

# WVDN JUL 02, 2021

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**LOCAL NEWS** **STAR** **DEAR ABBY**

### Greenbrier Memorial Gardens Sees More Damage To Jesus Statue

By [Name] | PHOTOS BY [Name]

GREENBRIER, W.V. — A statue of Jesus Christ in the Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in West Virginia has been damaged again, this time by a large rock that fell from a cliffside. The statue, which is a central feature of the gardens, is now covered in a large hole and is surrounded by debris. The damage occurred on Monday, July 5, 2021, and is the latest in a series of incidents that have caused concern among the community. The statue is a 12-foot high, 12-inch wide, and is made of white marble. It is located in the center of the gardens, which are a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The gardens are home to several other statues, including a large one of a woman and child, and a smaller one of a man. The damage to the Jesus statue is a significant loss to the gardens and the community. The statue is a symbol of faith and hope, and its destruction is a tragedy. The community is now working to raise money to repair the statue and to ensure that such incidents do not happen again. The gardens are a beautiful and peaceful place, and it is important to protect them for future generations. The damage to the Jesus statue is a reminder that we must take care of our heritage and our community. The statue is a symbol of faith and hope, and its destruction is a tragedy. The community is now working to raise money to repair the statue and to ensure that such incidents do not happen again. The gardens are a beautiful and peaceful place, and it is important to protect them for future generations. The damage to the Jesus statue is a reminder that we must take care of our heritage and our community.

### Greenbrier Valley Theaters Returns With Production Of Driving Miss Daisy

By [Name]

GREENBRIER, W.V. — Greenbrier Valley Theaters has returned to the stage with a production of the play "Driving Miss Daisy." The play, which is set in the 1950s, tells the story of an elderly woman named Daisy who is taken care of by her young driver, Hattie. The production is a heartwarming and touching story that explores themes of aging, race, and class. The play is being performed at the Greenbrier Valley Theaters, which is a beautiful and historic building. The production is a collaboration between the theater and the local community, and it is a testament to the power of art to bring people together. The play is a must-see for anyone who loves a good story. The production is a heartwarming and touching story that explores themes of aging, race, and class. The play is being performed at the Greenbrier Valley Theaters, which is a beautiful and historic building. The production is a collaboration between the theater and the local community, and it is a testament to the power of art to bring people together. The play is a must-see for anyone who loves a good story.

### Venezky Announces Departure From Historical Society

By [Name]

GREENBRIER, W.V. — [Name] Venezky has announced her departure from the Historical Society. Venezky has been a member of the society for many years and has been an active participant in its activities. She has been instrumental in many of the society's projects and has been a great asset to the organization. Her departure is a loss to the society, but we wish her all the best in her new endeavors. Venezky has been a member of the society for many years and has been an active participant in its activities. She has been instrumental in many of the society's projects and has been a great asset to the organization. Her departure is a loss to the society, but we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

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# Dear Abby: Friday, July 2

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

## Opportunities Abound For Woman Seeking To Volunteer

**Dear Abby:** I'm writing in response to your answer to "Broke But Available" (March 23), the retired woman seeking ecological volunteer opportunities. I loved your reply and your suggestion to volunteer by providing education at a community center. In addition to community centers, many schools, scout troops, youth groups, nursing homes, etc., are always looking for knowledgeable people to provide information on a variety of topics. Far too many individuals aren't getting nearly enough — or ANY — information about ecology or learning ways to protect the beautiful natural world around us. I truly hope "BBA" will take you up on your suggestion by sharing something she cares about with others. — **Former Teacher in North Carolina**

**Dear Former Teacher:** Thank you for your comments. I heard from volunteer experts across the country responding to that letter and offering excellent suggestions. Read on:

**Dear Abby:** Volunteers are needed to remove invasive species to protect our native ecosystems, to monitor streams for water quality, to pick up trash along our great rivers and to stabilize public trails. The letter writer should contact her state and national conservation departments about opportunities. — **Linda V. in Missouri**

**Dear Abby:** The retired lady could become an extension master gardener. EMG programs in all 50 states train volunteers through the state's land grant university and its cooperative extension service. Master gardeners educate the public by operating speakers' bureaus, maintaining demonstration gardens, staffing "hotlines" to answer gardening questions and running horticulture therapy programs. — **Proud Program Participant**

**Dear Abby:** In regard to the letter writer who is looking to volunteer doing something ecological, I would suggest she start at a local farmers' market. People who are interested tend to gather there and have contacts that can lead to opportunities. — **Ed H. in Massachusetts**

**Dear Abby:** For the hands-on retiree looking for volunteer work, many churches have connections to work to be done. She should also visit VolunteerMatch (volunteermatch.org), where she can see all the various types of volunteer jobs that are available in her area. — **Elaine in Kansas City**

**Dear Abby:** I am a freshman in high school, and I just got heartbroken. This boy I liked played me, and I don't know whether I should just accept the fact that he's bad and move on or be sad and wait it out. I told him I'm not a Barbie doll he can pick up and play with when he's bored, but I still like him. Do you have any advice for me? — **Broken Heart in Ohio**

**Dear Broken Heart:** Yes, I do. Be glad you see this person for exactly who he is — someone who cannot be relied upon — and move on. I think you said it very well when you told him you aren't a toy to be played with. Now, learn from this experience and choose your next boyfriend accordingly.

