

WVDN JUN 07, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA
DAILY NEWS
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

50¢ (EST) 62¢

DEAR ABBY

THE STATE RALLYING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

FARMER'S DAY RETURNS FOR 2021 WITH BRIGHT SKIES AND CROWDED EVENTS

BROADBAND RALLY EMPHASIZES NEED FOR ENGAGEMENT, MAPPING SURVEY

FIRST FRIDAY'S BACK ON IN LEWISBURG

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMERCE HAS RETURNED AFTER TWO YEARS



60% (EST) 62¢

WV NEWS

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West Virginia gov: Bank deceived family for loan guarantee

By Cuneyt Dil Associated Press | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — In a new court filing, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice blamed a bankrupt U.K. bank for fraudulently inducing him into personally guaranteeing \$700 million in loans that were taken out by his companies.

In the amended complaint filed Friday, Justice's family and coal companies claim that Greensill Capital U.K. "perpetrated a continuous and highly profitable fraud."

Justice told reporters Tuesday that the loans are "a burden on our family beyond belief." Justice's Bluestone Resources Inc., which is involved in the business of mining metallurgical coal used for steel making, sued Greensill in March in federal court in New York.

The business troubles of the Republican governor, who Forbes recently took off its list of billionaires because of mounting debt, have been publicly aired over the past week. In addition to the \$700 million owed to Greensill, Justice revealed in a separate lawsuit that he is personally on the hook for \$368 million to Virginia-based Carter Bank & Trust.

And 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.

The latest filing in the case against Greensill in U.S. District Court in New York shows that the governor and his wife, Cathy Justice, and son Jay Justice personally guaranteed payment on the loans for Bluestone. The complaint alleges that the London-based bank deceived them into signing on by hiding its own financial risk. Greensill, a supply chain finance firm based in London, went under in March over allegations of fraud. The Financial Conduct Authority, Britain's financial regulatory body, has announced a formal investigation into Greensill's collapse after receiving allegations that it said were "potentially criminal in nature."

Greensill began lending to Bluestone in 2018. The company sought financing after a period of decline under the ownership of Russian mining and metal company Mechel, according to court documents.

"When the Russians had Bluestone, what happened to Bluestone? It absolutely just melted down to nothing," Justice said at a news conference Tuesday. The company had outstanding obligations to vendors and tax liabilities when the Justice family took it back over in 2015.

The lending from Greensill was supposed to help rebuild the company, but bank officials by November 2020 began seeking early repayment of the loan and additional fees, according to the complaint.

The Justice family says it only personally signed onto the loans with the understanding that repayments would begin at the earliest in 2023, at which point Bluestone would have had years to rebuild and generate cash flow. Justice and his companies are seeking damages from Greensill in their suit.

At his Tuesday news conference, Justice briefly addressed his other loan from Carter Bank in Virginia by saying he always personally guaranteed the loans for his companies.

"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."

Broadband Rally Emphasizes Need For Community Engagement, Need For Mapping Survey

By bobby bordelon wvdn | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



Much like the responses to the flood of 2016 or COVID-19, Greenbrier County residents have once again taken matters into their own hands when trying to improve life for residents. This time, the fight is over internet access; the Greenbrier County Broadband Council held a rally in downtown Lewisburg during First Friday on June 4, calling on everyone to support expansion efforts.

The council was recently approved to act under the authority of the Greenbrier County Commission, where its work will go toward better positioning Greenbrier County for federal and state funding.

“What can you do? We’ve got several things we would like you to do to help us out and enhance broadband in Greenbrier County,” explained Sen. Stephen Baldwin, one of the council’s organizers. “One is to fill out the survey. ... It’s going to be making the rounds for the next couple of weeks. ... That’s the point of all of this, to get better maps. Right now the federal government thinks that broadband in southern West Virginia is just fine. We know that’s not true. It’s not fine. We are tremendously under-served, but we have to prove that. ... If you can fill out the survey, help us get a map together, your business and your home, then it’s going to put us in a better position [for federal and state funds and grants].”

The rally featured a number of speakers explaining how the lack of available internet access has impacted life in Greenbrier County. This includes Ashley Vickers with the Chamber of Commerce, local Americorp Jack Stanton, Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White and City Administrator Misty Hill, and cheerleaders from Greenbrier West High School and Eastern Greenbrier Middle School.

