

WVDN JUN 11, 2021



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Greenbrier, Monroe County Road Projects Announced Following Special Legislative Session

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

Following the WV State Legislature's approval to transfer \$150 million in state funds to highway construction projects during a special session called by Gov. Jim Justice on June 7, the Department of Transportation has provided a list of over 400 proposed projects that may benefit from the decision.

Roadway projects are planned to be completed in all of West Virginia's 55 counties.

There are a total of 16 proposed roadway projects totaling \$15 million for District 9, which includes Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas and Summers counties.

Greenbrier County projects, in order of priority, include:

- US 219 Seneca Trail North, begin: 0.04 mi N CO 219/49, end: CO 219/55, construct paved shoulders, superpave resurfacing at 2".
- US 60 Rupert Road, begin: 0.67 mi E WV 20, end: 0.57 mi W CO 1, construct paved shoulders, superpave resurfacing at 2".
- WV 12 Blakers Mill-Asbury Rd, begin: CO 66, end: 0.38 mi, construct paved shoulders, superpave resurfacing at 2".
- US 60 East Lewisburg Widening, begin: 0.04 mi E CO 60/58, end: 0.03 mi at E CO 60/57, widen roadway to allow for center turn lane and right turn lane at Lewisburg Elementary School and Aviagen Turkey Farm.
- US 219 replace Ronceverte Hill guardrail.

Monroe County projects include:

- US 219 Monitor-Greenbrier CL Rd, begin: 0.05 mi N WV 3, end: 1.18 mi B CO 219/2, construct paved shoulders, superpave resurfacing at 2".
- US 219 Linside Road, begin: 0.56 mi N CO 219/20, end: 0.33 mi N CO 219/19, construct paved shoulders, superpave resurfacing at 2".

The complete list of 2021 WVDOH roadway projects can be found at transportation.wv.gov by using the interactive map.

Paul lasts the distance against Mayweather in

exhibition

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 11, 2021



MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. outclassed YouTube personality Logan Paul but couldn't stop him inside the distance.

Mayweather and Paul boxed an eight-round exhibition Sunday night at Hard Rock Stadium. With the bout not being scored, no winner was declared.

The 44-year-old Mayweather used the ring skills that propelled him to world titles in five divisions and a 50-0 career record to frustrate Paul with solid lead and counter shots.

"You've got to realize I'm not 21 anymore but it's good," Mayweather said in the ring. "He's better than I thought he was. Good little work. Tonight was a fun night."

Mayweather, who won titles in the super-featherweight, lightweight, super-lightweight, welterweight and super-welterweight divisions, has said he will not return to competitive boxing. Instead, he will continue to tap into the pay-per-view market with exhibitions like his event with Paul.

Post-fight punch stats showed Mayweather comfortably ahead on total and power shots.

After the fight, Paul celebrated the accomplishment of going the distance against Mayweather.

"Shoot, man, I don't want anyone to tell me anything is impossible ever again," Paul said. "To get in here with one of the greatest boxers of all time, proves that the odds could be beat.

Paul weighed 189 pounds for the exhibition and attempted to use his 34-pound advantage by leaning on the shorter Mayweather. But Paul's lack of boxing skills left him open to Mayweather's short left hooks to the head and rights to the body.

"He used his weight and tried to tie me up," Mayweather said.

Earlier, former Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson boxed a four-round exhibition against multi-combat sport veteran Brian Maxwell. Like the Mayweather-Paul exhibition, there was no scoring, but Johnson avoided a knockout loss after he was floored with an overall right to the head in the final round. Johnson, in his first boxing event, survived the remainder of the round. The 43-year-old Johnson scored with a solid right to the head in the opening minute of the bout and landed combinations to the head in the second round. But in the minute rest before the fourth round, Johnson breathed heavily and rested his arms on the ropes.

"This was fun, I lost my virginity tonight," Johnson said about his maiden boxing experience. "This is one for my bucket list. My life has always been about taking chances."

Luis Arias won a split decision over former super-welterweight champion Jarrett Hurd and former super-middleweight titleholder Badou Jack stopped Dervin Colina in the fourth round.

Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center Seeks New Team Leader

By bobby bordelon wvbn | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

The Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center has an important job opening and is looking to hire local — applications for the director of operations position are open for the next few weeks.

"It's our hope that we've got a great local candidate that can take this one," explained Jamie Hamilton, director of community & donor engagement. "It's such a community-driven project and, in a perfect world, we would love a local person to be the operator come from that community and be invested in it."

The aquatic center is an over \$6 million project, with \$4 million coming from local donors hoping to get a new place to swim. The center is still under construction in Fairlea near the State Fairgrounds. The project was ready to begin construction after a \$2 million grant from the state completed the funding goal in early 2020.

The director of operations would be the leader at the helm of the Aquatic Center ship. Hamilton hopes to find a candidate who can build the team from the ground up and keep its three pools running for years.