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

## Let Me Do You Flavor: Fourth Of July

By Lindsey Wolford WVDN Columnist | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



Hey there and welcome back! This week I am bringing you an easy, tasty summer dish that is sure to please the family or be a great hit at your 4th of July party. So, pour a drink and grab your scissors so you can cut out this easy grilled veggie pasta salad.

During the summer I am always looking for ways to keep the kitchen cool while still coming up with recipes that are bursting with flavor. This dish is a great meatless meal with a fresh vinaigrette that I created — so let's get started!

For this recipe you will need:

- 1 box rotini cooked
- 1 eggplant
- 1-2 yellow squash
- 1-2 zucchini
- 1 large red bell pepper
- 1 large orange bell pepper
- 1 large sweet onion
- 4-6 large portabella mushroom caps
- 1 bundle of asparagus
- 4-6 tablespoons olive oil
- Garlic powder
- Salt
- Pepper

2 lemons  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon White balsamic vinegar

Now let's get started! Fire up your grill to get it nice and hot. Slice all of your veggies and toss with olive oil, salt, pepper and garlic powder. I tossed each veggie individually but you do this however you want.

In a medium bowl combine the juice of one lemon to start, the Dijon, honey and vinegar along with some salt and pepper to taste. Taste your dressing and adjust your ingredients how you see fit.

Grill your veggies until tender but not mushy. Chop the veggies and then toss with the rotini and your homemade vinaigrette... voila you have dinner or a fun side dish for your July 4th BBQ!

When I talked to Annie at the Village Wine Shop about a possible wine pairing for this dish, here is what she had to say "To pair with grilled veggies, pasta and a honey mustard, the only thing that could make this trio any better would be a Sauvignon Blanc! We suggest any New Zealand juice! Sea Pearl, Cloudy Bay, Whitehaven, or even Napas' Rombauer Sauv Blancs will serve justice.

The fruity, citrus, sea-scented and mineral rich, light and pale Sauvignon Blanc is a perfect choice to enhance vegetables in any dish. These wines will kick up the dirt around honey mustard and soften the tang, yet marry well the honey. The delicate nature will allow the vegetal flavors room to shine and it will hang onto the pasta till the last bite! Serve chilled at 41 degrees and enjoy!!"

So, there you have it friends — a super easy meatless dinner or BBQ side dish that is sure to please and that you can make your own. You can swap out the veggies for other veggies like corn, Brussel sprouts, or carrots.

Remember, be creative and have fun and as always I'm sending love from my kitchen to yours!

## **Glen Daniel Man Charged With Host Of Felonies Following Series Of Bad Decisions**

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



A Glen Daniel man has been charged with a host of felonies including wanton endangerment, child abuse, grand larceny, transferring stolen goods and more following a series of bad decisions that began in March.

The criminal complaint, filed in Raleigh County, states that on March 13, Lucas Lundy Boggess, 35, traveled to Ramey Motors in Princeton to purchase a 2019 Dodge Challenger valued at \$48,298.44 in an alleged attempt to defraud the business.

Boggess filled out purchasing paperwork, signed a promissory note that he would pay for the vehicle at a later date and was able to drive the vehicle home, the complaint continues. While back in Raleigh County, Boggess went to a federal credit union and purchased a cashier's check in the amount of \$1.75. He then forged the check in the amount of \$48,298.44, took a photo of it and sent the photo to Ramey Motors so that he could receive the title.

After two months of conversations with those at Ramey Motors, on May 18, a Ramey Motors employee met with Boggess in Glen Daniel to exchange the title for the cashier's check. At this time, Boggess allegedly snatched the title and bill of sale from the employee and drove off the complaint states.

In the meantime, Boggess had agreed to sell the vehicle to a Beckley car dealer. Once he had the title and bill of sale, he took the car to the dealership, sold it and received a \$45,000 check that he took to a Raleigh County BB&T and cashed.

"Mr. Boggess led [the dealership] to believe that he legally owned the vehicle," according to the complaint.

A warrant was issued for his arrest by the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department after Boggess' misdeeds became known.

In a separate criminal complaint, also filed in Raleigh County, on June 5, Raleigh County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call in Glen Daniel where they found Boggess arguing with two victims.

Boggess “had a hatchet and began swinging it around making threats to kill [the victim] and their friend,” the complaint alleges. Boggess then shot 4-5 rounds into a victim’s car from a .380 Bersa handgun. He later went into the house and shot another round inside the house.

At this time, the complaint continues that Boggess placed the gun to a victim’s head and stated she had 30 minutes to leave the house before he would “put a bullet in her head.” He then turned the gun toward his other victim who was holding a minor child.

Boggess was arrested and taken to Southern Regional Jail where he faces one felony count of forgery, one felony count of uttering, one felony count of grand larceny, one felony count of transferring stolen property, one felony count of obtaining money or goods by false pretenses, two felony counts of wanton endangerment, one felony count of child abuse creating risk of injury, one misdemeanor count of domestic assault and one misdemeanor count of brandishing a deadly weapon.

One cash/surety bond for the events surrounding defrauding Ramey Motors has been set at \$100,000. A separate cash/surety bond for the domestic incident has also been set at \$100,000.

## **Greenbrier Historical Society Uncovers Local History**

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

The Greenbrier Historical Society continues to find the diverse voices of the past that have always lived in Greenbrier County and West Virginia. Its latest history, “Early Queer History of the Greenbrier Valley” sheds light on gay, lesbian, and transgender people living, loving, committing crimes, fighting for the rights of workers, and more right here.