“To begin, can we give a round of applause to Jim Snyder and the BroadBand?” Baldwin joked before introducing the speakers. “The Greenbrier County Broadband Council is hosting this event tonight. Dr. Vicky Cline and I have been convening that group with a lot of folks in the community who are represented this evening.”

Over the past year, Greenbrier County schools and parents have faced the challenges of remote learning, amplified by lack of internet access. Even at Greenbrier East High School, where students are equipped with a device on loan from the school, classes could not be conducted remotely due to lack of access to internet.

“As we all know, COVID has taught all of us lots of lessons,” said Superintendent of Schools Jeff Bryant. “What we learned in education are two major things. Nothing replaces a teacher in a classroom, and our students suffer for that. In the situation where you have to do remote or blended learning, we had so many students that do not have access to broadband. They were lost in so many ways. They have regressed. Our responsibility in the education community is to bring those deficits back up to where they need to be. We’re going to do that through summer programming and your support.”

Kiersten White, with Generation West Virginia and the education director for Greenbrier Valley Theater, confirmed the difficulty with teaching remotely.

“Over the past year and a half, I have been heavily involved in online education, primarily K through 12,” said White. “We have been trying to create programming in theater, but it became such a struggle to successfully engage with these students in real-time because of low internet speeds and lagging. These aren’t families that live out in a holler that we’ve come to accept we’re going to have bad internet; these are families that live within five minutes of where we currently are in Lewisburg.”

Bryant pointed to statistics provided by Dr. Vicky Cline, one of the broadband council’s organizers.

“About 30% of our students do not have reliable internet access,” Bryant said. “Half of those cannot afford it and half of those do not have it available where they live. In addition, many who say they have access are saying they use a cellular service, which is not broadband.”

Lack of connectivity also impacts local healthcare and health outcomes.

“We have electronic health records that allow us to document everything our wonderful healthcare providers are doing every day in healthcare,” explained Scot Mitchell, CEO of Robert C. Byrd Clinic. “Over the last year, we went from doing zero telehealth visits to over 6,000 in the last year. You have to have high-speed internet to do that and that’s always a struggle. We also use internet for transmitting radiology images. The high definition of those images takes a lot of bandwidth and it’s a real struggle. ... Our systems are just bogged down all day long.”

Lack of access also impacts who decides to move to West Virginia, and could act as an inhibiting factor for physicians, teachers, graduates, and West Virginia youth looking to begin their careers. Lauren Miller, chief medical officer for the Robert C. Byrd Clinic and assistant professor with WVSOM, explained her “struggles” with broadband after she moved to Lewisburg from Huntington.

“About a year into living here, we decided to embark on a different adventure and decided to build a home right in city limits, just a mile from the school,” explained Miller. “That’s when my adventure with broadband

started. ... From the first month we broke ground, I called [Suddenlink] to see how much it would cost to bring it from one lot to mine. Not miles, not up a mountain, one lot. It is now 18 months and 26 days later and I've been told that on June 26, they will finally have my bid. At one point they told me \$22,000. ... Frontier, I had a different experience with. They don't think I exist. I'm in a subdivision that's been established since the early 2000s or late 90s. I tell them my road, I tell them my address, the post office promises me it is a real address, 911 address. I have scheduled four times for them to come out to the house. ... I'm moving into a house in the next two weeks, hopefully, after taking almost two years to build thanks to a pandemic and yet I still have no internet."

What can Greenbrier County do?

Funds from the CARES Act, The American Rescue Plan, and a potential infrastructure package could be utilized to massively improve connectivity in southern West Virginia if the need for it is proven. Baldwin and multiple other speakers emphasized residents should take an upcoming survey put together by the Broadband Council in order to create the internet speed and accessibility maps of the entire county.

In addition, Baldwin called for new members for the broadband council.

"You can sign up to be part of the council," Baldwin said. "You've seen the various folks that came up here tonight from various parts of society. None of us are experts on broadband, we're just community interested folks trying to make a difference. We need your assistance with that."

