

WVDN JUL 09, 2021



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Frankford Woman Wins Big In 'Do It For Babydog' Sweepstakes

By by matthew young | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



When Tracy Brownell arrived at the Lewisburg Hardees yesterday morning, she wasn't expecting to be greeted by Babydog bearing an oversized novelty key for her brand new Chevy truck!

Also on hand for the presentation was West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice.

Tracy is a resident of Frankford.

Other statewide winners announced thus far today include:

College Scholarship Winners

Jenna Atwell, Paynesville

Brendon Lee, Falling Waters

Lifetime Hunting License Winners

Larry Wayne Cox, Lindsie

Andrea Lamb, Weston

Donna Montgomery, Masontown

Paul O'Dell, Canvas
Floyd Teter, Terra Alta

Lifetime Fishing License Winners

Patrick Bowles, Ashford
Abigail Mullins, Alderson
William Perkins, Washington
Keith Reed, Matoaka
Sharon Shaffer, Bruceton Mills

Custom Hunting Rifle Winners

Aimee Cain, Elkins
Lindsay Erwin, Cross Lanes
Denzil Lynch, Elizabeth
Donald Reed, Princeton
Jason Vance, Beckley

Custom Hunting Shotgun Winners

David Abraham, Charleston
Crystal Lockhart, Winfield
Marvin Maynar, Verdunville
Joyce Westfall, Clarksburg
David White, Ravenswood

State Park Weekend Getaway Winners

Darrell Adkins, Lorado
Larry Arbogas, Scarbro
Judith Ash, Salem
Michelle Barr, New Haven
Amber Blankenship, Wheeling
Marion Brewer, Comfort
Tina Browning, Milton
Tracy Gore, Accoville
Renea Hetrick, Morgantown
Ariana Hydorn, Barboursville
James Jackson, Gassaway
Mark Klug, Wheeling
Pauletta Kovalski, Wheeling
Melissa Mayes, Point Pleasant
Robert McMahon, Follansbee
Robin Myers, Lumberport
Breanna Schoonover, Parkersburg
Janet Slider, Paden City
Danielle Stanley, Parkersburg
Pete Stark, Huntington
Brian Tephabock, Masontown
Shane Tyree, Beaver
Steven Utley, Lost Creek
Robert Waskey, Ravenswood
Mary Anne Young, Nitro

Additional winners were announced throughout the day. The West Virginia Daily News will provide updates as winners' names are made available.

Gold Star Mothers Speak To Richland Ruritans

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

The featured speakers for the June 9 dinner meeting of the Richland Ruritans were Shirley White, the past president of the West Virginia Gold Star Mothers, and Belinda Jividan, the current president of the WV Gold Star Mothers.

The American Gold Star Mothers were organized in 1928 and chartered by Congress in 1984. The organization is made up of ladies who have suffered the loss of a son or daughter in the service to our country. It is a support group offering companionship and comfort to other families who have suffered the loss of a family member in the service. The Gold Star Mothers work to keep the memory of their sons and daughter alive by working to help veterans, those currently serving in the military, their families and our communities.

The speakers displayed for the Ruritans the National Remembrance Flag that was created by the Honor and Remember organization. The H & R organization is dedicated to the perpetual recognition of our military fallen heroes and their families. The Remembrance flag flies at the West Virginia state capital and at national cemeteries.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Richland Ruritans voted to make a donation to the Gold Star Mothers and to purchase a National Remembrance Flag to fly at their meeting location.

Other Ruritan business conducted at the meeting was to recognize Frank Tuckwiller, the Zone 2 governor. Frank was awarded a Certificate of Honor for services to the Lower West Virginia District of the Ruritans. The club also voted a donation to fund a scholarship to the Greenbrier Youth Camp.

The July meeting will be the annual picnic for members and their families at the Calvary Methodist Church on July 14.

The Richlands Ruritans club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a dinner meeting at the Calvary Methodist Church on Route 60W. The Ruritan Civic organization is a national network of clubs working together for a stronger America. The Ruritans' focus is to support community services in small towns and rural communities across America. The Ruritans were founded in 1928 in Holland, Virginia and celebrated their 93rd year last May. The Richlands Ruritans Club provides scholarships to local college students and 4-H campers and maintains Tuckwiller Park.

Friends Of Charity Auto Fair Returning To Raleigh County

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



Hundreds of vehicles will once again be on display in Raleigh County for the annual Friends of Charity Auto Fair.

The event kicks off on the grounds of the Raleigh County Memorial Airport on Friday, July 9, and lasts until Saturday, July 10.

In addition to the car show, which includes rods, classics, motorcycles, trucks and more, there will be food vendors, a carnival, a flea market, arts and crafts, and a concert featuring country music star Josh Turner with special guest Taylor Made.

According to information provided by those at the auto fair, general admission tickets cost \$5 on Friday and \$10 on Saturday. There are additional fees for the concert and carnival.

Proceeds from the auto fair support Hospice of Southern WV and Brian's Safehouse, a facility that helps men overcome addiction located in Mt. Hope.

Grounds will be open from 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. The carnival will be open from noon – 10 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Saturday.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, rain or shine.

For more information, visit wvautofair.com.

Rainelle FD Announces Fourth Of July Decorating Contest Winners

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



Winners have been announced for the first Rainelle American Spirit Fourth of July Decorating Contest organized by the Rainelle Volunteer Fire Department.

The first place home decorating award went to Shelly Lewis, Gary Harris and family of West Greenbrier Avenue for their patriotic display.