The history was authored by Archive Associate Sarah Shepherd, who previously authored “200 Years at the North House,” a book detailing the museum’s history, and contributed to the North House 200, Echoes of Slavery in Greenbrier County, and The Life and Work of Anthony and Fanny Carter exhibits.

Shepherd does not consider herself an expert on queer history, saying much of the history came from snippets discovered during other research.

“It’s always been in the back of my mind,” explained Shepherd. “A lot of this stuff I didn’t find recently — I would find it while looking for something else, mark it, and just kind of remember. I’ve been wanting to compile it for a long time but never got a chance to. Then I got this kick in the butt of ‘it’s Pride month!’ Let’s do something! We always talk about diverse perspectives and that’s just a beginning point. There’s always more work to do.”

However, when looking specifically for more, the most obvious and most unfortunate place to look is the criminal public record. Much of the criminalization of homosexuality took the form of prosecuting those assigned male at birth engaging in “sodomy.”

“They were called sodomy laws, they were prohibiting sodomy,” Shepherd said. “It’s really interesting looking at queer history because there’s so much more of an emphasis on sodomy, [sic]. ... It’s interesting in my mind, the avenues people had. If you were a women, you were restrained, if you were a queer women, or a

queer woman of color, there's all these layers. For men it was much easier to be a bachelor and just not be married, like James Buchanan, our early president who was never married."

Another possibility Shepherd considered was consent — to what extent is any given conviction of "sodomy" a consenting act between adults or the state prosecuting a victim of assault?

"[The state and histories] really doesn't delineate consent," Shepherd said. "Because everything is illegal, you don't know if it was consensual or not. In a lot of cases, I'm sure it's perfectly consensual sex, but we also don't know that for sure. It's not like rape doesn't happen between men, but because everything is criminalized," a victim of an assault could have gotten sentenced for it.

Not every person found in Shepherd's research was named in the history either.

"I did not name the people convicted of sodomy in the 50s and 60s," Shepherd explained. "They were very much publicly listed in the newspaper. It felt like they had already been forcibly outed to the community and I didn't want to continue that, especially because these people could still be alive."

The history explains "in Greenbrier County, there were five known convictions of sodomy. Five men were convicted from 1950 to 1963 with their names and crime posted in the public newspaper, the Greenbrier Independent. At this time, the Greenbrier Independent's motto was "Nothing Shall be Indifferent to Us Which Advances the Cause of Truth and Morality or Which Concerns the Welfare of the Community in Which We Live." These men were forcibly outed to their community as all indictments were listed on the front page. West Virginia did not repeal its sodomy law until 1976."

Abby Smith, another member of the Greenbrier Historical Society team, laughed before explaining how she stumbled into a part of Shepherd's research.

"I came into the archives a few weeks ago when you were doing the research and every computer [in the archives] was running a search for [variations on the word] homosexual and I was like 'what is going on,'" Smith said. "In retrospect, it makes sense because you have to run an overnight search."

"I was looking at lots of words, I can say that," Shepherd said with a laugh. "Figuring out language is really interesting - like with Max Curry and Maynard [Best], they're not coming up as [transgender]. It's just 'Max Curry.' I'm sure there's stuff we missed."

Smith also contributed a story to the history - in 1915, the Pocahontas Times' language coverage of an arson trial brought against Max Curry allowed him to be identified as a transgender man, in today's lexicon, while also respecting his gender identity in coverage.

*"In Lincoln County, West Virginia, a girl grew up by the name of Mattie Curry. ... She went to Mingo county and taught school and afterward opened a store at Dingess, a little village of that county. The store was burned and she soon after moved from that county. About this time [Curry] went to Cincinnati and ... thereafter Miss Mattie Curry became Mr. Max Curry."*

After this point, the Pocahontas Times continues to use he/him when speaking of Curry to the end.

*"At this point the court turned to Mr. Curry and the judge's voice broke and tears streamed down his face. ... From the prisoner's wife there came a great burst of sobs and weeping ... The court said ... 'whenever our paths have crossed you have been my friend, but no public official can pay the debts of friendship when it interferes with his public duty. You are more guilty in the eyes of God and man than this boy. I therefore sentence you Mr. Curry to six years.'"*



“For me what stuck out is how the newspaper treated this man, respected his pronouns the whole time, and were just way more respectful than a lot of modern media,” Smith said.

The history dive ends before taking a look at more modern LGBTQIA+ history, such as locally elected members of the community in government, the passage of Lewisburg’s protection ordinance, and, most recently, the first Greenbrier Valley Pride. This is due to Shepherd’s desire for that history to be told in full.

“I ended relatively recently because I didn’t feel qualified to talk about more modern history,” Shepherd said. “I would want to go talk to people in the community and we just didn’t have enough time to give that justice.”

In addition to modern history, Shepherd also believes there is much more to be discovered in the archives.

“We often hear a lot about oppression throughout history, and that’s definitely true and definitely happening, but you also have people who are living their lives,” Shepherd said. “... Like with Maynard [Best]. He had a whole family. He’s buried in the family graveyard. It’s really interesting.”

The full piece, *Early Queer History of the Greenbrier Valley*, can be found on the Greenbrier Historical Society’s website, under the Blog section.

