

WVDN JUN 21, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540-4242

WEST VIRGINIA **EW** Dear Abby

Lewisburg Lifts Bull Water Advisory

Lewisburg Plans For Its Inaugural Greenbrier Valley Pride Event

Caring Acres Farm Hosts Business After Hours Event

Students Receive Ruritan Club Scholarships

'Do It For Babydog' Winners Are Announced

65% (807) 611-1111

Table of Contents

- Health economist: Opioids cost community \$3.3B in damages 1**
- Governor: GOP pick for public broadcasting brings 'balance' 1**
- Lizzie Watts is a superintendent for all seasons 2**
- Local Students Are Named To Davis & Elkins Dean's List 4**
- AG Praises Important Victory in Opioid Case 4**
- Marshall University Accounting Students Get Experience at The State Fair of West Virginia 5**
- Students Receive Ruritan Club Scholarship 7**
- Dear Abby: Monday, June 21 7**
- This Week In West Virginia History 8**
- 'Do It For Babydog' Winners Announced 10**
- Annual WV Court Statistics Report Released 13**
- Arrest Made Following Series Of Vehicle Break-Ins In Beckley 14**
- City Of Lewisburg Lifts Boil Water Advisory 14**
- Greenbrier Valley Pride Event To Be Held In Lewisburg 15**
- Justice Calls For Special Session Of Legislature 17**

Health economist: Opioids cost community \$3.3B in damages

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A Harvard health economist has testified that prescription opioids have caused an estimated \$3.3 billion in damages in a West Virginia community.

Thomas McGuire, professor of health economics at Harvard Medical School, testified Thursday in a civil trial in which Cabell County and the city of Huntington accuse drug distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. of fueling the opioid epidemic. The companies have maintained that poor communication and pill quotas set by federal agents are to blame for the epidemic, along with a rise in prescriptions written by doctors. The landmark trial is being heard in Charleston.

McGuire attributed \$2.8 billion to lives lost in Cabell County and the Huntington community and the rest to excess health care costs, The Herald-Dispatch reported.

Under cross-examination from an attorney for Cardinal Health, he said it would be difficult to determine how much damage was caused by prescription opioids obtained through the companies versus prescription opioids obtained illegally.

Defense attorneys asked Senior U.S. District Judge David A. Faber to strike McGuire's testimony "(McGuire) did not calculate the harms attributable to our conduct," Cardinal Health attorney Ashley Hardin said.

Faber said he would consider the request but didn't immediately rule on it.

The trial is expected to resume on June 28.

Governor: GOP pick for public broadcasting brings 'balance'

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice is defending his appointment of a Republican Party operative to a public broadcasting oversight board, saying it will bring "balance" and "diversity."

"I do believe there ought to be diversity to that board," Justice told the Charleston Gazette-Mail on Thursday when asked about the appointment of GOP operative Greg Thomas to the state Educational Broadcasting Authority, which is the governing body of West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

"Changing the board to be more balanced and everything, I don't think the more liberal folks have total ownership of that board. I don't think the more conservative folks should have total ownership of the board in any way. I think it should be balanced," Justice said.

The choice of Thomas prompted concern about his credentials and whether the GOP governor will use his political muscle to fill multiple expired seats.

Members of the state Senate Confirmations Committee received notice last week of the pending appointment. Senate Minority Leader Stephen Baldwin, a Greenbrier County Democrat, said on Monday that Thomas' background doesn't make him a good fit for the authority and the pending appointment "stood out like a sore thumb."

Justice has been critical of overall media coverage of his failed attempt this year to lower income taxes and

shift the burden to sales taxes.

In 2017, Justice's initial budget proposal sought to eliminate state funding for West Virginia Public Broadcasting, which lawmakers eventually fully funded. The GOP-controlled Senate made a failed attempt to eliminate funding for the authority in the 2021-22 state budget during the most recent session.

Baldwin said he is concerned that Justice will use his power to appoint EBA members to accomplish what Senate Republicans couldn't.

Lizzie Watts is a superintendent for all seasons

By michelle james the register-herald | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

GLEN JEAN, W.Va. (AP) — "I guess it was the sunsets," Lizzie Watts said.

Watts was 2-½ years into her studies at North Carolina State University and had every intention of spending her life tucked away inside a science lab when she headed to the Blue Ridge Parkway for a summer to work as part of a co-op with the National Park Service.