"This person is going to need to have a strong work ethic and understand that this is essentially a new business," Hamilton said. "It certainly, particularly early on, will not be a Monday through Friday, 9 to 5. This is a position that is going to require someone that is dedicated. ... Ideally, they would start as early as mid-June. Right now, we're looking at an opening in the middle of October. That would give that person a couple of months to come on board, get comfortable. We've got other positions we need to hire for, and we want this candidate to be the lead on that so they can form the team they envision to be the right people."

To do this, Hamilton emphasized the need for someone who understands the hospitality industry as well as aquatics, rather than someone with a formal education.

"The ideal candidate is someone who has a record of leading teams, leading people, comfortable being a point person," Hamilton explained. "We had always talked about this facility operating in a high service environment. This isn't gonna be four walls, a mediocre pool, and generic lighting, it's going to be something more than that. We want the service environment of the staff to be reflective of that. We would love the candidate to have a background in the world of aquatics, but just as, if not more, important is someone that

has a record in the service industry. Someone that understands what it takes to provide a good experience for members, guests, and for anyone that's there."

Although Hamilton didn't put a number on a salary, he did note they would "gauge it on the level of experience, the skillset, what we think they're bringing to the table, but it's going to be a very well compensated position, relative to similar positions in other facilities and nonprofits in the greater area. We know what those individuals are making. It'll be a very high-quality job. They'll be getting a free family membership, a benefits package, paid time off, all the niceties you'd expect in a top-tier job." He also noted he originally expected to be in the position after fundraising was completed, but was unable to take it.

Those interested can apply over Facebook on the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center page or send a cover letter, resume, and references to Hamilton at jamie.gvac@gmail.com.

Elder abuse prevention, courthouse upgrades, Arts and Recs considered by Greenbrier County Commission

By bobby bordelon wvbn | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

Elder abuse prevention, courthouse upgrades, Arts and Recs considered by Greenbrier County Commission

Efforts against elder abuse, bids for the Greenbrier County Courthouse expansion project, the approval of Arts and Recreation projects, an apology for the air conditioning being out for courthouse employees, and more were topics for discussion and vote at the Tuesday, June 8, meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission.

First, Gloria Martin of the Elder Abuse Awareness Committee was able to announce good news for area seniors.

"The Greenbrier County Committee On Aging Centers in Fairlea and Rupert are going to open," Martin said. "We're really happy about that. The seniors [have been asking] 'when are you going to open? When are you going to open?' As you well know, the seniors come for lunch, but they also come for socialization. Many of these folks live alone and they come to play bingo, play puzzles, do arts and crafts, gossip. We're hoping to be open around June 20th."

This isn't the only gathering looking to help area seniors opening back up after COVID-19 vaccinations started. Similar to the efforts of the Child and Youth Advocacy Center, Martin encouraged everyone to take care of the seniors in their family and community.

"The Elder Abuse Awareness Committee was finally able to meet in person," Martin said. "We are concerned about elder abuse issues and we're really concerned about what might have happened during COVID. Folks really depended upon the people who were taking care of them and we hope there were not elders who were put in [abusive situations] during that time."

The commission also signed a proclamation naming June as Elder Abuse Awareness month, saying that all seniors are "valued members of society, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and with dignity ... and abuse of older people is a tragedy inflicted on honorable seniors and an increasing problem

in today's society that crosses all socioeconomic boundaries.”

“I'd also like to thank Kelly Banton — she put out the two beautiful wreaths that are on the courthouse doors throughout the month,” Martin said.

In other business:

- Two bids were opened for the massive Greenbrier County Courthouse expansion project. First, a \$15,114,000 bid from Paramount Builders LLC was opened, followed by a \$12,649,950 bid from SQP Construction Group. Both bids were from St. Albans — Rose noted the scope and length of the project likely kept some of the local companies out of the project. The contractor won't be selected until the next commission meeting after the engineer gets a chance to review them.

- Funding to the Greenbrier County Arts and Recreation fund applicants was passed with few exceptions. Although the list of approved projects has not been publicly released in order to tell the individual applicants, the commission voted to approve \$368,325.94 worth of projects out of the \$406,241.92 requested in projects. Normally Arts and Recreation grant applicants go through a series of interviews, but that process was disrupted in 2020. Continued issues with COVID-19 led to the interviews not being conducted for this year either, leading the commission to approve all the projects that were eligible for funding. This includes partial funding for some projects that were not able to be completely approved.

- The commission received an annual \$260,000 grant that funds the Greenbrier County Day Report Center. The commission acts as a pass-through for these funds.

- The commissioners apologized to the staff of the Greenbrier County Courthouse as the air conditioning in the building is repaired. Rose noted the system is a “work in progress.”

- A service agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles was approved by the commission. Commissioner Tammy Shifflett-Tincher explained that in order for “the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Tax Office to begin to sell registrations again, there is an interactive service through the state that we are going to participate in. This is the agreement for us to join that.”