## **Greenbrier Valley Theaters Returns with Production of Driving Miss Daisy**

By Rebecca Stalnaker | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

Art comes in many forms. Some forms of art such as painting and sculpting are enjoyed in galleries and other displays. An author’s flowing prose or poetry is put into a book that can be devoured at leisure. Then there are the performing arts, dance, music, acting. These artists thrive on live performances, being in front of audiences. The year 2020 took many things from people, loved ones, jobs, freedom, health; however, it could not take away art. Unfortunately, it did eliminate the possibility of live performances for quite some time. Not only was this devastating for those who love performing, but it also meant a loss of income.

During quarantine, there was little to do. Most businesses were closed, public spaces were limited, events, concerts, plays, ballets were all canceled. While stuck at home, the constant companion of many was various forms of entertainment. Movies, television, books, recorded ballets and stage performances, music; all of these things remained in the face of so much loss.

Now, the performing arts are finally able to begin making a live comeback. Concerts and music festivals are in full swing, movies and television are back to filming and stage performers are gearing up for the season. For Greenbrier Valley Theater, this return to normalcy comes in the form of announcing their first production since pre-pandemic.

Beginning on July 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Greenbrier Valley Theater will be performing the classic “Driving Miss Daisy” by American playwright Alfred Uhry. The production will run through July 24. The stars of the show are Cathy Sawyer, Lorenzo Scott and Matthew Scott Campbell, all of whom are members of the Actors’ Equity Association. Tickets are available on the Greenbrier Valley Theater website at [www.gvtheater.org](http://www.gvtheater.org) as well as by calling the box office at 304-645-3838. General seating is \$30 while seniors over the age of 60 will only pay \$27. Student tickets are set at \$20.

Actors as well as the production team have been hard at work preparing for this return to the stage. On June 22, the actors held their first read-through of the script for *Driving Miss Daisy*. They have been continuing to prepare and perfect ever since.

There will, of course, still be safety precautions in place to ensure the wellbeing of both the actors and the audience. This includes maintaining a six-foot distance from others and asking anyone with symptoms to stay home. Also, all staff, volunteers and non-vaccinated patrons are asked to wear a mask. To aid in maintaining proper distancing, the theater has reduced its seating capacity to 50%. Also, concessions will not be available.

Other productions that Greenbrier Valley Theater will be performing this season include, *Shout!*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Silencing the Mob*, *This Wonderful Life* and *Elf The Musical*.

This year, 2021 marks 21 years of entertaining at the Greenbrier Valley Theater. However, the story really begins 54 years ago. According to *The History of Greenbrier Valley Theater*, a document by Ann A. Benedict, it began in the "summer of 1966 in a striped tent pitched on the banks of the Greenbrier River at North Caldwell." For more information on the fascinating history of the Greenbrier Valley Theater, visit [www.gvquarterly.com/blog/2017/5/1/gvt-an-oral-history](http://www.gvquarterly.com/blog/2017/5/1/gvt-an-oral-history).

Not only does Greenbrier Valley Theater provide wonderful entertainment for the community, they also provide educational opportunities for local children. This is done through their Youth Education Program, which has a mission of providing "ongoing, inclusive, quality education in theater and the performing arts." Through this program, the theater offers summer drama camps, after-school drama classes, intern and apprentice opportunities and so much more.

For more information on Greenbrier Valley Theater's upcoming production of "*Driving Miss Daisy*" visit their website or Facebook Page. Information is also available by calling 304-645-3838

## **Greenbrier Memorial Gardens Sees More Damage To Jesus Statue**

By Theresa Flerx | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



Greenbrier Memorial Gardens once again lost a precious part of its cemetery with the latest theft of the hands from an intricately carved Italian marble statue of Jesus Christ.

Emphasizing his commitment to repairing the damage a second time, Wes Sheridan said, “Think about what He did for us.”

Sheridan noted this sentiment reflects that of his wife, Susan, and her parents, Art and Phyllis Baker, owners of Greenbrier Memorial Gardens.

The hands recently stolen had been replacements for a pair taken several years ago.

“We are once again asking for your help with a current investigation,” states a social media post made by the Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Office. “Some time through the weekend of June 25, 2021, an individual or individuals committed an act of destruction on a statue... The damage to this statue is estimated to be over \$6,000 dollars.”

“Those hands are someplace. It hurts your heart,” Sheridan said of the weekend incident.

It took a number of years to actually reinstall the missing statuary pieces. Resources of hand-carved marble icons are difficult to find, especially those that can shape the meticulously detailed hands of a Deity like Jesus. Once a carver was found in Italy, it took time to create new hands, then ship the product to West Virginia.

Once the parts were finally in the Bakers’ possession they were hesitant to have them installed, explained Sheridan.

In the meantime, several other cemetery improvement projects went forward. In an attempt to make it more difficult to cause further damage to the sculpture, a stone wall surround with a raised bed was removed and decorative gravel was laid down in the form of a teardrop. The idea was to increase the distance from the ground to the statuary.

Art Baker took to remodeling several aspects of the cemetery's infrastructure. The office was made-over including fresh paint, a new roof and carpeting.

He invested \$20,000 back into the mausoleum he had built from marble and granite. It also has a new roof and carpeting. New lighting fixtures are next on the agenda, followed by a road repaving project.

Also in the works, is a new place for families to honor lost loved ones. The Garden of the Archangel Michael is expected to be complete in 2022. This area is dedicated to Wes and Susan Sheridan's 25-year-old son, Michael, who died unexpectedly in 2019.