"I was going to be a mad physicist," she recalled with a chuckle.

But that summer – and those sunsets on the parkway – quickly changed her mind.

"Forestry turned out to be a perfect fit for me," she said.

From interpreter to chief ranger, Watts has had a lot of titles in the years since the brightly colored evening skies altered her life's plans.

But her newest title – superintendent for New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National Scenic River – is by far her longest.

To be fair, only portions of the title are new.

Watts, who has a 34-year history with the park, has served as superintendent for four years.

But it was only in December that Congress declared the New River Gorge an official national park.

Watts spent her early years with the National Park Service on the Blue Ridge Parkway before transferring out west to Olympic National Park in Washington State.

"If you've never been there, it's truly a remarkable piece of the world," she said, explaining it's the only place in the continental United States with all three ecosystems: a rainforest, a glacier, and a coast.

Her travels then took her across the country – twice – to the Washington Parkway in D.C., and then to Colorado where she served as chief ranger at Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

After a few years there, Watts hoped to get closer to North Carolina when her mother became ill.

As it happened, during her early travels, a 53-mile stretch of the New River, between Bluestone and Hawks Nest dams, had become a unit of the National Park System in November 1978.

And in 1987, when Watts looked for her next destination, she found it in Oak Hill.

"When I was hired, there were only five permanent employees," she said of those early days during which the park was headquartered out of a tiny office above a downtown Oak Hill bank.

Although the wheels had been in motion for nearly a decade when Watts first came on board, the park was still in its infancy and was just beginning to grow.

Watts explains its formation, led by a push from the late U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

"New River is a unique park in the fact that when it was originally established by Sen. Byrd, he intentionally did not include condemnation rights," she said, explaining Byrd did not want landowners to be forced to give up their property. "He believed very much that it should be willing seller, willing buyer."

So, since the late 1980s, Congress has purchased property one piece at a time, adding up to the approximately 60,000 acres of which Watts said the park now consists.

"They'll always be some landowners who keep their land," she said. "We'll never own it all."

There was tremendous growth during Watts' early years with New River, with the construction of the visitors center and exhibits at Canyon Rim and the shift from the tiny Oak Hill office to new headquarters in Glen Jean. "We also purchased the land to buy the Thurmond depot from CSX and spent time reestablishing the building because it was on the ground in horrible shape," she said. "And we historically furnished the upstairs to tell the railroad, logging and coal mine stories of the New River."

In 2001, Watts spent a year working under the regional NPS director in Philadelphia before returning to New River and her partner Greg, an Oak Hill native who also worked for the Park Service.

Before long, though keeping her home base with Greg in Oak Hill, she again hit the road, accepting the job as superintendent at Women's Rights National Historic Site in upstate New York.

"I got to meet some fascinating women when I was there," she said, explaining former first lady Roslyn Carter and the late U.S. Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsberg were both honored during a weekend celebration. And though she didn't know it at the time, she would soon become close with both the former first lady and former President Jimmy Carter, when she was selected to serve as the first superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Ga.

"The Carters are tremendous people," she said of the couple with whom she attended church and sometimes ate dinner. "They are wonderfully kind and generous and welcomed me with open arms."

When her late father, a WWII veteran who also got to know the Carters, became ill in North Carolina, Watts again decided she wanted to be closer to family, so she applied for the superintendent position on the Andrew Johnson Highway.

It was there - or back where she started with those sunsets on the Blue Ridge Parkway - where Watts thought she might close out her career.

She regularly traveled back to Oak Hill to be with Greg, but she said she wasn't going to apply for a superintendent position in a park where her significant other was employed.

Then, in 2016, after 28 years, Greg woke up one morning and decided to retire.

So, when the superintendent position came open at New River, she applied and was hired.

"I thought I would finish my career on the road," she said. "I was delighted to come back."

Things are a bit different than when Watts was one of five employees working out of a six-room office space 34 years ago.

A bit different and a bit the same.

Watts said that staff of five worked hard to feel its way through growing pains, building infrastructure, listening to the community about what it wanted to see from the NPS and simply trying to determine what the future held.

And now, things are still a bit like that but on a much bigger scale.