- A new hire was approved for the Greenbrier County 911 Center.

DEA: Companies had 'systematic failure' in monitoring pills

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A retired high-ranking official with the Drug Enforcement Administration has testified that three large opioid distributors had a “systematic failure” in monitoring suspicious pill orders. Joe Rannazzisi, former head of the Office of Diversion Control for the DEA from 2006 to 2015, testified Tuesday in Charleston in a landmark civil case brought by Cabell County and the city of Huntington that accuses AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. of fueling the U.S. opioid epidemic. The companies say poor communication and pill quotas set by federal agents are to blame, along with a rise in prescriptions written by doctors. Rannazzisi testified that the defendants didn't report suspicious orders to the DEA due to a failure with their

monitoring systems, The Herald-Dispatch reported. He said the DEA asked the companies in 2005 to rein in their distribution practices. A follow-up review of pill shipping data found the flow of pills was not reduced. He testified that McKesson later told the DEA that its suspicious-pill monitoring system was not picking up generic drugs in the hydrocodone class.

The failures led to suspension orders being issued against McKesson in 2006, AmerisourceBergen in 2007 and Cardinal Health in 2007 and 2012, Rannazzisi testified.

Rannazzisi did not personally review distributors' monitoring systems, participate in on-site visits or speak to any distributors but McKesson in 2005, McKesson attorney Paul Schmidt said.

Rannazzisi also testified that he did not know of any investigations showing the defendants had shipped orders they believed were suspicious.

RSVP for Active SWV's 1st Annual WV Workplace Wellness Conference

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

Active SWV is pleased to invite you to our first statewide WV Workplace Wellness Conference on. The conference is open to anyone with an interest to learn more about improving workplace culture and health. An in-person and virtual option is available to celebrate the safe re-opening of in-person event while accommodating those yet unable to travel.

Join in person at beautiful Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, VA, on June 24th. This fun and informative day includes keynote speakers, group discussions, Q&A panel, awards and more. Topics include examining non-traditional work schedules such as the 4-day work week and remote work; why workplace wellness is vital to a vibrant economy; and how to develop a wellness strategy customized to your workplace. You will leave with practical experience and tools, along with a new connections and resources. A discount is also available when you book a room at Stonewall Resort for the conference.

The virtual conference will be a leaner version of the in-person event. Join on Zoom on July 1st. All virtual attendees will also receive a special gift in the mail.

Why Workplace Wellness? We spend a lot of our lives at work. It is imperative for employers to prioritize the health and wellbeing of their employees. Active SWV makes it easy for organizations to support the well-being of their employees with free technical support, workshops, education, funding opportunities and more. When organizations create a culture of health for employees, they will see increased morale, decreased absenteeism, savings on health insurance, and can gain a reputation as a great place to work.

You can learn more and RSVP for the WV Workplace Wellness Conference by visiting www.activeswv.org/workplace-wellness/

The deadline to register is Monday, June 18th. You may also contact Active SWV Workplace Wellness Director Veronica Crosier at veronica@activeswv.com with questions.

FBI subpoenas info on readers of news story on

slain agents

By michael balsamo and gary fields associated press | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI issued a subpoena demanding U.S. newspaper giant Gannett provide agents with information to track down readers of a USA Today story about a suspect in a child pornography case who fatally shot two FBI agents in February.

The subpoena, served on the company in April, came to light this week after the media company filed documents in federal court asking a judge to quash the subpoena. The Justice Department's actions were immediately condemned by press freedom advocates.

The news comes as the Justice Department has disclosed in recent weeks that it seized the email and phone records of reporters in at least three separate instances during the Trump administration. It raises questions about what liberties federal authorities are taking in using news organizations, journalists and their work as investigative tools.

The subpoena asks for information about anyone who clicked on the article for a period of about 35 minutes on the day after the shooting. It seeks the IP addresses — which can sometimes be used to identify the location of a computer, the company or organization it belongs to, and where it was registered — along with mobile phone identification information of the readers.

While the subpoena doesn't ask specifically for the names of those who read the story, such identification information could easily lead federal agents to the readers.

It is unclear why the FBI was seeking information about the USA Today story in particular, even though numerous other news organizations, including The Associated Press, had reported extensively on the Florida shooting, one of the bloodiest days in the FBI's history.

The suspect opened fire on the agents when they arrived to serve a federal search warrant in a child exploitation case. The two agents, Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwartzenberger, were killed and three others were wounded.

Maribel Perez Wadsworth, the publisher of USA Today and president of the USA Today Network, said the government wants the news organization to hand over "private information" about its readers and said it was fighting the subpoena to protect the relationship between its readers and journalists. The company also contacted the FBI before asking a judge to quash the subpoena but did not receive "any substantive reply nor any meaningful explanation of the asserted basis for the subpoena," she said.