Caring for the monuments and plots, performing general maintenance and mowing the grass are ongoing tasks at the cemetery.

Wes Sheridan, a longtime stoneworker, has also been busy cleaning and restoring all three of the life-sized statues dotting Greenbrier Memorial Gardens. The white and gray-veined Jesus at Gethsemane gleams in the sun after Sheridan scrubbed the precious material with a cleaning agent and a marble-safe abrasive.

It will most likely require a toothbrush to clean between the folds in the robe and sleeves on Jesus standing tall into the sky and the rosary beads of the Blessed Mother. All three icons will have a protective sealant applied.

On the morning of Wednesday, June 30, Sheridan once again cared for the Jesus sculpture raised atop a rolling hill. Less than a week had passed since he had made the statue whole from the damage inflicted several years ago.

Upon the family's decision to finally replace the hands, Sheridan used pins and epoxy on Thursday, June 24, to "stone-wield" the arms to the new hands. He then wrapped the hands, arms and circumference of the body with blue tape and left it to bond. By Friday morning, someone had removed the tape.

The bonding epoxy had cured so no harm was done, however, Sheridan did note it was an "odd" thing for someone to have done. Sometime after that, the hands were stolen.

Security methods have become a priority. Among the measures will be dusk til dawn signage, increased police surveillance, and Sheridan warned that a number of volunteers inquired about hiding in the woods in order to surprise would-be thieves.

These steps are to "protect the integrity of the place where people come to mourn their loved ones," Sheridan stated. "It's typically a peaceful place."

And the Bakers and Sheridans plan to keep it that way.

A \$1,000 reward is being offered by cemetery caretakers to be matched by Allen and Tammy O'Brien, owners of Greenbrier Excavating & Paving, for a total of \$2,000 to encourage information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the crime.

Sheridan described the O'Briens as "super nice people."

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office continues to seek information.

"If you know the individual or individuals involved in the destruction of the statue... and feel inclined to do so, please contact Sgt. Steve Hudnall at the Lewisburg Detachment of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department at 304-647-6634 or by contacting the Greenbrier County 911 Center at 304-647-7911 (24 hours)" notes the GCSD post.

"Information can also be sent to Crime Stoppers of West Virginia or by private message through [the department's] Facebook page. Thank you in advance for any help you can give in this matter."

No matter a person's religious beliefs, you can't find a more perfect philosophy than the teachings of Jesus Christ. Desecrating a sacred monument of any kind is wrong on so many levels, especially sculptures placed to provide comfort to those grieving loved ones.

It is not only illegal and immoral, but as Sheridan put it, "It's heartbreaking."

## **Lindside To Celebrate The 4th With Parade**

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

On Saturday, July 3, the Lindside community will hold its annual parade to celebrate the 4th of July. Line-up will begin at Lindside Christian Church around 8:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. parade along Route 219 north to Lindside Methodist Church.

## **Dorie Miller Murder Trial Delayed**

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

The murder trial of Edward Smith-Allen has once again been delayed, this time from July to September.

Smith-Allen was indicted by a grand jury in October 2019 for the murder of Alaisia M. Smith in Dorie Miller Park in Lewisburg. Previously, Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent pushed the trial from the original December 2020 date due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the county. The April trial was again delayed to July when West Virginia's Chief Medical Examiner informed the prosecution he would not be able to testify due to an ongoing illness. Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney Patrick Via explained this was still the case.

"We became aware, early last week, that Allan Mock, ... who performed the autopsy in this case and was identified as the state's expert witness, had to extend his already existing medical leave that is going to prevent him from offering testimony until after August 30," said Via. "... We explored the possibility of someone simply substituting for Dr. Mock, but frankly we found it to be impractical."

Kristopher Faerber, Smith-Allen's defense attorney, noted their desire to take the case to trial in the current term of court.

"We are ready for the July trial date," said Faerber. "I will say that the state has been open and kept me up to date with Dr. Mock and by no means do I question his availability. We ask for a speedy trial and a trial in this

term of court.”

Faeber requested bond for Smith-Allen once again, which was denied by Dent. Previously, a motion for bond was denied in June 2020, where Faerber asked he be placed on a \$10,000 bond, released to the custody of his father, and placed in the Fayette County Home Incarceration program, citing his lack of previous criminal history. Another was denied in February after Smith-Allen found a potential residence in Greenbrier County. In addition to the public safety risk related to murder charges, Dent has also previously pointed to his initial arrest as a reason to deny bond.

A day after the shooting, a warrant was issued for Smith-Allen for wanton endangerment with a firearm. Smith-Allen turned himself in to the Lewisburg Police Department around 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, and was arraigned by the Greenbrier County Magistrate Court. Although he was initially released on a \$5,000 bond for wanton endangerment, a warrant was issued shortly after for first-degree murder. By then, however, Smith-Allen had left West Virginia; he was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service in Columbus, OH, on June 12, 2019. He was extradited back to Greenbrier County shortly after.

“The state opposes the motion,” argued Via in a previous bond hearing. “While it may be true that a condition of now having a suitable place for home confinement maybe true, the fact remains that this case was never suitable for home confinement ever. .... This is indicted as a murder, we are now right at [two months until] trial. There is no crime in our statutes more serious.”

Jury selection has also been accelerated — previously only 32 potential jurors could be in the room at the same time for jury selection. With COVID restrictions lifted, jury selection can proceed without social distancing.