Commissioner Tammy Tincher noted that although the county has some broadband expansion projects ongoing, coordinating efforts to get more funds and better utilize the resources available is key to making broadband accessible throughout the county.

At both the beginning and the end of the rally, cheerleaders helped get the crowd motivated to fight for better internet access with a cheer summarizing the entire event:

"What do we want?"

"Internet!"

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

First Friday's Back On In Lewisburg

By bobby bordelon wvdn | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



The first Friday of each month is once again a time for music and festivities in downtown Lewisburg. First Fridays After Five saw clear skies, a big crowd, and kids running through the Greenspace fountain on June 4.

“This is a perfect First Friday, you could not ask for better weather,” said Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White. “I thought it was going to be raining. Hopefully people get into our shops, come back Saturday and get to the ones you don’t get to this evening.”

First Friday’s were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic shut downs, looking to control the spread of the virus. However, with vaccinations on the rise and the rescission of many executive orders from Governor Jim Justice, the city moved forward with restarting First Fridays in May.

“I’m very excited,” said City Administrator Misty Hill. “I think the merchants and the citizens downtown are really excited to see everything starting to come back to normal. ... The merchants have different things planned. With the music downtown and people venturing out to every store, every place is going to be unique. It’s why we’re the coolest small town. ... I think it was a great decision, supported by our Health Department and our merchants. They really got behind that to reopen First Fridays.”

It has been long enough that the shopping and dining landscape of downtown has changed, with the introduction of several new businesses, such as the Briergarten.

“We have four new ones and the Little Black Box moved [downtown],” White said. “She’s really excited about her new space. To do that during a pandemic really speaks volumes of our city and the commitment that people have to being here. It just makes us feel good that this is where they want to be, and we’re excited they’re here.”

Shops are not the only thing reopening to the public – shut down throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Greenspace fountain is once again on for children to run and play in.

“I heard the fountain, but it didn’t hit me that it was on, even though I saw the kids playing in it,” White said. “Then [all the sudden I thought] ‘Oh the fountain is on!’ I just had a moment.”

Hill noted it was brought back by popular demand.

“The kids have missed it,” Hill said. “I never thought it was staple piece of the community, but so many community members and citizens have reached out really wanting that fountain back on.”

As the kids played, two attractions came to the Greenspace. First was music provided by the Music Performance Trust Fund, in cooperation with the American Federation of Musicians Local 674. This included local musician Jim Snyder, who posted to social media afterwards.

“Thank you for such a warm reception on the Greenspace!” Snyder wrote. He was joined by Don Drummer on pedal steel, Nathan Seldomridge on electric guitar, with Butch White and Gary Williams adding percussion.

Second was a rally in support of broadband internet infrastructure. Despite the frustrations explained during the broadband rally, Hill pointed to the excitement First Friday gave to the event.

“You can feel the energy, how happy everyone is,” Hill said. “Even on a subject like broadband that is really sensitive and hits home for everybody, with the aggravation that comes with not having broadband and the internet being so [unreliable]. The energy doesn’t feel like a rally of discouragement or anything. They’re serious about broadband but you can tell everybody is excited to be outside and at First Fridays.”

White celebrated being able to see unexpected faces again.

“I ran into two former coworkers and I didn’t think anything of hugging them,” White said with a smile. “They’ve moved back, ... so they’ll be a part of the community as well and they love Lewisburg. To know that they came back here means a lot.”

Farmer's Day Returns For 2021 Under Bright Skies and Crowded Events

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



The Cecil Hinkle, Jr., award was given for the first time in honor of the late Junior Hinkle, who passed away Saturday, December 12, 2015.