"We intend to fight the subpoena's demand for identifying information about individuals who viewed the USA Today news report," Wadsworth said in a statement. "Being forced to tell the government who reads what on our websites is a clear violation of the First Amendment."

The FBI agent who signed the subpoena to Gannett has worked for years on child exploitation cases and has testified in several criminal cases related to child pornography offenses, newspaper accounts and other public records show.

The subpoena — first reported by Politico — says the information is needed as part of an ongoing criminal investigation. Federal officials would not provide additional details about the investigation.

"This is an extraordinary demand that goes to the very heart of the First Amendment. For good reason, the courts have generally refused to give the government access to this kind of sensitive information except in the most unusual circumstances," said Jameel Jaffer, executive director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University.

The Justice Department in recent weeks disclosed that investigators secretly obtained call records of journalists at The Washington Post, The New York Times and CNN in an effort to identify sources who provided national security information that was published in the early months of the Trump administration. President Joe Biden has said the Justice Department would not seize reporters' phone records, though it remains unclear if that promise can be kept.

“This subpoena, especially when viewed alongside the subpoenas that the Justice Department served under the Trump administration in an effort to obtain journalists’ records, strongly suggests we need more robust protection for records that implicate the freedoms of speech and the press,” Jaffer said.

The Justice Department — in both Republican and Democratic administrations — has struggled to balance the media’s constitutionally protected rights against the government’s interests in safeguarding classified information and collecting information for criminal cases.

During a 2007 investigation, an FBI agent impersonated an Associated Press journalist while investigating bomb threats at a high school in Washington state. The agent portrayed himself as an AP journalist when he communicated with the suspect online and then sent a link to a fabricated AP news article that, when clicked, allowed the FBI to pinpoint the suspect’s location.

The ruse was made public in 2014 and two years later the FBI imposed restrictions on the ability of agents to masquerade as reporters — but it stopped short of ruling out the practice.

In 2013, federal investigators secretly seized two months of phone records for Associated Press reporters and editors that included 20 telephone lines of both AP offices and the journalists, including their home phones and cellphones.

After that, the Justice Department, under then-Attorney General Eric Holder, announced revised guidelines for leak investigations, which require additional levels of review before a journalist could be subpoenaed.

Another jump in prices tightens the squeeze on US consumers

By martin crutsinger ap economics writer | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — American consumers absorbed another surge in prices in May — a 0.6% increase over April and 5% over the past year, the biggest 12-month inflation spike since 2008.

The May rise in consumer prices that the Labor Department reported Thursday reflected a range of goods and services now in growing demand as people increasingly shop, travel, dine out and attend entertainment events in a rapidly reopening economy.

The increased consumer appetite is bumping up against a shortage of components, from lumber and steel to chemicals and semiconductors, that supply such key products as autos and computer equipment, all of which has forced up prices. And as consumers increasingly venture away from home, demand has spread from manufactured goods to services — airline fares, for example, along with restaurant meals and hotel prices — raising inflation in those areas, too.

In its report Thursday, the government said that core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food costs, rose 0.7% in May after an even bigger increase in April, and has risen 3.8% over the past 12 months. Among specific items, prices for used cars, which had surged by a record 10% in April, shot up an additional 7.3% in May and accounted for one-third of last month’s overall price jump.

But the price increases in May were widespread in a variety of categories, including household furnishings, clothing and airline fares. Food prices rose by 0.4. Energy costs were unchanged, but they’re still up 28.5% from a year ago.

From the cereal maker General Mills to Chipotle Mexican Grill to the paint maker Sherwin-Williams, a range of companies have been raising prices or plan to do so, in some cases to make up for higher wages that they’re now paying to keep or attract workers.

The inflation pressures, which have been building for months, are not only squeezing consumers but also posing a risk to the economy’s recovery from the pandemic recession. One risk is that the Federal Reserve will

eventually respond to intensifying inflation by raising interest rates too aggressively and derail the economic recovery.

The Fed, led by Chair Jerome Powell, has repeatedly expressed its belief that inflation will prove temporary as supply bottlenecks are unclogged and parts and goods flow normally again. But some economists have expressed concern that as the economic recovery accelerates, fueled by rising demand from consumers spending freely again, so will inflation.

The question is, for how long?

"The price spikes could be bigger and more prolonged because the pandemic has been so disruptive to supply chains," Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said in advance of Thursday's inflation report.

But "by the fall or end of the year," Zandi suggested, "prices will be coming back to earth."

That would be none too soon for consumers like Carmela Romanello Schaden, a real estate agent in Rockville Centre, New York. Schaden said she's having to pay more for a range of items at her hair salon. But she is feeling the most pain in the food aisle. Her monthly food bill, she said, is now \$200 to \$250 for herself and her 25-year-old son — up from \$175 earlier in the year.