The trial has been rescheduled for early September, within the same term of court as the expected July trial.

## **Venezky Announces Departure From Historical Society**

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



The Greenbrier Historical Society is losing a groundbreaking executive director with the departure of Nora Venezky.

Venezky made the announcement on the Historical Society's Facebook page on Thursday, July 1.

"This is a bittersweet announcement for me to make," explained Venezky. "I have accepted a position as the executive director of the Seneca Falls Heritage and Tourism Center and the Museum of Waterways and Industry in Seneca Falls, NY. It is an exciting move for me, and it will take me closer to home and family back in New York State. I am eager to take what I have learned with the Greenbrier Historical Society and share it with a new organization.

Venezky has worked to expand the scope of the Greenbrier Historical Society's lens to feature voices and stories not typically seen in the telling of Greenbrier County's history.



**Nora Venezky**

“I was able to grow and was given the opportunity to accomplish so much,” Venezky said. “I want to thank the amazing staff that helped make my ambitious vision come true. We have opened eight new exhibits in the North House, enhanced a number of our educational programs, revamped marketing, made a conscious effort as an organization to embrace diverse histories, and tried a lot of new events and programs. We have so much fun doing the work we do! I also have had the pleasure to work with some amazing volunteers, board members, and community members in my time with GHS. It has been so much fun learning and sharing the history of the Greenbrier Valley. I have fallen in love with West Virginia and it will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Working with Archive Associate Sarah Shepherd, Venezky guided the North House 200 project, with the museum seeing the 200th anniversary of the building, exploring “the people that lived in the house, the changes to the house, and the role of enslaved people in its early history.”

In 2019, Venezky and Ivalee Keen worked together to turn the 1799 barracks building into the First Settler Escape Room in downtown Lewisburg.

“Historic building, log building, that kind of influenced our theme,” explained Venezky before its opening. “[We created] a first settler kind of experience for people. The entire premise of the escape room is people are traversing the Appalachian Mountains, finding their home here in Lewisburg, and surviving. That drives all of our puzzles. ... It’s very DIY.”

Shortly before COVID-19, however, Venezky and the Historical Society created an exhibit that was the first of



its kind for the historical society.

“Echoes of Slavery in Greenbrier County” opened on Saturday, March 7, 2020, in the North House Museum, connecting the history of white supremacy and slavery in Greenbrier County, beginning with the stories of individual slaves, to segregation and African American Greenbrier Countians who achieved despite it, and to the lasting effects it has on individuals today.

“As the historical society, we’re really trying to diversify the history and the story we’re telling,” Venezky said at the opening in 2020. “We feel it’s important to tell not just the story of the rich white guy living up on the hill. There’s so much more, and this is one of those steps to telling that broader story about our African American community.”

“To see where we’ve been and where we are now, it’s been phenomenal,” said Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White at the opening. “To see at one time, nobody of color could hold office. The first [African American] women to be a City Councilwoman, I did that for 16 years, and that was with the support of our community. ... I take this role seriously and with a lot of pride in how far we’ve come, we still have a long way to go. As I told the little girls when I signed the National African American [History] month [proclamation], I don’t want to be the last one on that wall in City Hall. These women, Sarah and Nora, have done a phenomenal job of putting this together and I can’t thank them enough.”



**Venezky (seated left, hands extended) at the opening of Echoes of Slavery in Greenbrier County in March 2020.**

Continuing in Echo’s vein, said Greenbrier Historical Society Marketing Manager Brehana Scott led the creation of the Anthony and Fanny Carter exhibit in early 2021, looking into the lives of one of the first African American business owners in Greenbrier County.

“[Venezky] has been so supportive, so hands-on, so helpful,” Scott previously told the Mountain Messenger. “Of course I had all kinds of ideas but I didn’t know how to execute them. There are so many things and

nuisances that you don't understand ... it's great."

In October 2020, the Historical Society led An Evening in Dick Pointer and Old Stone cemeteries, casting actors to portray those buried in the lots, telling event-goers the stories of their lives.

"The volunteer actors did an amazing job bringing our characters back to life," Venezky said after the event. "We look forward to doing the event again next fall so we can keep sharing the diverse history that is hiding in our cemeteries."

This month, Venezky also encouraged Shepherd's compiling of local LGBTQIA+ history for Pride Month.

Many of these exhibits and features can still be found downtown and on the Historical Society's website.

Venezky welcomed the public to the upcoming opening of her final exhibit in Greenbrier County.

"I have been fortunate to receive so much positive feedback about the work I have done at the Greenbrier Historical Society, and I know the organization will find another capable leader to continue the momentum we have built," Venezky wrote. "Those of you whom I have met and got to spend time with, thank you for being so welcoming and embracing me into your community. It has been such a pleasure over the last 2.5 years. I hope you will join me on July 16th from 6-8 PM for our Star Hotel Tavern Room Opening. This will be my last event and exhibit at the Greenbrier Historical Society and I hope you will join me in celebrating all of our success."

Anyone interested in applying to be the next executive director can find the link on the Greenbrier Historical Society's website, or directly at [greenbrierhistorical.org/employment](https://greenbrierhistorical.org/employment).

## **2021 Fairlea Music Bash Features Riley Green**

By by bobby bordelou | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



The Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash is set for Thursday, July 8, at 7 p.m.