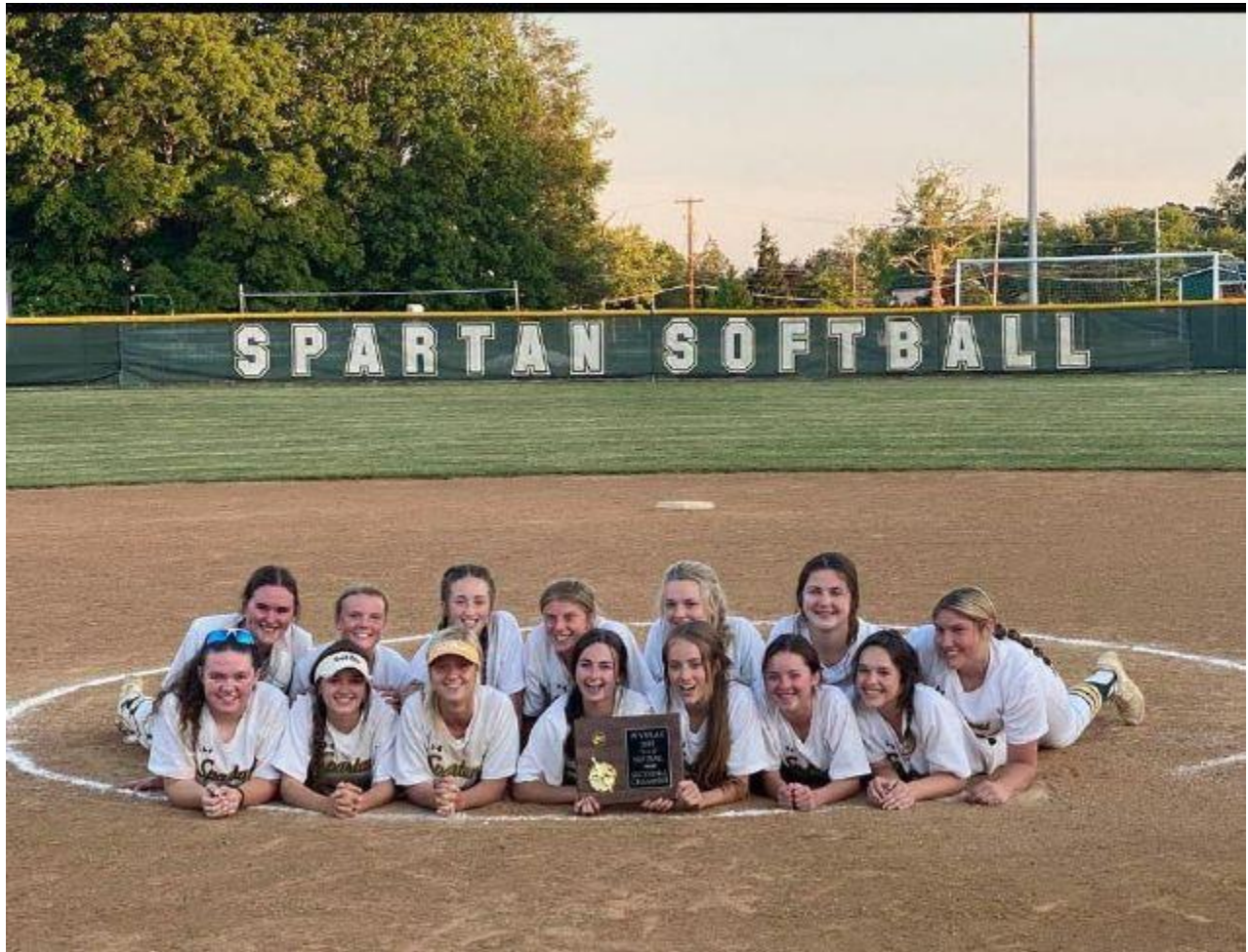
Junior raised, trained and showed Tennessee Walking Horses who, over a lifetime, owned five World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horses. He was president of the West Virginia Horseman's Association and a lifetime member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association.

Cecil Hinkle Jr. Field, on which the annual Farmer's Day horse show is held, remains in his family.

Several of Junior's family members presented the award to Morrison for Saturday's win including his wife, Mary Ann Campbell Hinkle; two of his three daughters, Ann Hinkle Jameson and Betsy Hinkle Johnson; grandchildren, Mary Beth McCormick Hinkle and Campbell Johnson; and great-granddaughters Ava and Lily.

East Softball Takes Sectional Championship

By brandon baker wvdn | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



The Greenbrier East Lady Spartans defeated Oak Hill 9-3 on Friday, June 4 thanks in part to a huge fifth inning when they put up five runs. Olivia Plybon, Brooke Davis, Aubrey Glover, and Annabelle Honaker all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

With the win, the Spartans won the sectional championship and will move on to the Regional finals this week.