A package of strip steak that Schaden had normally bought for \$28 to \$32 jumped to \$45. She noticed the increase right before Memorial Day but bought it anyway because it was for a family picnic. But she won't buy it again at that price, she said, and is trading down to pork and chicken.

"I've always been selective," Schaden said. "When something goes up, I will switch into something else."

So far, Fed officials haven't deviated from their view that higher inflation is a temporary consequence of the economy's rapid reopening, with its accelerating consumer demand, and the lack of enough supplies and workers to keep pace with it. Eventually, they say, supply will rise to match demand.

Officials also note that year-over-year gauges of inflation now look especially large because they are being measured against the early months of the pandemic when inflation tumbled as the economy all but shut down. In coming months, the year-over-year inflation figures will likely look smaller.

Still, last month, after the government reported that consumer prices had jumped 4.2% in the 12 months ending in April, Fed Vice Chair Richard Clarida acknowledged; "I was surprised. This number was well above what I and outside forecasters expected."

And the month-to-month readings of inflation, which aren't subject to distortions from the pandemic have also been rising since the year began.

Some economists say they fear that if prices accelerate too much and stay high too long, expectations of further price increases will take hold. That, in turn, could intensify demands for higher pay, potentially triggering the kind of wage-price spiral that bedeviled the economy in the 1970s.

"The market is starting to worry that the Fed may be going soft on inflation, and that could let the inflation genie out of the bottle," said Sung Won Sohn, a professor of economics and finance at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Rising commodity costs are forcing Americans to pay more for items from meat to gasoline. Prices for corn, grain and soybeans are at their highest levels since 2012. The price of lumber to build homes is at an all-time high. More expensive commodities, such as polyethylene and wood pulp, have translated into higher consumer prices for toilet paper, diapers and most products sold in plastic containers.

General Mills has said it's considering raises prices on its products because grain, sugar and other ingredients have become costlier. Hormel Foods has already increased prices for Skippy peanut butter. Coca-Cola has said it expects to raise prices to offset higher costs.

Kimberly-Clark, which makes Kleenex and Scott toilet paper, said it will be raising prices on about 60% of its products. Proctor & Gamble has said it will raise prices for its baby, feminine and adult care products.

This week, Chipotle Mexican Grill announced it was boosting menu prices by roughly 4% to cover the cost of raising its workers' wages. In May, Chipotle had said that it would raise hourly wages for its restaurant workers to reach an average of \$15 an hour by the end of June.

"There is stronger demand for hotel rooms, air travel, restaurant dining," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial. "Many businesses are also facing upward pressure on their costs such as higher wages."

Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, noted that in some cases, a jump in the price of

goods such as autos is raising the price of car rental services.

“It is going to be a muggy summer on the inflation front,” Daco said. “There will be a pass-through from higher goods prices to higher prices for services.”

AP Business Writer Anne D’Innocenzio contributed to this report from New York.

Federal probe: Protest not broken up due to Trump photo op

By ashraf khalil associated press | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — An internal government investigation has determined that the decision to forcibly clear racial justice protesters from an area in front of the White House last summer was not influenced by then-President Donald Trump’s plan to stage a Bible-toting photo opportunity at that spot.

The report released Wednesday by the Interior Department’s inspector general concludes that the protesters were cleared by U.S. Park Police last June 1 so that a contractor could get started installing new fencing.

The demonstrators were protesting the death of George Floyd, who died after a then-Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck and pinned him to the ground for about 9 1/2 minutes. A half-hour after the Washington protesters were forced from the area with pepper pellets and flash-bangs, Trump walked across Lafayette Park amid the lingering scent of pepper spray and delivered a short speech while holding a Bible in front of St. John’s Church.

Park Police officials had already planned to clear the area and “had begun implementing the operational plan several hours before they knew of a potential Presidential visit to the park,” Inspector General Mark Lee Greenblatt said in a statement accompanying the report.

The report documents Trump’s attorney general, William Barr, encouraging commanders shortly before the push to clear the protesters because of Trump, but being dismissed.

In a remarkable exchange, the report recounts the testimony of an unnamed Park Police operations commander: “The Attorney General asked him, ‘Are these people still going to be here when POTUS (President of the United States) comes out?’ The USPP operations commander told us he had not known until then that the President would be coming out of the White House and into Lafayette Park. He said he replied to the Attorney General, ‘Are you freaking kidding me?’ and then hung his head and walked away. The Attorney General then left Lafayette Park.”

The report determined that the decision to clear the protesters was justified, but that law enforcement agencies on the scene failed to effectively communicate with each other and failed to communicate warnings to the protesters about the impending crackdown. Several different law enforcement agencies moved ahead of schedule and started engaging with protesters before the protesters had been sufficiently warned.

The confrontation and church photo-op capped several days of escalating tension and scattered violence. Nights of protests over Floyd’s death had resulted in scattered vandalism through the downtown area. Trump declared that Washington’s mayor, Muriel Bowser, was incapable of maintaining the peace and he called in his own security response.