The concert series is a huge fundraiser for the fire department, looking to supplement the fund received from the state.

“The money will go to everyday maintenance costs for the building, everyday operational for the department,” explained Paco Grimmertt of the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department. “It’ll go for fuel for the trucks, maintenance for the trucks, gear for our members, stuff we may need. It could be used for education, classes we need. The funds will keep the fire department up and running.”

The concert series began in 2018, as attendance for bingo nights funding the department dwindled down in the years leading up to the first concert. Bingo nights were becoming an expense due to workman’s compensation costs rather than a fundraiser for firefighters willing to work it - they were ended and a committee was formed to find a new way to raise money.

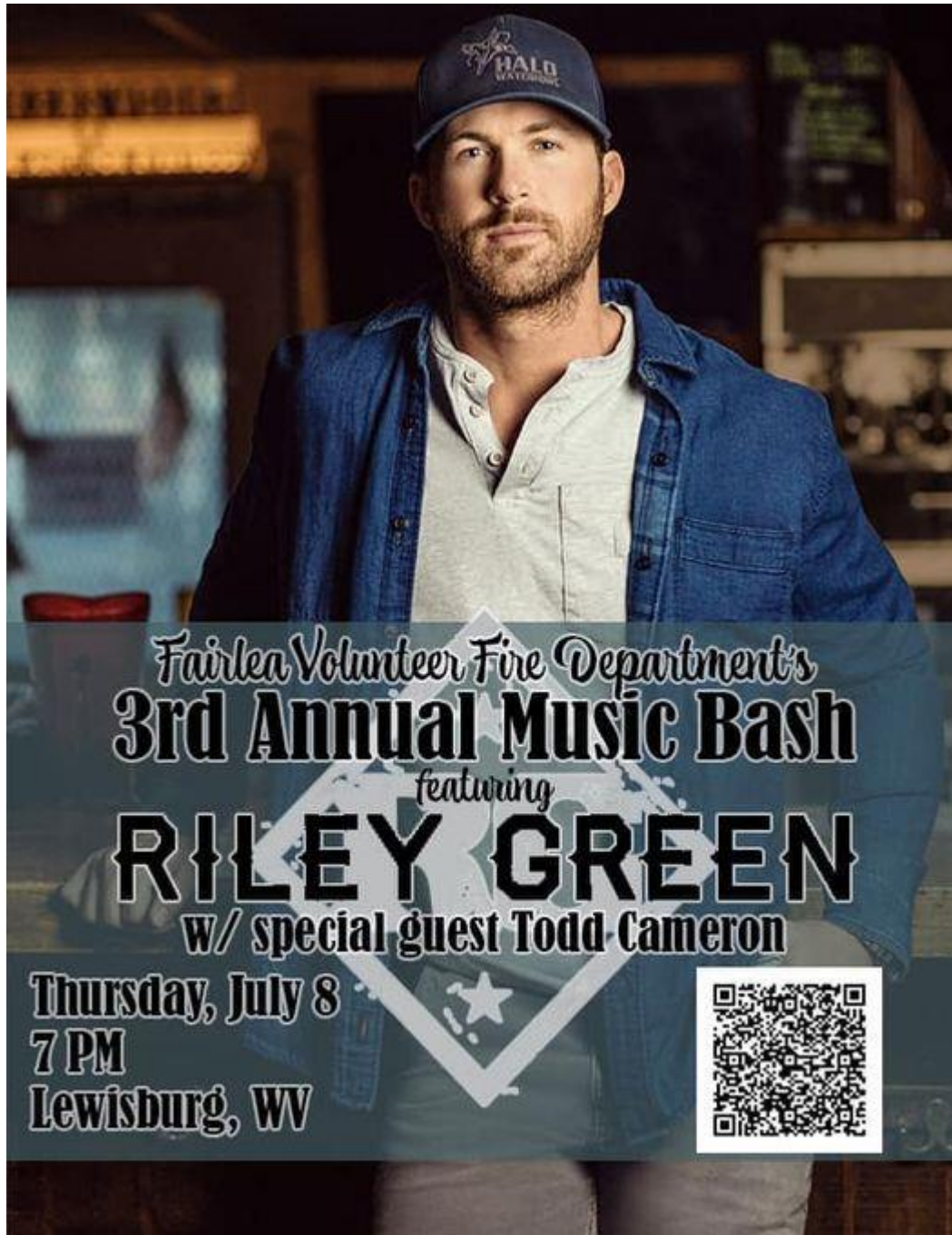
“[The concert] started as a joke and that’s no lie,” said Grimmertt in 2018. “It was a huge, three-day event, and then we stopped, came back to the drawing board and thought ‘what about a small-scale event that we can afford?’”

Since then, the department has held two Annual Music Bashes, with the 2020 event cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Last year was supposed to be Riley Green, but we ended up with COVID,” Grimmertt said. “We were able to reschedule, so all of this just fell right back into place. COVID took us out for 2020 but we’re coming back for


2021. ... This is going to be the biggest one we've had. We're excited to see that and to get back to our community. With COVID, everybody has been shut in their house, not necessarily with cabin fever, but I guess you could say with COVID fever," laugh. "I mean that this is the first big thing to get out and go to."

This year, Riley Green will take the stage, with a Todd Cameron opening. According to his website, Green was recently named "2020 ACM Awards New Male Artist of the Year," with songs such as the "GOLD-certified debut 'There Was This Girl' and PLATINUM-certified ballad 'I Wish Grandpas Never Died.'"



Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department's  
**3rd Annual Music Bash**  
featuring  
**RILEY GREEN**  
w/ special guest Todd Cameron

Thursday, July 8  
7 PM  
Lewisburg, WV



The team attempts to keep the tickets affordable while still fundraising for the department.

"Track tickets, which are standing room only, are about \$20. Box seats are still available for \$18. Grandstand seats are \$15. It's very family affordable or for a date night. Big concerts in Charleston can be \$50 for a ticket,

then you have to pay to park, buy drinks, it can be a \$100 investment. Ours is very affordable and it supports your local fire department. It helps us help you – it keeps us up and running.”

Concessions will be available, offering “fried Oreos, funnel cakes, dessert stuff, a pepperoni roll station” and “the Fairgrounds will be selling adult beverages.”

In addition to the cost of admission and concessions, a signed guitar will be auctioned off and 50/50 ticket drawing is currently planned.

Grimmett thanked the State Fair of West Virginia for providing a location for the concert, tailgating, and camping.

“The State Fair is 100 percent on our side,” Grimmett said. “If we need it, they either help with it or do whatever [we need]. Kelly Collins is awesome and her staff goes out of their way to help with anything we need. ... We make sure people are in stations for the whole week of the State Fair, just in case there’s any type of emergency for them. We help each other, but when it comes to something like this, they help us a lot and we’re very grateful.”

Grimmett also thanked each of the sponsors and the volunteers working up to and during the event.

“It’s going to be an early Thursday morning, starting somewhere around 7 a.m., filtering into the fairgrounds, and the last person leaves around 4 a.m. Friday morning, if not later,” Grimmett said. “We don’t leave it for the fairgrounds to clean up.”

For example, the concerts now need their own stage.

“We had to rent a stage – when it comes in, we have to put it up,” Grimmett explained. “It’ll be in Tuesday and we have to have six or eight strong backed people. When the concert is over, and everyone clears out, we’ve got to tear the stage down.

Riley Green’s “Behind the Bar,” a collection of new music, released on July 2.

Tickets to the event can be found at [etix.com](http://etix.com), by calling 1-800-514-etix, or by scanning the QR code found on the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash Facebook page.

## **Economist: \$2.5B to abate opioid crisis in WVa community**

By the associated press | WVDN JUL 02, 2021

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — A 15-year plan to abate the opioid crisis in a West Virginia community will cost local officials \$2.5 billion, a forensic economist has testified.

George Barrett testified Tuesday that Cabell County and the city of Huntington would need to spend \$144 million to implement the plan and the annual cost would rise to \$197 million by the 15th year, The Herald-Dispatch reported. The governments have combined annual budgets of less than \$87 million.

The testimony came in the seventh week of a landmark civil trial against three large opioid distributors. A lawsuit filed by Cabell County and the city of Huntington accuses drug distributors AmerisourceBergen Drug

Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. of fueling the U.S. crisis. The plaintiffs argue that the companies created a “public nuisance” by flooding the area with tens of millions of opioid doses over eight years and ignoring the signs that the small community along the Ohio River was being ravaged by addiction. The companies, in turn, say poor communication and pill quotas set by federal agents are to blame, along with a rise in prescriptions written by doctors.

Testimony this week has focused on the drug abatement plan and its cost.

Barrett’s findings were based on the report of Caleb Alexander, a pharmacoepidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Alexander came up with an abatement plan for the community he said could reduce overdoses, overdose deaths and the number of people with opioid use disorder by half.

McKesson attorney Timothy Hester questioned Barrett’s qualifications in coming up with the estimate, which he called inflated.

He said Barret is not an expert in healthcare economics and had estimated it would cost \$12 million to run the harm reduction program, but another witness testified she was able to run such a program with \$60,000 a year.

The Cabell-Huntington Health Department spent about \$225,000 on its harm reduction program in 2019, but the abatement plan calls for expanding the program.

Hester also said the majority of medical claims are paid through Medicaid, not city and county officials. He asked that the judge to toss the testimony, but the judge did not immediately rule.

## **Deane Barbara Shaver**

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 02, 2021



## **SHAVER**

Deane Barbara Shaver, 74, of White Sulphur Springs, passed away Monday, June 28, 2021 at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg.

She was born in Covington, VA on December 2, 1946, a daughter of the late Alfred H. "A.H." Bennett, Jr. and the late Armeda Mae Harless Bennett.

Deane was a member of White Sulphur Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church and was a retired bank teller from Greenbrier Valley Bank with over 20 years of service.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James R. "Jim" Shaver.

She is survived by a son, Brian Zicafoose (Michelle) of Concord, NC; a step-son, James R. "Jamie" Shaver, Jr. of White Sulphur Springs; her mother-in-law, Ada "Sue" Shaver of White Sulphur Springs; two grandchildren, Destiny Dawn Green and Nicole Renee Zicafoose; two brothers, Wade Bennett (Rosa) and Glenn Bennett (Janie), all of White Sulphur Springs; two nieces, Julie and Telena; and a nephew, Chad.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Monday, July 5, 2021 at the White Sulphur Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church, with Pastor Gene Sizemore officiating. Burial will follow in Mapledale Cemetery.

Friends and family will be received one hour prior to the service on Monday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Peyton Hospice House, 1265 Maplewood Avenue,

Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com).

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.