"We've got visitors from all over the world," she said. "They're expecting all kinds of things from a national park. And what a great time to be here. What a great time to figure out what we'll look like and how it will be and how to meet those visitors' expectations as a national park and preserve."

She said the park has seen a definite increase in visitors since the designation. And whereas the most commonly asked question previously was, "Where's the bridge?" in reference to the New River Gorge Bridge, now people want to know about the park itself.

"Now it's 'How do I hike? Where can I camp? What's so significant about this park? What makes it special?'" she said.

The questions about hikes and camping are pretty basic and the answers to what makes the park significant had to be answered before Congress made the designation.

Those are the resources and the history, Watts said, pointing to everything from the rhododendron at Grandview to the ecosystem at Sandstone Falls, the coal, logging and rail history at Thurmond and the water of the New River.

"Those (four areas) were set aside as the national park and the rest was set aside as the preserve so we could ensure some of the tradition of southern Appalachia, like hunting," she explained.

And as for what makes it special, Watts said it's really everything.

“The spring wildflowers that come out every year are some of the best in the world,” she said. “We have over 1,500 animals and plants that call it home. Fall color is magical. It’s great if you’re a hiker or a climber. Or if you’re like me, a general visitor that likes to sightsee and see views and spend time sitting by the river, what better place is there to do that?”

She said the park, the nation’s newest, has something for everyone.

“If this is home, I challenge you to find a place you’ve never been,” she said “Or if you’re not from here, I offer you the opportunity to have a great summer vacation and not just summer. We’re spectacular spring, summer, fall and winter.”

Local Students Are Named To Davis & Elkins Dean's List

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

ELKINS, WV – Davis & Elkins College has announced the names of students who achieved the Dean’s List for the spring 2021 semester, which includes all full-time students with a semester GPA of 3.6 to less than 4.0. Area students who achieved the distinction are: Abbie Bartenslager, of Lewisburg, and Keira Riggsby, of Arbovale.

Related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Davis & Elkins College is located in Elkins, two hours east of Charleston, three hours south of Pittsburgh and four hours west of Washington, D.C.

For more information, please visit the College website at www.dewv.edu or call 304-637-1243.

AG Praises Important Victory in Opioid Case

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced Thursday actions to defend two recently passed laws – legislation relating to the automatic deduction of union dues and single-sex participation in interscholastic athletic events – and praised a recent state Supreme Court opinion hoping it will move the state’s opioid litigation toward resolution.

The Attorney General revealed his intent to appeal a circuit court order that temporarily blocks enforcement of the state’s paycheck protection law. In the meantime, his office has filed a motion to stay the circuit court’s order pending appeal with the state Supreme Court of Appeals.

“The state Supreme Court ruled last year that it is fully constitutional to say an employee cannot be forced to pay into a union, and as such, we feel confident the state will prevail in this instance involving a narrower question – whether the state must provide an automatic payroll deduction,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Simply put, the state is not a financial service institution. Utilities and many other service providers operate without relying upon the government for their billing. Likewise, broad automated technologies exist to assist unions in collecting dues from those who choose to belong.

“Nothing in this legislation discriminates against unions. Rather, it simply eliminates the burden on government to engage in payroll deductions that benefit voluntary organizations, such as unions, labor organizations and clubs, while preserving deductions for employment benefits offered to all employees by virtue of their employment such as pensions, required tax withholding, insurance benefits and others,” he added.

The Attorney General also announced his intent to intervene in defense of a newly passed law relating to single-sex participation in interscholastic athletic events. He filed a motion Thursday seeking the court’s permission to intervene.

“There is good reason for our office to intervene; chief among them is the Attorney General’s constitutional duty to protect the state’s interest,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Fair competition and preserving women’s sports is paramount. Defending this law will also preserve the many opportunities Title IX opened up for girls and women everywhere.”

The Attorney General also praised Friday’s decision by the state Supreme Court of Appeals upholding the decisions of the state Mass Litigation Panel as it relates to the state’s claims in pending opioid litigation.

“The majority opinion represents an important preliminary victory,” Attorney General Morrisey said of the June 11 ruling. “We particularly appreciate Justice Hutchinson’s recognition of the defendants’ continued attempts to slow the case at every stage, and we hope the court’s voice sends a message that moves this closer to resolution.

