kevin Dale Johnson estate;

Mont R Canterbury, Personal Representative for the Martha Belle Canterbury estate.

## Land Transfers

Linda B Longanacre to Cynthia Longanacre Bryant, 50 acres more or less, Irish Corner District;

Janet Houston Anderson to Laura J Milstein, 0.21 acres, Lewisburg Corp District;

William Humphreys estate to Ellen Fischer and Christopher Dowden, Lot 10 & ½ of Lot 12 - Bailies, Ronceverte Corp District;

Donald E Martin to Donald E Martin and Barbara Martin, Lot 2, Fort Springs District;

James R Rhodes to Richard Scott Anderson and Maribeth Brooks Anderson, Lot 28, White Sulphur District;

Robert Harrington to Michael Brown and Samantha Brown, Lot 1, 2, 3, Rupert District and Lot 10 & 11, Rainelle

District;

Philip Wayne Reed and Ronna L Reed to Nancy Price and Stephen Price, Lot 5 Otter Creek Land Development Subdivision, Meadow Bluff District;

Melissa Dawn Clark to Isac Ray Osborne and Andrea Elizabeth Osborne, 54.37 acres, Blue Sulphur District;

Charles T Cheuvront to Marcia B Cheuvront and Michael L Stroble, 9.308 acres more or less, Fort Springs District;

Robert N Cole and Karen A Cole to Parrish W Wickline and Cassidy Noel Cole-Wickline, 2 Tracts, White Sulphur District;

John Michael Augustine and Felecia Bourrillion Augustine to Jordan N Kast, Lot 11 - Woodhaven, Lewisburg District;

John Hobbs to Laura K Mais and Mark S Mais, Lot 47 & 48, Ronceverte Corp District;

Paul K Marshall by Trustee and Charlotte Marshall by Trustee to First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, 8,500 square feet more or less, White Sulphur District;

John F Speer and Ann Logan Speer to Greenbrier Girls LLC, 2.434 acres more or less and 0.445 acres more or less, Irish Corner District;

William C Green and Kristin R Green to Nathan S Adkins and Nicholas L Adkins, 39.70 acres, Falling Spring District;

Carlos Lazo to Carlos Lazo and Michaela Lazo, property, Blue Sulphur District;

Kathleen Kamaris Eichhorn to Anthony P Massey and Linda Boyd, Lot 24 GBR Pines,

Lewisburg Corp District;

Mike Robinson and Elizabeth P Robinson to Hannah Elizabeth Hamrick and Cody Loudermilk, Lot 61, Rainelle Corp District;

Charles H Donohoo and Cara L Donohoo and Debra L Woolwine to Candice A Ward and Matthew L Ward and Cory B Donohoo and Ginger L Donohoo and Andrew Woolwine, 1.147 acres, Lewisburg District;

Deny R Doss and Mickaela N Doss to John M Augustine and Felecia G Augustine, 47.00 acres more or less, Meadow Bluff District;

Ellen M Morgan estate to Melody S Fitzgerald ad Mathew J Stiles, Lot 8 Block 3, Lewisburg Corp District;

Joseph K Terry to Paul K Bartko and Jane M Bartko Revocable Trust, Lot 7 Hamilton House Ten Acres Addition, White Sulphur District;

Frank C Martin for Martin's Auto Body Repair to Jerry E Bryant, Lots #1 & 2 Section 8, Rainelle Corp District;

Mary A Wentworth to Krystal Miles, Lot 42 Hughart Addition, Rainelle Corp District;

Lewis F Baker to Brian I Sheppard and Marsha Sheppard, 5.500 acres more or less, Frankford District;

Norman D Loudermilk and Gary W Loudermilk to Meadow Bluff LLC, 5 acres & 112 SO Rods, 8 acres & 45 acres & 58 poles, Williamsburg District;

Emily K Schwabe to Stephen P Coonts and Deborah J Coonts, 1.00 acres more or less & 2.406 acres more or less, White Sulphur District;

John Hilto Tincher and Connie Perkins Tincher to Bear Knob Holdings LLC, 208.91 acres, Meadow Bluff District;

Steven A Carter and Kasey L Carter to Shelby M Wilson, 5.225 acres & 16.064 acres more or less, Williamsburg District.