The report details how on June 1, a contingent from the Bureau of Prisons arrived to the scene late, didn’t receive a full briefing and used pepper pellets on protesters “contrary to the USPP incident commander’s instructions.”

The conclusions, which deny any political influence on decisions and cite fog-of-war confusion for any missteps, are likely to be dismissed as insufficient by critics of last summer’s crackdown.

Lafayette Park, the Washington nexus of the last summer's national wave of racial justice protests, is under Park Police jurisdiction; that agency falls under the Interior Department.

The new report focuses on the Park Police decision-making and its complicated interactions with various law enforcement entities, including the Secret Service and the Metropolitan Police Department.

It points out that "the USPP and the Secret Service did not use a shared radio channel to communicate" and determines that "weaknesses in communication and coordination may have contributed to confusion during the operation."

The report tries to explain one of the main points of lingering contention: who used tear gas and when? It concludes that members of the city's police department, who were stationed down the block, used CS gas near the corner of 17th and H Street.

In the aftermath of that day, the Park Police repeatedly insisted that its officers never used tear gas, while the police insisted that its officers were not involved in clearing protesters away from the church. Just last month, lawyers for the police department stated in federal court that its officers had used CS gas and other chemical irritants, claiming protesters had become violent and that one officer had his arm burned by a firework.

Much of the criticism of the clearing, and the accusations of political influence, stem from the decision to move in before the 7 p.m. curfew that Bowser had set. The push surprised protesters and was criticized as unnecessarily confrontational after two nights of clashes and property damage.

The report concludes that Park Police commanders viewed the curfew as irrelevant. It cites an incident commander as saying, "We were not enforcing the Mayor's curfew. We're a Federal entity. We don't work directly for the Mayor."

It continues that commanders on the scene "did not believe protesters would comply with the Mayor's June 1 curfew order or that waiting would necessarily reduce unrest."

Medicare copays for new Alzheimer's drug could reach \$11,500

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar Associated Press | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new \$56,000-a-year Alzheimer's drug would raise Medicare premiums broadly, and some patients who are prescribed the medication could face copayments of about \$11,500 annually, according to a research report published Wednesday.

The drug, called Aduhelm, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration only this week. It's the first Alzheimer's medication in nearly 20 years, though it doesn't cure the life-sapping neurological condition. Some experts question whether Aduhelm provides any benefit to patients, but the FDA determined it can reduce harmful clumps of plaque in the brain, potentially slowing dementia.

Wednesday's analysis by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation comes as congressional Democrats are trying to build consensus around legislation that would empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, said the list price for the Alzheimer's drug was "unconscionable." Although President Joe Biden has called for granting Medicare negotiating authority, prospects for the bill are uncertain.

The Kaiser report estimated that if just 500,000 Medicare recipients are prescribed Aduhelm, it would cost the program nearly \$29 billion a year, far more than any other medication.

"At this price, the cost of this one drug alone could top all others covered by Medicare, if it is used widely,"

said Tricia Neuman, coauthor of the report.

Medicare has not made a formal determination on covering Aduhelm, but cost traditionally does not enter into such considerations. Drugmaker Biogen has said it priced Aduhelm responsibly.

Alzheimer's affects about 6 million Americans, the vast majority old enough to qualify for Medicare. "The approval of Aduhelm provides the latest high-profile example of the potential budgetary consequences of Medicare's role as a price-taker in the pharmaceutical marketplace," the Kaiser analysis concluded.

In addition to higher taxpayer costs, the domino effects would include higher "Part B" premiums for Medicare's outpatient coverage and increases in monthly premiums for millions with supplemental "Medigap" plans. As an infusion drug that would be administered in a doctor's office, Aduhelm is covered by Medicare's outpatient care benefit. The Part B standard premium, paid by most enrollees, is currently \$148.50 a month. Beyond monthly premiums, there would also be impacts on out-of-pocket costs. Many patients taking the medication, including those signed up in Medicare Advantage plans from private insurers, could face thousands of dollars in copayments. The maximum could reach about \$11,500, researchers estimated. That upper-bound cost out of patients' budgets would translate to nearly 40% of the \$29,650 estimated median income for Medicare beneficiaries.

"Because Aduhelm is not a cure for Alzheimer's disease, patients could incur these annual out-of-pocket costs over multiple years," the report noted.

Biogen, which developed the Alzheimer's drug with Japan's Eisai Co., said earlier this week that it expects a gradual uptake and not a sharp "hockey-stick" spike.

Biogen priced the drug after careful research, said Chirfi Guindo, Biogen's head of global product. Biogen has committed to no price increases for four years.

Guindo said that the company looked at prices for advanced medications to treat cancer and other complex conditions. "We have priced Aduhelm at roughly a third the level of the cancer immunotherapies," he said during a teleconference this week. "So, we consider this to be a really responsible price and we consider this to be a price that is sustainable for the system."