“The senseless death and lost potential wrought by the opioid epidemic is far too great for anyone to accept continued delay. Our state’s citizens deserve a just resolution that holds those involved responsible, and we remain committed to seeing that through,” he continued.

Marshall University Accounting Students Get Experience at The State Fair of West Virginia

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



A group of accounting students from Marshall University traveled to the State Fair of West Virginia on Thursday, June 17. They are in the area attending the West Virginia Society of CPAs conference. During their stay, the students are participating in a special program that gives them real-world experience in their chosen field. As part of the program, the students analyzed a situation for the State Fair. They made calculations and gathered information in order to determine if it would be more prudent and cost-effective for the State Fair to build a stage or finance a stage.

Once all information was gathered and all calculations were complete, the students would make a presentation to fair officials stating their findings. The officials would then take that information under advisement.

According to Dr. Amanda Thompson-Abbott, who was supervising the students, "They learn a lot of theory and things in the classroom which is great, but we all know that out in the real world life can be messy and life can be different, so we wanted to provide them an opportunity to explore some real-world problems outside of the classroom."

Thompson-Abbott also stated this program is possible thanks to a generous benefactor who, several years ago, set up a fund. Students interview to be a part of this program and each year, a certain number of students are chosen. Being chosen means the students get to attend the West Virginia Society of CPAs conference. While there, students have the opportunity to meet CPAs in a number of different fields so that they can get a better idea of what direction they want to take with their own careers.

This year, five students were chosen and together they worked on the State Fair project. Not only does this

provide an opportunity for them to work in a real-world situation, but they also have to work together.

The accounting program at Marshall University is AACSB accredited. Only a handful of schools carry this particular accreditation according to Thompson-Abbott.

Thompson-Abbott said, "One of the big initiatives with the Marshall College business is that they want to create this experiential learning community and working alongside businesses and non-profits." She noted that many times a non-profit may not have the funds available to hire a team of experts, so this is also a way to provide the skills to help them without the fees.

Students Receive Ruritan Club Scholarship

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



(For layout purposes, this information is in the form of a cutline)

The Williamsburg Ruritan Club announced the College Scholarship Awards for 2021 goes to three recipients: Augusta Judy (l to r), Lauren Quick and Caleb Thomas. Augusta Judy will be attending Concord College, Lauren Quick will be attending WVU and Caleb will be attending Bluefield State. Jack Goodman, Williamsburg Ruritan Club president, presented the awards.

The three students have been entered as new members of the Ruritan Club with the first year of membership paid for by the club.

Dear Abby: Monday, June 21

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

Alternative Treatments Exist To Treat Impotence

DEAR ABBY: I think you missed an important consideration in your March 25 advice to the widower who had had prostate surgery and was afraid to tell a prospective girlfriend he couldn't have sex.

My husband and I are in our 60s and he has a similar condition. But we have become creative, and our sex life is better than it was when we were younger. Penetration is not the only way to share sexual intimacy. In fact, it's overrated. The only limitation on lifelong sexual satisfaction is your own imagination and inventiveness. Yes, "Going Forward in Virginia" may want to settle for a sexless companionship with his new love, but he sure doesn't have to. — KNOWS IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR KNOWS: Many readers wrote to me expressing your sentiments. Others shared possible medical solutions for dealing with impotence. Despite the intimate nature of the topic, they were generous in offering support to "Going Forward." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Going Forward" should consult a urologist about his condition. Specifically, he should ask the urologist if a prescription for Tri-Mix would be appropriate. It's a compound of three components that enables an individual with ED resulting from a prostatectomy to engage in normal sexual relations. It's delivered via a self-administered injection. The urologist will instruct "GF" how to do it. I had a prostatectomy 12 years ago and experienced ED as a result. I have been using Tri-Mix since then, and I'm happy to say I have continued to enjoy a normal physical relationship with my wife. — TOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: An inflatable implant may be the answer for "Going Forward." If he is in generally good health, he may be a good candidate for this procedure, which is not considered major surgery and is covered by some insurance policies, including Medicare. The implant is the greatest thing since sliced bread. My wife and I know because I have one. There is some pain during recovery, but it is SO worth it. "Going Forward" should have a conversation with his doctor, who should have already told him about this option. — TESTIFYING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

** ** **

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who insists on bringing food whenever I invite her over for an event (birthday party, Thanksgiving, etc.). It doesn't matter what she cooks, Abby, it's always awful. Everyone tries whatever it is she made, but then spits it out. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't want her to bring anything ever again that isn't store-bought. How can I tell her tactfully? — REPULSED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR REPULSED: Tell your generous friend that you appreciate the thought behind what she has been doing, but when you invite guests over YOUR MENU IS ALREADY SET. She is the kind of "helpful" guest who should be "commissioned" to bring a store-bought beverage, dinner rolls or napkins.