## **Duke's Krzyzewski to coach 1 final year, hand off to Scheyer**

By aaron beard ap basketball writer | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

Mike Krzyzewski will make a final run at a national championship with Duke.

The Hall of Famer and winningest coach in the history of Division I men's basketball announced Wednesday that next season will be his last with the Blue Devils program he has built into one of college basketball's bluebloods. The school also named former Duke player and associate head coach Jon Scheyer as Krzyzewski's successor for the 2022-23 season.

"My family and I view today as a celebration," Krzyzewski said in a statement released Wednesday evening. Stadium first reported news of the 74-year-old Krzyzewski's final season with Duke, which he has led to five national championships, most recently in 2015. He has 1,170 career wins going back to his time at Army, with 1,097 wins coming during 41 years with the Blue Devils and their frantic fans who have made playing at famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium so difficult.

Now Krzyzewski will make a final lap — "The Last Ride," as the program billed it in a social-media post — around the Atlantic Coast Conference and the sport where he has piled up an incredible run of success before handing off to Scheyer, currently 33.

"He is clearly ready for this opportunity and has shown it repeatedly throughout his playing career and as a coach on our staff the past eight seasons," Krzyzewski said. "Jon is a rising star in our profession and Duke basketball could not be in better hands in the future."

The school has scheduled a news conference for Krzyzewski on Thursday at Cameron, followed by one Friday for Scheyer.

Krzyzewski has led the Blue Devils to 12 Final Four appearances and a record 15 ACC Tournament championships, while his teams have spent a record 126 weeks ranked at No. 1 in the AP men's college basketball poll.

Hired at Duke in March 1980, "Coach K" won national championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, 2010 and 2015. He broke Army mentor Bob Knight's career victory record in November 2011.

Krzyzewski has tailored his approach to adapt to the times and his personnel. He won that 2010 title with a senior-laden roster, then claimed the 2015 one after pivoting to more "one-and-done" talent that headed to the NBA after a lone college season.

His image became synonymous both with the elite private university in Durham, North Carolina, and the sport as a whole. And along the way, he took over the U.S. men's national team — with NBA All-Star rosters featuring names such as the late Kobe Bryant and LeBron James — and led it to Olympic gold in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012, and Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

“What he means to the countless players he has coached, both collegiately and professionally, is simply immeasurable,” ACC commissioner Jim Phillips said in a statement.

Duke missed the NCAA Tournament this past season for the first time since 1995, but the Blue Devils welcome one of the nation’s top recruiting classes for the coming season.

Scheyer played for Krzyzewski from 2006-10, with his last season resulting in his mentor’s fourth NCAA title.

Scheyer joined the Duke staff for the 2013-14 season and rose to his current role following the 2017-18 season.

Scheyer served as interim coach last year for Duke when Krzyzewski was sidelined for a January win against Boston College due to COVID-19 protocols. Scheyer has never been a college head coach.

“Duke University has been a central part of my life for more than a decade, and I could not ask for a better place to continue my career,” Scheyer said in a statement. “This is absolutely humbling. ... (Krzyzewski) has set a standard that every coach at every level should strive to achieve.”

The news comes almost two months to the day that another Hall of Famer in the state — North Carolina’s Roy Williams — announced his retirement after 33 seasons as a head coach with Kansas and the rival Tar Heels. UNC also turned to a former player on the bench, elevating Hubert Davis to take over in his first time as a major college head coach.

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This report has been corrected to show Duke hired Krzyzewski in March 1980, not May 1980.

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More AP college basketball: <http://apnews.com/hub/college-basketball> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

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## **Smoot Man Arrested After Setting Fire To Camper**

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN JUN 03, 2021





A Smoot man is behind bars after setting fire to a camper that also served as a home to two people.

Karl Allen Legg, 49, was arrested on May 27 at approximately 11 p.m. after a West Virginia State Trooper was dispatched to Rogers Lane regarding a disturbance, according to the criminal complaint filed in Greenbrier County Magistrate Court.

Upon arrival, the officer noticed that a camper was on fire. The residents of the camper told the officer that Legg became angry with them when they wouldn't take him to get meth, so he started striking one of them with an ax handle, the complaint alleges.

The victim, who had been struck with the ax handle, was able to get it away from Legg. The victim then struck Legg in the face with the handle.