Medicare has a review process known as a National Coverage Determination to evaluate new treatments that could have far-reaching implications for the program. Officials have not yet said how the program will proceed with Aduhelm. It's possible Medicare could set conditions for covering the drug, based on clinical effectiveness.

The program covers more than 60 million people, including those 65 and older, as well as people who are disabled or have serious kidney disease. Medicare spending is approaching \$1 trillion a year.

Neighbor Dispute Leads To Battle Using Weed-Eater, Homemade Spear

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN JUN 11, 2021



One man is in the hospital after a neighbor dispute in the Marfrance area of Greenbrier County led to a battle using a string trimmer and a homemade spear.

According to information provided by the West Virginia State Police, an officer from the Rainelle Detachment responded to a call at around 9:14 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9, regarding a fight between two neighbors.

Upon arrival, the officer found the victim with a severe laceration in his neck. After conducting witness interviews, the officer learned that the victim had been using his string trimmer when his neighbor, Colton Trout, 22, came toward him telling him it was too early and that the noise had woken him up.

Trout then “came toward [the victim] at which time [the victim] put his string trimmer across the fence and used the spinning head to hit Mr. Trout’s arm, causing minor injuries,” the report stated.

At that time, Trout “backed up, picked up a homemade spear and threw it approximately 15 feet at [the victim], spearing him in the neck.”

The victim was transported by ambulance to Greenbrier Valley Medical Center where he underwent surgery for his injuries. He is currently in stable condition.

Trout was arrested on one charge of malicious wounding.

Dear Abby: Friday, June 11

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

Friend Prefers Telling Tall Tales Over The Truth

Dear Abby: Twenty years ago, I reconnected with a childhood friend. When we were in high school together, she used to love telling stories, not all of them true. Most were harmless and cast her as the center of an interesting adventure. After graduation, I headed off to college, she started a job and we lost touch for almost 30 years. We now see each other once or twice a year, but text almost daily. She recently sent me a photo of a now-closed department store and told me she had worked there right after high school, in its pet department. She went on to say she got the job because she had raised tropical fish and was comfortable caring for the animals. The problem with her story is that it was I who had that job. I worked there throughout my freshman year in college. Thinking maybe she had taken the job after I left, I asked a few questions. But it quickly became obvious that she had snatched my work experience as her own. I couldn't think of a kind way to challenge her, so all I texted was "Interesting." Now I find myself not believing any of her stories. I don't think she has dementia, but I can't understand why anyone would co-opt someone else's history like this. Should I challenge her at this late date or chalk it up to more of her "storytelling"? — **Stolen Life in Indiana**

Dear Stolen: For whatever reason, your old chum seems unable to separate fact from fantasy. She may do this because she has low self-esteem. I see nothing positive to be gained by confronting her, but it may be time to ask yourself how much you want to continue a relationship with a compulsive fabulist. She may do this hoping to impress others, or because she feels her life is so boring that others won't be interested in her if she tells the truth. It's sad, really.

Dear Abby: My husband of many years died. We were very close and spent a lot of time together. How do I graciously decline visits from people I care about but am not close to? I know they mean well, and I don't want to cause hurt feelings. I think we may all grieve differently. Even after several months, I'm still not ready to entertain a visitor. I may never be, although I appreciate their thoughts. — **Continuing to Grieve**

Dear Continuing: When you wrote that everyone grieves differently, you nailed it. It's the truth. For some, the process can take a short time. (Many widows and widowers had time to grieve before they lost their spouses.) For others, it takes longer. Several months is still a relatively short time, but please do not isolate yourself completely. You don't have to entertain, but being able to vent your feelings to caring friends or in a support group can be healthy and healing. If you don't want anyone in your home, consider meeting a close friend or two out in public for a brief visit. Going out, exercising and getting some sunshine each day is healthy and can help to lessen depression. Your husband is irreplaceable, but isolating yourself won't bring him back. If your inability to move forward persists, I urge you to discuss it with your physician or your religious adviser if you have one.

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.

Let Me Do You A Flavor: Pulled Pork

By Lindsey Wolford WVDN Columnist | WVDN JUN 11, 2021



Hey there and thank you for coming back to see what I have in store for you this week! As the temperature continues to rise, I thought it only fitting to give you a dinner option that won't heat up the kitchen but is sure to satisfy the entire family. So, pour a drink and great ready to beat the heat with this pulled pork topped with Alabama White Sauce, coleslaw and the best corn on the cob!

Lately, it has been really hot and that makes me not feel like cooking. So, when it's hot like it has been I make good use of my Instant Pot or my Crockpot so I can keep things cool while bringing all the flavor to the table. For this meal, I used the Instant Pot, however, if you don't have one don't stress you can make this work in the Crockpot just as well.