Oak Hill got things started in the first inning on an RBI groundout that put the Red Devils up 1-0.

In the bottom of the first inning, East tied things up at 1-all when Josie Patterson hit a hard ground ball that Oak Hill couldn't field cleanly, and the error scored Annabelle Honaker who had ripped a double to get on base earlier.

The Spartans pulled away for good with three runs in the third inning. In the third, an error scored one run, Brooke Davis singled on an 0-1 count and knocked in a run, and Rylee Norman got an RBI single on a 2-2 count as East took a 4-1 lead after three innings.

East clinched the victory in the aforementioned fifth inning.

Josie Patterson led off with a double then Lindsey Black singled. Davis, Glover, and Honaker all moved runners across the plate with RBIs as well.

Taylor Graham got the win on the mound. She went 5.1 innings, allowed three runs on five hits and struck out nine. Josi Ervin threw 1.2 innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Hailey Byers took the loss for Oak Hill. She went six innings, allowed nine runs on 13 hits, struck out two and walked one.

East (18-6) had 13 hits in the game. Norman, Linsey Black, and Davis all collected multiple hits for East Spartans.

Norman and Davis each had three hits to lead the way.

Ronceverte River Festival To Hold Sensory Saturday Event For Those With Special Needs

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

For many people, festivals are fun. The food, the music, the attractions and the people all blend together to create an exciting environment that leads to laughter and great memories. But, for some with special needs, those sensory inputs can be difficult, if not impossible, to manage, leaving them unable to enjoy the things that others find it hard to live without. That is why Ronceverte River Festival committee members have decided to do something a little different this year to make sure everyone can make great memories at the river festival. They are calling it Sensory Saturday.

Sensory Saturday will be a quiet time at Island Park that will give those with special needs the ability to enjoy the festival without all the extra input, according to Ronceverte River Festival Committee Chair Mark Mengel.

“We are excited to be doing this,” Mengel said. “We are really happy that we can offer this option to all of those with special needs in Ronceverte and the surrounding area.”

Sensory Saturday will begin at 10 a.m. and last until around noon, on Saturday, June 12, at Island Park. Food stands will be open and there will be games and activities including rock painting and a small-scale duck hunt. Folks may also stroll around Gateway Industries’ community garden, Mengel said.

“Everything will be a little less hectic,” Mengel noted. “Noise and excitement will be at a minimum, and people can wander around at their own pace.”

Because this is the first time the river festival committee has held an event like Sensory Saturday, Mengel said they are willing to accept input from the special needs community on how to design the environment.

“We admit that we are unsure how to proceed, but we are willing to learn,” Mengel said.

He added that the idea for a special environment came into being due to the activism of Ronceverte resident Ashley Guet and incoming Mayor Deena Pack.

“Mark said it best when he said that if you don’t have a special needs child or a special needs member of your family, it’s not something that you really think about,” Pack said. “So when Ashley started making these suggestions, it just made sense. The idea of a Sensory Saturday was all Ashley’s.”

Guet has been a strong advocate for her daughter. Through her work, the city will be installing four non-verbal communication boards in the city — two at Island Park and two at Ronceverte Elementary. Additionally, a

wheelchair accessible swing will soon be coming to Island Park, Pack said. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem as if these assistive items will be available for Sensory Saturday, but the ultimate goal for the event this year is to learn and make the event more inclusive as each year passes.

"I am really excited about Sensory Saturday because I think that Ronceverte is leading the area in these inclusive initiatives," Pack said. "There are a lot more people in our community who can really benefit from these things than you would think. The idea that we can give them the opportunity to come down and still enjoy the festival without some of the things that trigger reactions is a really cool idea."

Guet agrees that Sensory Saturday will be a really great event for the special needs community.

Her 8-year-old daughter, Winter, who was diagnosed with non-verbal regressive autism at age 3, was born and raised in Ronceverte, but has never been able to attend the river festival.

"It's just too much," Guet said. "It's too loud, the chaos is too much and there are so many people. So, she has never been able to have the experience."

More than anything, Guet said she is excited to take her daughter to the festival for the first time.

"I really want her to be included. She wants to do the same things that others do, but can't always," Guet said. "I am really happy and excited. I hope other local cities and towns will pick up on this idea and add to it."