Following this altercation, the victim told the officer that Legg "put a tire under the camper and set it on fire, which then set [the] camper on fire."

Legg allegedly told the officer that he "wanted to kill [the victim] because [the victim] would not move off his property."

Legg is currently at Southern Regional Jail on a \$10,000 cash/surety bond for one felony count of arson.

## **White Sulphur Springs Public Library To Host**

# Batman

By Theresa Flerx WVDN | WVDN JUN 03, 2021



The White Sulphur Springs Public Library is hosting a free program given by John Buckland as Batman, on Wednesday, June 9, starting at 2 p.m.

“His bold and inspiring presentation will include an opportunity to take a photograph with the Caped Crusader and his Batmobile. As Batman, Mr. Buckland speaks to young and old alike about the importance of overcoming the challenges life will give you. The talk will include a reading of his youth empowerment book, ‘Broken Toy Hero.’ Signed copies of the book will be available for ten dollars. Mr. Buckland is part of the [Heroes-4-Higher] Foundation,” according to an announcement from the WSS Library.

The superhero’s visit to the library is in conjunction with the annual summer reading program which will include in-person weekly programs and rewards for reading.

“Broken Toy Hero” is described as the “inspirational story of Pheonix The Toy’s struggle with being mistreated and how she rises up to overcome the pain and change the lives of other toys and kids around her. Youth face many difficult and painful situations today. It is important that we reach them at an early age to inspire them through the difficult times that lay ahead, while teaching them principles that will guide them through the tough times so they can achieve the greatness that they deserve.”

“Broken Toy Hero” is richly illustrated by Jeremy Woods.

Like Buckland’s Batmobile, “Broken Toy Hero” is another vehicle “designed to inspire children that they can overcome the tough times in life and teach them four solid truths to walk in everyday so that they can achieve greatness. The story will also help children to be sensitive to the struggles of others and motivated to help them also.”

Lessons Buckland learned the hard way – by making major life mistakes on the heels of a grueling past enduring physical, emotional and sexual abuse, which lead him to addictions, failed relationships, violent crimes and incarceration in a maximum security prison.

“The inspiration of the idea [for Heroes-4-Higher] came to fruition after my return home from Iraq as a firefighter with the department of defense,” Buckland explains. “Upon returning home it seemed the news was saturated with stories of youth in crisis. I was determined to help make a difference in all of the troubles that our youth face in their lives. Issues of bullying, drugs, broken homes, abuse of all types plague our children. These issues are very personal to me, as I was a victim of many of these issues myself growing up.”

As well as library reading programs, Buckland dons his Batman cape and mask, and climbs inside the Batmobile to bring his message to area schools and other outreach venues.

Heroes-4-Higher is an organization which began in September 4, 2012. The name is based on the principle that it teaches four points – 1) never give up; 2) always do the right thing; 3) help other people; and 4) never be a bully – to take the children, the real heroes, to a higher level. The mission of H4H is to inspire children to be the hero. The outreach is active in drug rehab facilities, youth behavioral health programs, foster care systems and grief counseling, churches, schools, college empowerment events, entire community events, the city mission, domestic violence shelters and programs, and anywhere else people need hope. More information can be found at John Buckland – Heroes4higher (get-card.com).

More information on “Broken Toy Hero” can be found at [card.get-card.com/john-buckland/](http://card.get-card.com/john-buckland/).

Contact the White Sulphur Springs Public Library at 304-536-1171, or visit its Facebook page, for additional information about Batman’s visit or its summer reading program.

The Alderson Public Library is also hosting Batman with his Batmobile on Wednesday, June 9, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to kick off its summer reading program. Call 304-445-7221, or visit the Alderson Public Library Facebook page for more information and upcoming events.

## Osaka Steps Out Of French Open And Onto Sport's Third Rail

By jim litke ap sports writer | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

Most athletes are comfortable talking about injuries, so long as they can point to a bruise, a bandage, a cast or a spot on an X-ray. Some will even venture an educated guess at how long they might take to heal. Their mental health is a different story.

Or at least it was before Naomi Osaka ended a damaging standoff with top tennis officials by withdrawing from the French Open earlier this week, citing concerns for her well-being. It marked the first time a major star walked away from a major tournament without a visible injury. Judging by the reaction, it appeared Osaka landed on the third rail of sports.