** ** **

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.

This Week In West Virginia History

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



June 16, 2021

Charleston WV - The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

June 20, 1861: Francis Pierpont was unanimously elected as governor of the unionist Reorganized State of Virginia, which sat at Wheeling until West Virginia entered the Union two years later.

June 20, 1863: West Virginia became the 35th state. Arthur Boreman was the state's first governor.

June 20, 1932: The West Virginia capitol was officially dedicated. Construction had begun in 1924.

June 20, 1963: On the 100th birthday of West Virginia, President John F. Kennedy made his last appearance in West Virginia. Speaking in Charleston in a pouring rain, he said "The sun does not always shine in West Virginia, but the people always do."

June 20, 1970: The play Hatfields and McCoys opened at Grandview State Park amphitheater. Written by Billy Edd Wheeler with music by Ewel Cornett, the show joined Honey in the Rock as a regular summer offering.

June 21, 1920: Wheeling Steel Corporation was organized when La Belle Iron Works, Whitaker-Glessner Company, and Wheeling Steel & Iron Works combined. In the 1920s, Wheeling Steel employed more than 17,000 workers and ranked as the nation's third-largest steelmaker.

June 21, 1959: Musician Kathy Mattea was born in South Charleston but grew up in nearby Cross Lanes. In junior high school she learned to play the guitar, and in high school she practiced her vocal skills singing classical music in choir class.

June 22, 1926: Earl Olgebay died in Cleveland. He was one of West Virginia's most successful industrialists and a generous benefactor.

June 23, 1944: A tornado struck Shinnston and the surrounding area, killing 103 people and injuring hundreds more.

June 23, 2016: Eight inches of rain fell in a 12-hour period. The Meadow, Cherry and Elk rivers, as well as Howard Creek, flooded downtowns and The Greenbrier resort and killed 23 people.

June 24, 1842: Author Ambrose Bierce was born. Bierce found the setting for some of his famous short stories in the mountains of Civil War-era West Virginia.

June 25, 1811: Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth was born near Beverly, Randolph County. His many bridges also included the earliest covered bridge at Beverly and the famous Philippi covered bridge.

June 26, 1887: Sheriff Don Chafin was born in Logan County. Chafin was a bitter foe of union organizers and, with financial support from coal companies, used his many deputies to keep labor organizers out of Logan County.

June 26, 1892: Pearl Buck was born in Hillsboro in the home of her maternal grandparents. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Good Earth*.

June 26, 1936: Basketball star Harold Everett "Hal" Greer was born in Huntington. Greer was the first African-American athlete to play at Marshall College (now University). During his three-year college career, Greer scored 1,377 points and averaged 19.4 points per game.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information, contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

'Do It For Babydog' Winners Announced

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



Gov. Jim Justice welcomed West Virginians to the Capitol Complex on Sunday, June 20, 2021, to celebrate the State's 158th birthday and to witness the first prize giveaway of the "Do it for Babydog: Save a life, Change your life" vaccination sweepstakes.

The Governor was joined by Babydog, his pet English Bulldog and the official mascot of the sweepstakes, to announce the winners of dozens of prizes, including the lottery's first ever million-dollar winner.

Karen Foley of Mineral Wells was named as the winner of the \$1 million cash prize Sunday, taking home the biggest prize from the first of seven vaccine lottery prize drawings.

Melissa Spivy of Vienna and Ralph Paugh of Parkersburg were named as the winners of two brand new custom-outfitted trucks.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Osborne of Hurricane and Elizabeth Ball of Nitro were named as the winners of two full four-year scholarships to any public institution in the state

Additional prizes awarded Sunday included five lifetime hunting licenses, five lifetime fishing licenses, five custom hunting rifles, five custom hunting shotguns, and 25 weekend getaways to West Virginia State Parks.