Guet said the best advice she can give others on advocating for those with special needs is to ask for whatever you need.

"I was really scared to go to city hall for the first time to ask for the non-verbal communication boards," Guet admitted. However, she said that by the time she left that first meeting, she felt empowered because so many people were willing to help.

"I went in asking for one board and left getting two," Guet remembered. "That's how you start advocating, you ask for something and it snowballs."

In addition to getting the town of Ronceverte to increase their special needs support services, Guet is putting together a parental support group for those who have children with special needs. Meetings will be held at Ronceverte Island Park. For more information on this, visit Guet's Facebook Page "Rainbows and Sunshine."

The River Festival kicks off with a Grand Parade on Friday, June 11, and ends with a grand fireworks display on Saturday, June 12. A complete list of festivities can be found at <https://roncevertewv.org/festival.htm>.

Hearing set on water, electricity rate proposals in WVa

By Theresa Flerx | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A hearing is set this week on proposed water and electricity rate increases in West Virginia.

The public hearing on the increases proposed by Appalachian Power and West Virginia American Water is

scheduled for Wednesday night at the LaBelle Theatre in South Charleston.

The Kanawha County Commission requested the hearing. It says the water company is seeking a 26% rate increase for residential customers while Appalachian Power wants a 3.6% surcharge added to customer's bills for infrastructure improvements.

Several Kanawha County state lawmakers plan to attend.

Louella Bright Boone Porterfield

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

PORTERFIELD

Louella Bright Boone Porterfield, 94, of 3311 Dunlap Creek Road died Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in Alleghany Health and Rehab Center in Clifton Forge.

Mrs. Porterfield was born April 20, 1927, in Greenbrier County, WV, a daughter of the late Silas and Eva Judy Boone. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her Husband, William Haskell Porterfield, in 1999; a Son, Wayne Porterfield in 2020; and a Brother, Howard Boone.

She was an employee of the former Industrial Rayon plant in Covington. She was a member of the Dunlap Fire and Rescue and the Ladies Auxiliary for over 40 years. She was a poll worker at elections for 40 years and was an avid Bingo player.

Surviving are two Daughters and Sons-in-law, Kathy and Eli Bailey of Frankford, WV and Patty and Roger Byer of Covington; one Son and Daughter-in-law, Ronald and Jean Porterfield, of Covington; a grandson, Timmy Byer and his wife, Summer, of Roanoke; a granddaughter, Missy Byer, of Covington; one Brother, Lewis Boone, of South Carolina; one Sister, Alice Sprouse, of King, NC; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held Friday, June 4, 2021, at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Arritt Funeral Home with the Rev. Larry Atkins officiating.

Interment will be made in Alleghany Memorial Park.

The family will receive their friends for one hour before the service at Arritt Funeral Home.

Online guest registra-tion is available at arrittfuneralhome.com.

The funeral arrangements are being handled by Arritt Funeral Home of Covington, VA.

Michael Douglas McCoy

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



MCCOY

Michael Douglas McCoy, 57, of Frankford, WV, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday, June 2, 2021 following a sudden illness.

Born November 18, 1963 in Ronceverte, WV, he was the son of Betty Jane Gentry McCoy and the late Charles Donald McCoy.

Mike was the pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Forest Hill, WV for over fifteen years. He was a former Deacon of Enon Baptist Church and pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Zenith, WV. Mike worked for the Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley as Gwen's Meal Coordinator and as Chaplain of Stonerise Rainelle, formerly Meadow Garden. Mike loved to play Santa Claus and working with the children of Fairview Baptist. He was an avid WVU, Greenbrier West Cavalier, Miami Dolphin, and Milwaukee Brewer fan.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a nephew, Joseph Thomas. Including his mother, survivors are his loving wife of twenty-nine years, Melissa Wykle McCoy; daughter, Charity Alissa McCoy of Frankford, WV; son, Jonah Michael McCoy of Ronceverte, WV; brothers, Curtis McCoy (Lisa) of Frankford, WV and Rick McCoy of Crawley, WV; sister, Cathy Thomas (Paul) of Crawley, WV; father- and mother-in-law, Larry and Sandy Wykle; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be 3 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 2021 at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, WV with Rev. Jim Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in the Enon Baptist Church Cemetery, Frankford, WV. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until time of the service, Saturday at the funeral Home.