For this meal you will need:

- A pork shoulder roast (approximately 3-4 pounds, with or without the bone)
- 1 bag of coleslaw mix
- Frozen mini corn on the cob
- 1 ½ cups mayo
- Garlic powder
- Onion powder
- Smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon and 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- ¼ cup white vinegar

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
6 tablespoons sugar
½ cup milk
6 tablespoons butter

Just a heads up it seems like there is a lot of step and prep to this meal, but it is completely worth keeping your kitchen and house cool; so hang in there with me.

Let's begin with the pork. Season the pork with garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper, and paprika — be sure to rub the seasonings in as good as you can. Place the seasoned pork in the Instant Pot with 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce and about 1 cup of water. Place on high for an hour and a half to two hours and let the pressure release naturally. If you are using a Crockpot then place the pork roast in on high for 6-8 hours — this is good to put in before you go to work or before you go to bed. When the pork is done remove it from the Instant Pot or Crockpot and shred with two forks.

Next, let's work on the coleslaw. Now, I will be honest I don't know real measurements on this I just taste it and if it's good I am done. In a bowl I mix together about ½ cup mayo with ¼ cup white vinegar and about 2 tablespoons sugar and mix really well then taste it. If it's too sour add some sugar and if it doesn't have that vinegar bite then add a little more vinegar and if it lacks creaminess then add a little more mayo. Once you are satisfied then add in the shredded coleslaw mix, stir well and refrigerate until you are ready for dinner.

Now it's time to make the Alabama White Sauce. This is from a recipe found online so I cannot take the credit for this and this is used in place of a traditional BBQ sauce. In a small bowl mix together 1 cup of mayo, ¼ cup apple cider vinegar, 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard, 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 teaspoon onion powder, 1 teaspoon pepper and ½ teaspoon salt. Once you have everything mixed up, refrigerate until you are ready to use. Side note — this sauce would be great for French fries or onion rings so don't lose that recipe.

So, you have done all this prep work and all you have left is the corn on the cob. I used frozen mini corn on the cob but you can use fresh as well. Once my pork was done, I washed the Instant Pot and place the corn on the cob standing up in the Instant Pot and poured in the ½ cup of milk along with a cup of water, 4 tablespoons sugar and 6 tablespoons of butter. Place the Instant Pot on high for 7 minutes and let it naturally release the pressure. You could do this in a Crockpot as well but it would probably need to be on high for about an hour or so. This is the best corn I have ever had!

Once the corn is done you are ready to build your plates. I used sweet Hawaiian buns and drizzled the Alabama White Sauce on top and served the coleslaw on the side with the corn.

Don't forget you can make this meal your own — you can shred chicken or beef instead of pork, have crockpot mac-n-cheese instead of coleslaw or corn or make baked beans in the microwave to keep the heat factor down.

No matter what you do have fun doing it and as always I am sending love from my kitchen to yours!

Spartans Shocked By Oak Hill In Section Finals

By by brandon baker | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

Everything was set up for the Greenbrier East Spartans baseball team to win one more game and claim the sectional championship after defeating the Oak Hill Red Devils 7-2 and sending them to the loser's bracket.

However, on Friday, June 4 East was beaten by the Red Devils 9-6 and then totally shocked by them again on Saturday, June 5 as the East faithful were left wondering just what the heck happened.

With the two losses, the Spartans' season came to an abrupt and surprising end.

In the first game, the Spartans led 6-2 heading into the sixth inning. With East down 2-1 in the bottom of the third, Jordan Mize blasted a 3-run home run to give the Spartans a 4-2 lead and all the momentum the air could stand.

That lead extended by two more in the fourth frame when Isiah Brooks scored on a passed ball and Mize drove in another run with a single.

But it was in the sixth inning that everything went bad.

Questionable calls on the base paths and bad luck in general for East gave all the mojo back to the Red Devils. Oak Hill scored three of their three runs in the frame on a fielder's choice, a passed ball, and an error. The score was tied at 6-all heading into the seventh after East threatened at the plate in their half but left two critical runners on base.

The game went into extra innings when Oak Hill scored three runs in the eighth to put the game away.

Again, the Spartans threatened in the bottom, but a well-hit ball by Boswell was right at the center fielder and Oak Hill held on for the upset.

Mize went 2-4 with a homer and four runs driven in.

East trailed in game two 2-0 in the bottom of the fifth inning but scored two to tie it up when Boswell scored on tag-up play and Logan Carr knocked Mize in across home plate.

But Oak Hill's Zac Wolfe scored on an error in the top of the seventh and the Spartan offense could not muster a rally at the end and East left the field in shock with their second loss in as many days.

East ended the year at 18-6.

Complete season recap and 2022 look ahead coming soon.

UPDATED: Ronceverte Commission Meeting Agenda

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 11, 2021

City of Ronceverte, West Virginia

Planning Commission

Ronceverte City Hall

Monday June 14, 2021

5:00 P.M.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Dollar General Discussion
4. Adjournment