Other athletes, notably Olympian Michael Phelps, spoke candidly about mental health issues before. Some, like Los Angeles Lakers great Jerry West, detailed their struggles in books only after their playing days were long over. Still others wrestled that tortured secret for a lifetime.

None of them sparked a conversation this wide, in no small part because of what was at stake and a very public back-and-forth that played out on social media. How much more oxygen it draws going forward likely depends on Osaka, already a four-time major champion at age 23; whether more athletes follow her lead; and if so, how fans and the sports establishment react.

“When someone tears an ACL, it’s 6-8 months, we know the time frame. And like with everything else in life, we want a finite number. But that’s not how mental health works,” said Dr. Wendy Borlabi, a Chicago-based

performance psychologist who works with pro, Olympic and college athletes.

“People are different, we experience things differently, but we all want the process to say, ‘This is what you do to get better.’ ... It’s not that simple. There’s no ‘one-size-fits-all,’” she continued. “But the more we talk about mental health in the open, the more we put the stigmatism behind us, especially in sports. This is a big opportunity.”

There’s a long list of athletes who could have benefitted from the chance. Some may still.

In recent years, NBA players Kevin Love and DeMar DeRozan and the WNBA’s A’ja Wilson have spoken very publicly about their bouts with depression, sharing both the successes and setbacks. Baseball fans of a certain age remember the late Jimmy Piersall, portrayed in the movie “Fear Strikes Out,” and whose 17-year major league career was littered with well-publicized fistfights, scrapes and stunts — all while he was battling bipolar disorder.

Piersall parlayed his relative fame into a second career in broadcasting and scouting, suggesting that some of the stunts he pulled were just that — stunts — to fulfill the public’s perception of him.

“Probably the best thing that ever happened to me was going nuts,” he wrote in his autobiography. “Who ever heard of Jimmy Piersall until that happened?”

Mental-health specialists who work in sports remind the rest of us that the visibility afforded athletes is both a blessing and a curse. There’s precious little privacy, and every doctor’s note seeking time off scrutinized like a tax return. Imagine having a bad day at work and then sitting down in front of a dozen microphones to explain in detail how and why it happened, over and over.

That’s why those same specialists note that by the time an athlete is acting out, the injury has already occurred.

“That’s the challenge with mental health in sports,” said Dr. Ross Flowers, a San Diego based sports psychologist whose client list also includes Olympians and several pro and college teams.

“Athletes get attention precisely because they’re above average, and sometimes it’s easy to forget they’re humans first. They’re supposed to be dominant and not show vulnerability, yet in most cases we don’t learn they’re struggling until it shows up in their behavior,” he added.

“That’s why what Naomi did was brave. She was proactive. She recognized something was holding her back and said, “I want to be at my best and I can’t be that at the moment.””

Whether Osaka’s example and a growing public awareness about mental health issues encourage athletes facing similar problems to more forcefully speak out, the people running sports would do well to prepare. While most of Osaka’s contemporaries defended the requirement that players engage with the media to help grow the game, no more than a handful actually enjoy the give-and-take dynamic.

And right on time came further proof that media obligations can be damaging to a player’s health. No. 11 seed Petra Kvitova, herself a two-time major champion, announced she, too, had withdrawn from the tournament after falling and twisting her ankle on the way back from — what else? — “my post-match press requirements.”

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More AP Tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **West Virginia Coal Miner Dies In Underground Accident**

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A coal miner died Wednesday in a workplace accident in northern West Virginia,

the governor's office said.

Trenten J. Dille, 26, of Littleton, died while working in the underground section of a Marion County Coal Resources mine, the governor's office said in a statement.

Preliminary information indicates the edge or rib of a coal support pillar fell and struck Dille, a section foreman, the statement said.

The accident is being investigated by the state Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training. It is the third fatality involving a U.S. coal mine this year.

"It is an absolute tragedy to lose this hard-working, dedicated young man," Gov. Jim Justice said in the statement.

The mine is operated by American Consolidated Natural Resources Holdings Inc. of St. Clairsville, Ohio. The company is the largest privately-owned U.S. coal operator. It emerged from federal bankruptcy protection last year and was formerly known as Murray Energy Holdings.