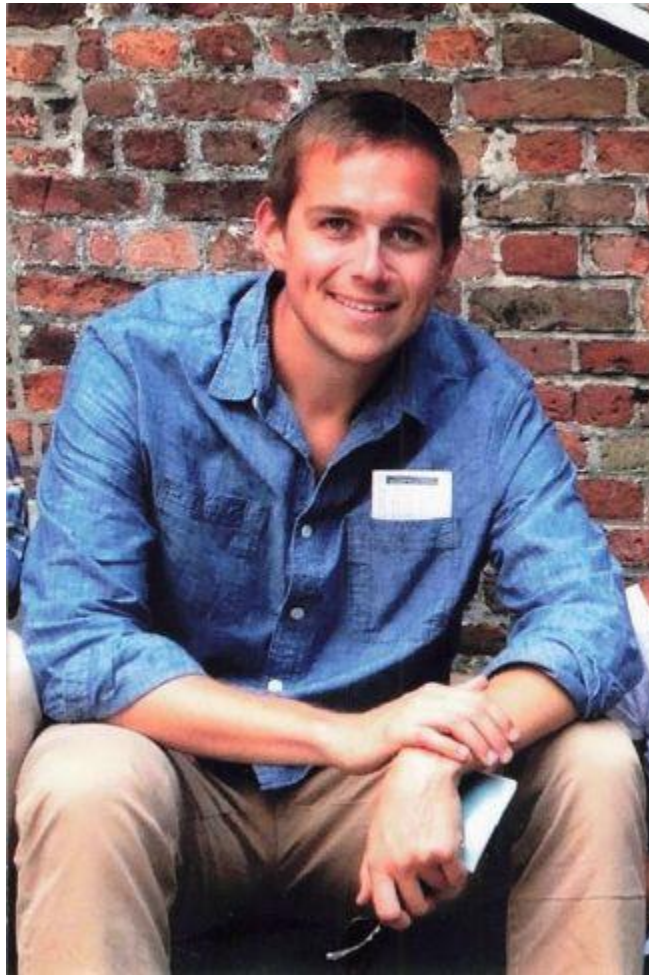
In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy should be made to Fairview Baptist Church - 13152 Greenville Road, Forest Hill, WV 24935.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Clint Andrew Nichols

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 07, 2021



NICHOLS

Clint Andrew Nichols, 38, passed away suddenly on May 31, 2021. He was born in Virginia Beach on November 2, 1982 to Gary and Dale Nichols.

Clint grew up in Winchester, VA, and was a proud graduate of John Handley High School. He attended Roanoke College, where he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, from which he formed many enduring friendships.

He was a special assistant to the late Senator John Warner, a formative political experience which led to his

service as an Advance Man in the McCain, Romney, and Rubio presidential campaigns.

Clint graduated from the University of Richmond Law School in 2013, where he served on the Executive Board of the Law Review and as a member of the John Marshall American Inn of Court. Upon graduation, he clerked for the Honorable Henry E. Hudson in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He subsequently entered private practice, where he specialized in healthcare law, most recently with Hancock, Daniel & Johnson, P.C., where he had recently been admitted to the partnership.

His greatest accomplishment was marrying his wife, Anny Irons, and feeling the joy and pride of fatherhood. His life was grounded in his Faith, his abiding love for his family, and the strong relationships he developed with a large network of friends. He had a magnetic presence, never met a stranger, and radiated joy. A natural connector, he loved to have a full social calendar and a trip on the horizon. He also enjoyed life's simple pleasures - an afternoon on the beach, a play date with his nieces, or working in the yard with his wife and dog (Butter).

He was active in the Richmond community, serving on the Alliance Board of the Massey Cancer Center, where he was fortunate to meet his future bride, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and several Bar Associations. He also served on the Steering Committee of the Roanoke College Alumni Association.