\$1 Million Winner

Karen Foley, Mineral Wells

Truck Winners

Melissa Spivy, Vienna

Ralph Paugh, Parkersburg

College Scholarship Winners

Rebecca Osborne, Hurricane

Elizabeth Ball, Nitro

Lifetime Hunting License Winners

Geneva Blake, Washington
Christopher Harvey Jr., Maben
Sabrina Morrison, Huntington
Dickie Roberts, Lewisburg
Shirley Young, Bomont

Lifetime Fishing License Winners

James Browning Sr., Dry Branch
Sharon Cope, Frankford
Andrew Humphreys, Charleston
Joshua Rakosi, Morgantown
Cathy Osborne, Rainelle

Custom Hunting Rifle Winners

Charles Moats, Philippi
Heather Petry, Scott Depot
Bryan Price, Hurricane
Christy Reger, Nutter Fort
Justin Myers, Hurricane

Custom Hunting Shotgun Winners

Xavier Alston, Fairmont
Stephen Barberio, Clarksburg
Deborah McNew, Princeton
David Shipman, Wheeling
Bonnie Taylor, Montcalm

State Park Weekend Getaway Winners

Thomas Binns, Elkins
Gerald Boone, Prichard
Carol Burge, Moundsville
Brandon Cork, Wellsburg
Victoria Dennison, Davisville
Deborah Dickens, Reynoldsville
Keith Ewing, Hico
Kevin Ford, Charleston
Bonnie Gibson, Princeton
Cathy Harless, Charleston
Edith Harrison, Parkersburg
Lisa Hewitt, Kearneysville
Kimberly Jackson, Princeton
Beverly Machir, Nitro
Travis Persinger, Fayetteville
Lana Plymale, Kenova
Wesley Runyan, Cross Lanes
Mary Anne Seckel, Morgantown
Jeff Sine, Falling Waters
Ronald Smith III, Huntington
Jason Thompson, Mount Hope

Caroline White, Fairmont
Lindsay White, Elkview
Jessica Workman, Crawley
Jaime Young, Wheeling

Additional lottery drawings will be held every week through August 4 and will feature all of the same prizes that were awarded Sunday. The final drawing will also include a \$1.588 million grand prize and a \$588,000 second prize.

With six more “Do it for Babydog: Save a life, Change your life” prize giveaways scheduled, all West Virginians who have received at least one dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines are encouraged to register at DoitforBabydog.wv.gov to join the list of winners.

Annual WV Court Statistics Report Released

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

The 2020 annual statistics report for circuit, family and magistrate courts has been released by the West Virginia court system.

Statewide, circuit courts had 38,248 case filings (an almost 12.5% decrease from 2019), family courts had 20,510 filings (a 17% decrease from 2019) and magistrate courts had a combined total of 154,463 case filings, according to information found in the report.

The following statistics include cases filed in 2020 in Greenbrier County:

Circuit court criminal case filings — 132 felony, 9 misdemeanor;

Circuit court civil case filings — 25 adoptions, 131 general, 19 guardianship, 5 magistrate appeals, 83 mental health, 21 other and 2 personal safety;

Circuit court juvenile case filings — 67 child neglect/abuse, 10 delinquency and 16 status offense;

Family court domestic case filings — 141 divorce, 208 domestic violence, 89 other domestic relations and 57 contempt and modification;

Magistrate court civil case filings — 359 small claims, 67 personal safety protections, 255 domestic violence;

Magistrate court criminal case filings — 108 worthless check, 14 felony motor vehicle, 243 other felony, 650 misdemeanor motor vehicle, 54 misdemeanor DNR, 659 other misdemeanors;

Magistrate court juvenile and special proceedings case filings — 6 motor vehicle, 1 DNR, 9 other, 18 abuse and neglect, 15 juvenile.

Additionally, the state courts saw a total of 5,087 mass litigation orders. Included in those litigation orders are 4,729 asbestos personal injury, 225 opioid, 116 Marcellus Shale, 6 tobacco, 5 Raleigh Heart Clinic, 2 Gavin Landfill and 1 Yeager Airport.

A complete list of statistics for each county can be found at courtswv.gov.

Arrest Made Following Series Of Vehicle Break-Ins In Beckley

By autumn shelton wvdn | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

An arrest has been made following a series of vehicle break-ins along Harper Road in Beckley.