## West Virginia governor sues bank in latest twist for his biz

By Cuneyt Dil Associated Press | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice and his companies are suing another bank lender, the latest trouble for his business empire after he revealed he is personally liable for \$700 million in loans to a separate lender.

The Republican governor's coal and hospitality businesses filed a lawsuit on Monday against Virginia-based Carter Bank & Trust over claims of deception. Justice is also personally on the hook for \$368 million in remaining loan debt to that bank, according to court documents.

News of the lawsuit comes after Justice confirmed on Tuesday that he personally guaranteed \$700 million in loans taken by his coal companies from a lender in the United Kingdom that went bankrupt.

The Republican governor on Tuesday took shots at the bankrupt Greensill Capital U.K. and said "it is a burden on our family beyond belief." Justice's Bluestone Resources Inc. sued Greensill in March in federal court in New York.

Justice's businesses face several other woes, including penalties totaling \$3.2 million from the federal government and lawsuits over claims his companies failed to deliver coal.

In the latest lawsuit, Justice's companies seek \$421 million in damages from Carter Bank over deceptive practices. Justice says a close business relationship dramatically fell apart after the death of the bank's founder, Worth Carter, in 2017. West Virginia Metro News first reported on the lawsuit.

Court documents call Carter a "banking legend" and say that Justice and he were so close he delivered a eulogy at his funeral. Over nearly 16 years, Justice's enterprises acquired over \$775 million in loans from the lender and has so far paid down \$407 million of it.

But Justice claims new leadership that took over Carter Bank after his death were hostile. The complaint says bank officials reneged on handshake agreements over extensions on loan payments tied to his declining coal business. Instead of putting pen to paper, the bank ignored follow-up correspondences from Justice's businesses, according to the complaint, and forced them into "oppressive" loan terms.

"The mutually beneficial, trust-backed relationship with late Worth Carter in helping the Justice Entities weather tough times was unexpectedly replaced with the cold silence of the new Carter Bank," the filing says. Instead of a repayment extension that was orally agreed on, the bank in early October 2017 said the loans were in default and demanded repayment of nearly \$268 million within ten days, according to court

documents.

A day later, the bank offered a litany of unfavorable changes to loan terms, which plaintiffs say they “had no choice but to acquiesce to.”

The suit blames new bank leaders Litz Van Dyke and Phyllis Karavatakis for “pulling the rug of trust and confidence right out from under the Justice Entities.” Several other instances of “bad faith” practices are also alleged in the lawsuit.

A spokeswoman for the bank did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

At a Tuesday news conference where he faced questions over his debt to Greensill, Justice briefly alluded to personally guaranteeing the loans that were held by Carter Bank & Trust.

“I did personally guarantee the loans,” he said. “The loans have always been personally guaranteed when they flowed from Carter Bank through Greensill to other banks along the way. That’s been the case for a very, very, very long time.”

## Ohio-based electronics recycler opens in West Virginia

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — An electronics recycler has opened in West Virginia and plans to hire up to 20 employees, the Charleston Area Alliance said.

Infinite Electronics Recycling is based in Wintersville, Ohio. The company opened its facility in downtown Charleston recently and already has two employees, the alliance said.

“Their services fulfill a need in the community, and I look forward to connecting their team with local businesses,” said Victoria Russo, the alliance’s new markets consultant.

## WVa state art exhibition submissions being accepted

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Submissions for the 22nd biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition are being accepted by the state Department of Arts, Culture and History.

Up to \$33,000 in awards is available through the department and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. The exhibit will open Nov. 14 and remain on display through Feb. 14, 2022, at the Culture Center in Charleston.

Digital submissions will be accepted until Aug. 2. Artists may submit two pieces with a nonrefundable fee of \$20 per piece. This year an option to email images will be available by contacting the exhibits coordinator. Entries must have been created in the past two years in the areas of photography, painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, digital art, mixed media and crafts. Entrants must be over the age of 18 and must be state residents or maintain a permanent residence in the state.

# US jobless claims drop to 385,000, another pandemic low

By paul wiseman ap economics writer | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week for a fifth straight week to a new pandemic low, the latest evidence that the U.S. job market is regaining its health as the economy further reopens.