He is survived by his loving wife, Anny and newborn son, Willis; his parents, Gary and Dale; brother, Jeremy (Cassey); nieces, Lucy and Avery; his paternal grandmother, Betty Nichols; and a large web of devoted friends and family whose lives were enriched by his unwavering loyalty, sharp wit, and warm smile.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Monday, June 7, 2021 at Winchester Church of God (2080 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the VCU Massey Cancer Center, Box 980214, Richmond, Virginia 23284. At the request of family and friends, an educational fund is being established to benefit Willis.

Information submitted by Omps Funeral Home & Cremation Center in Winchester, VA.

Marshall AD Mike Hamrick moving into new role at school

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Marshall athletic director Mike Hamrick is stepping down at the end of the month to take on a new role at the school.

Hamrick will become special assistant to university president Jerome Gilbert for one year, the school said Friday.

Hamrick was hired in 2009 and became the second-longest serving athletic director at Marshall. He will now focus on fundraising and planning for the university's previously announced baseball stadium project.

"Mike Hamrick has done an excellent job as athletic director and I am disappointed he is no longer able to serve in that capacity," Gilbert said.

Marshall's men's soccer team won the NCAA championship last month. In the 2018-19 school year, the football, men's basketball, women's basketball and softball teams won postseason games, a first for the

school.

Before coming to Marshall, Hamrick spent the previous six years as the athletic director at UNLV. He also was the AD at East Carolina and Arkansas-Little Rock.

Gilbert has appointed associate athletic director and chief of staff Jeff O'Malley as interim athletic director, effective July 1.

The move follows the exit in January of football coach Doc Holliday, whose contract was not renewed after 11 seasons despite being named Conference USA coach of the year. Alabama assistant Charles Huff was hired as Marshall's coach that month.

Gilbert, too, is leaving. He said in April he would not seek an extension of his contract. He plans to step down in July 2022.

Dear Abby: Monday, June 7

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUN 07, 2021

Vacation Host Has Reservations About Young Guest

Dear Abby: I am an active 90-year-old grandmother who every year treats my family to a week's vacation at a beach house. We have a lovely time together.

Two years ago, my grown son, "Robert," brought his girlfriend, "Gennifer," and her teenage son, "Jackson." After the trip I was shocked to hear Jackson had killed the family kittens "to see how it felt." I was horrified, but knowing he was in therapy, I eventually agreed to allow him to join us on the trip last year. We are now looking forward to our trip this summer. However, it was recently mentioned that Jackson has been hearing voices instructing him to kill a human. While I am sympathetic to his mental illness, I am extremely frightened for myself and for other family members who are coming. I do not want Jackson to come this year.

I am concerned that if I approach the subject with Robert, he will be upset and I will lose all contact with him. Because he lives out of state, our visits are limited as it is. Please help me, because the trip is in about four weeks. — **Sleepless Seaside**

Dear Sleepless: Clearly, Jackson is seriously disturbed. Because you are fearful that you or some other family member could be hurt — or worse — talk to your son about it. That boy's mother should not take him anywhere without first clearing it with his psychiatrist. You should not be expected to entertain him as a houseguest unless you can be assured that he won't present a danger to himself or to others.

Dear Abby: I'm pleased and proud that so many people fly our American flag. However, it makes me sad and angry when I see flags that are torn and tattered. People, please. If your flag is in bad shape, take it down and dispose of it properly. Many organizations, police departments, fire departments, Girl and Boy Scouts, the VFW and American Legion collect worn and damaged flags and hold proper disposal ceremonies. Abby, please remind your readers who are proud of our country to be respectful of our flag. — **Flag Waver in Indiana**

Dear Flag Waver: There are rules for appropriately displaying and disposing of our American flag, some of which proud Americans either choose to break or are ignorant about. (One that comes to mind addresses wearing clothing such as T-shirts, bathing suits — and face masks — bearing the likeness of the flag.) Many American Legion posts hold ceremonies once a year so people can dispose of flags that have "seen better days." For those who are interested in learning more, and there is plenty more to learn, go online and type in a search for "U.S. flag code."

Dear Abby: Should a spouse stay in a marriage with minor children involved if they have fallen out of love and are no longer sexually attracted to their spouse? — **Just Wondering in California**

Dear Just Wondering: I don't think so, because under those circumstances, the relationship is likely at some point to implode. The important issue is that the children be provided for financially and co-parented by two loving, supportive adults who can function as a team, even if they are living apart.

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