On May 3, an officer with the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to a residence after a homeowner captured a man on surveillance video trying to break into two cars, according to the criminal complaint.

After viewing the video, the officer later spotted a man walking along Dry Hill Road who matched the description of the man in the surveillance video. The man was identified as Allen Thomas Gibson, 32, of Glen Daniel.

While detained, Gibson gave the officer permission to search his backpack. Inside the backpack were items that had been reported stolen from at least five different victims. Those items included change purses, cell phones, cologne, costume jewelry, clothing, headphones and a walkie-talkie.

Gibson had a previous arrest warrant for shoplifting and was placed into custody.

All of the victims were later able to identify their items that were found in Gibson's book bag, the complaint continues. Some items are still unclaimed.

Gibson has been charged on multiple misdemeanor counts of vehicle breaking and entering, petit larceny, two counts of attempt to commit a misdemeanor and one count of conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor.

He was booked at Southern Regional Jail on May 24. A cash/surety bail was set at \$7,500.

City Of Lewisburg Lifts Boil Water Advisory

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



The Boil Water Advisory (BWA) for the City of Lewisburg water system has been lifted for the areas including Renick, Maxwellton, Frankford, Fairlea, Caldwell and Lewisburg. Please flush your personal lines until your water runs clear.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the City of Lewisburg Water Plant 304-647 5585.

Drinking Water Problem Corrected

“Customers of the City of Lewisburg were notified on June 15, 2021 of a problem with our drinking water and were advised to boil their water for hygienic purposes. We are pleased to report that the problem has been corrected and that it is no longer necessary to boil their water for hygienic purposes.

We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

As always, you may contact Randy Johnson at 304-647-5585 or 2359 Stonehouse Road, Caldwell WV 24925 with any comments or questions.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.”

Greenbrier Valley Pride Event To Be Held In Lewisburg

By by matthew young | WVDN JUN 21, 2021



The inaugural Greenbrier Valley Pride event will take place in downtown Lewisburg on Saturday, June 26 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. As part of the event, Greenbrier Valley Pride will be holding a “poster competition.”

According to a post on social media, “Our aim for this is to engage everyone of all age groups, with posters being designed for the theme: What Does Pride Mean To Me?”

Posters can be comprised of the individual’s preferred medium and can consist of drawings, pictures, words, or any other fashion your creativity comes out! our plan is to have participants walk/march with their posters in the parade leading up to the block party, and setting them aside for judging to occur during the block party.

We will have two general age categories: Youth (up to 17-years-old) and Adults (age 18+) – winners from each category will receive a \$20 gift card to Wild Bean & Thunderbird Taco. Additionally, Harmony Ridge Gallery has offered to let us display the posters of anyone who is interested!

Our only request is that posters meet municipal guidelines in that they do not depict/include profanity, sexually explicit imagery, and do not incite violence.

We are incredibly excited and cannot wait to see the amazing posters you all come up with! No sign-up needed, just show up the day of with them!”

Founded in 2021, Greenbrier Valley Pride is a relatively new group. Saturday marks their first event in Lewisburg.

As explained on local Lewisburg artist [Kelsie Tyson’s website](#), “Greenbrier Valley Pride is an up-and-coming group dedicated to inclusivity and the celebration of the LGBTQIA+ Community throughout the region.”

In a previous article, The West Virginia Daily News’ Autumn Shelton described Tyson as being an “[artist and activist who stresses the importance of being comfortable with one’s own body](#)”.

Tyson is a graduate of Greenbrier East High School and Marshall University, and earned her MFA from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Philadelphia’s Temple University. Tyson was also recently awarded a place in the prestigious Tamarack Foundation of the Arts Emerging Artist Fellowship program for 2021.

Saturday’s Greenbrier Valley Pride event is scheduled to take place rain or shine.

Justice Calls For Special Session Of Legislature

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUN 21, 2021

Gov. Jim Justice issued a proclamation today, calling for the West Virginia Legislature to convene in special session at 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

The special session call requests that the Legislature consider over \$250 million in supplementary appropriations that Gov. Justice has divided into 21 different initiatives.

A few of those initiatives include upgrades and expansions to several West Virginia State Parks, upgrades to the Elk River Trail, allocating initial funding to the Economic Development Authority’s Closing Fund, upgrades to correctional facilities, replenishing the First Responders’ Death Fund, and many others.