The Labor Department said Thursday that jobless claims dropped to 385,000, down 20,000 from the week before. The number of weekly applications for unemployment aid, which generally reflects the pace of layoffs, has fallen steadily all year, though it remains high by historical standards.

The decline in applications reflects a swift rebound in economic growth and the job market's steady recovery from the coronavirus recession. More Americans are venturing out to shop, travel, dine out and congregate at entertainment venues. All that renewed spending has led companies to seek new workers.

Employers have added 1.8 million jobs this year — an average of more than 450,000 a month — and the government's May jobs report on Friday is expected to show that they added an additional 656,000 last month, according to a survey of economists by the data firm FactSet. The economy remains down 8.2 million jobs from its level in February 2020, just before the virus tore through the economy.

Yet U.S. employers are posting a record number of available jobs. And many of them have complained that they can't find enough workers to meet rising customer demand.

Job growth slowed sharply in April compared with March, a pullback that was widely attributed to a labor shortage in some industries, especially at restaurants and other employers in the hospitality sector.

At least 25 states have responded by announcing plans to cut off some emergency federal aid to the unemployed — including a \$300-a-week federal benefit — as early as next week. Critics argue that the extra federal unemployment aid, on top of regular state jobless benefits, discourages some of the jobless from seeking work.

Weekly applications for unemployment aid, which topped 900,000 in early January, have fallen steadily all year, though they remain high by historical standards: Before COVID-19 all but paralyzed the economy in March 2020, claims were regularly coming in below 230,000 a week.

In the week that ended May 15, a total of 15.4 million people were receiving some form of jobless aid, including special federal programs to aid the unemployed during the pandemic. That was down from 15.8 million the previous week. That figure has steadily declined from about 20 million in December.

## June 3 Husband Reveals a Frighteningly Short Fuse

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUN 03, 2021

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been together 23 years. A few years ago, he told a friend of his he wasn't in love with or attracted to me. I'm the same 5-foot-6-inch, 135-pound woman he married. Recently, he has become increasingly short-tempered.

He gets angry at every driver on the road, he destroyed the vacuum when it stopped working and recently went after our 10-pound rescue dog for peeing when he yelled at him. I intervened when he started screaming

that he would kill the dog. He then turned on me, yelling and breaking things.

I've never seen him this angry, and I am afraid it's escalating and he will physically harm the dog or me. Is it time to leave? He's no longer the man I married. — **Fearful in Texas**

**Dear Fearful:** What you are describing is not normal behavior. Contact your doctor about the drastic change in your husband's personality because it could be symptomatic of a serious illness. After that, the next time he presents a physical danger, call the police and ensure your safety by leaving. And if you do, take your rescue dog with you.

**Dear Abby:** I am about to start my new college experience, but I have a few concerns. I'm very picky, and I enjoy my alone time. I like to keep my space clean and tidy, and I'm afraid my roommate(s) will be slob and I'll end up cleaning up after them. I also need alone time so I can focus on myself to recoup after a long day. When I'm here at home I will usually do that in my bedroom. But if I have roommates, that will be difficult to do. I guess I'm asking how to find a happy medium so my roommates and I can be at peace at all times. —

**Want to Prepare**

**Dear Wants:** Because you didn't specify how many roommates you will be sharing your space with, I will assume there are more than one — which may place you in the minority. Be open and honest with them about your desire for neatness and tidiness. They may not be as particular as you are, but it will provide you the opportunity to live with different kinds of people. As to the peace and quiet you crave, if adapting to each other's schedules isn't possible, consider heading to the library to find the peace and quiet you need. I wish you luck.

**Dear Abby:** I am retired, so I have free time on my hands. Recently, while doing a favor for a neighbor couple, I was standing on their porch when a board broke and one of my legs went through up to my thigh. They expressed concern at the time, and I told them I thought I was OK.

The next day, my knee and upper thigh were swollen and bruised. My leg is improving each day, and for that I'm thankful. This happened more than two weeks ago, and I have not gotten a phone call or anything else from these neighbors. Have people really gotten that insensitive, or am I making a big deal out of nothing? —

**Old School in Georgia**

**Dear Old school:** No, you are not making a big deal out of nothing. And yes, some people have become that insensitive. The reason for your neighbors' silence may be lack of empathy, or it could be fear of a lawsuit. Or they may have thought it was unnecessary to check further because you said you were OK.

*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.*