New Rainelle business, Bryant's, located on Main Street, won the first place business decoration award.

"At both places, you could tell they wanted to participate," said contest organizer and Rainelle firefighter Michael McGuire. "They went all out."

Rainelle Volunteer Fire Department members judged the displays throughout Rainelle, Lilly Park and the Osborne Addition. About 10-15 homeowners and 4-5 businesses participated.

Next year, McGuire hopes to make the contest bigger and better.

"We hope to have better prizes, like fishing poles or something to get more people interested," McGuire said. "We will also advertise more."

This year, awards included a \$25 gift card for Ace Hardware, a \$10 gift card to the West End Coffee Shop and a trophy.

Additionally, the Rainelle Fire Department won the Best in Show award for emergency vehicles during the Alderson Fourth of July parade.

McGuire said they drove a 2007 International tanker and their newest truck, a 2016 ladder truck, in the parade.

“It was nice of them to give us that,” McGuire said of the parade judges. “We always enjoy going over there. It was a good day.”

Greenbrier County Planning Commission To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

The Greenbrier County Planning Commission will meet July 13 at 11 a.m. in the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg, WV 24901. The public may participate in the meeting. If you plan to attend in person please follow all health and safety protocols.

You may also attend the meeting either virtually or via phone.

Virtual Meeting Option: The meeting will be hosted on Zoom. The public can access meeting via:

Internet Access: <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/91330370810> (Meeting ID: 913 3037 0810)

Phone Access: (dial) 1 (646) 558 8656 or 877-853-5257 or 888-475-4499 (Meeting ID: 913 3037 0810)

If you have trouble accessing the meeting or clearly hearing or seeing participants, please call 724-366-9076 immediately for assistance. Please be courteous and place your sound on mute while not speaking.

Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approval of May 25, 2021 meeting minutes
- Election of Officers
- Discuss/ take action on Appalachian Headwaters building permit application
- Continue to review, consider and discuss changes to the draft zoning ordinance and draft zoning map, including but not limited to:
 - Discuss and review the new residential zoning district
 - Determine uses allowed in the new residential district
 - Determine dimensional requirements for the new residential zoning district
- Review and Discuss amendments to the Comprehensive Plan
- Review and Discuss Enactment Process and Schedule
- Public Comment
- Schedule meeting with WVU Land Use Clinic
- Adjourn

Notice Of Council Organizational Session

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

The Lewisburg City Council will meet on Tuesday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber at Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street West.

Also available via Teleconference because of the COVID-19 Pandemic

For information on how to participate, contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13.

The following topics are scheduled for discussion:

- Oath of office.
- Adoption, readoption and amendment of rules governing the official conduct of city council and rules governing the transactions of city council business.
- Appointment of city officers and council committees.
- Adjournment

Lewisburg Finance Committee To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

The Finance Committee of the city of Lewisburg will meet in regular session Tuesday, July 13 at 7 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber at Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street, West and via Zoom link. Please contact City Hall by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13 to request the zoom link. The following topics are scheduled for discussion:

- Call to order
- Chapman Technical Group LLC - Water System Upgrade Update
- Sidewalk Project US 219 North Phase II pay application 4
- Sidewalk Project US 219 North Phase III pay application 6
- Fire Department Testing of Fire Hose and Ladder bid approval
- Coal Severance Budget Revision Number 1 - Fiscal Year 2022
- Mills Group LLC Contract Renewal
- Authority of City Manager for the American Rescue Plan application & funds
- Signature Authority on City Bank Accounts
- Communications from members
- Approval of Minutes - June 8, 2021
- Adjournment

AmeriCorps Volunteer Opportunity

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

REACHH Family Resource Center is looking for an AmeriCorps member to serve with us. Applicant must be 18 years of age and be a U.S. citizen. The term will begin in August and run for one year. You must have reliable transportation.

After completing 1,700 hours of service the member will be eligible for a \$6,345 education award and will receive a monthly living allowance of \$16,000/year.

Please submit resumes to Jo Ann Miller, REACHH FRC, 411 Temple Street, Hinton, WV 25951. No phone calls, please. REACHH FRC is an equal opportunity employer.

Man Dies After Being Struck By Two Vehicles In Raleigh County

By wv daily news | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

A man has died following injuries sustained after being struck by two vehicles in Raleigh County.

According to information provided by the West Virginia State Police, on Wednesday, July 7, at approximately 9:35 p.m., Trooper N. C. Patton was flagged down by a driver who stated a person had been struck by a vehicle on Robert C. Byrd Drive near the Walmart in Crab Orchard.

Trooper Patton arrived on scene and found a deceased, male subject lying in the roadway, later identified as Jared Holahan, 27, of Columbia Station, Ohio.

Witnesses on scene stated that Holahan was standing in the roadway when two vehicles travelling west on Route 16 struck him.

This incident is being reconstructed by the West Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team and remains active and ongoing.

Blood Drive To Be Held At WSS Library

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

Right now, the American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage as the number of trauma cases, organ transplants and elective surgeries rise – and deplete the nation's blood inventory. Donors of all blood types, especially type O and those who can give platelets are urged to make an appointment to give to

prevent further impact to patients. The White Sulphur Springs Public Library will be holding a blood drive on Thursday, July 22, from 1 pm to 6 pm. You can make an appointment to give the gift of life by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule your blood or platelet donation appointment. You can also call the library at 304-536-1171 on weekdays between the hours of 10-6 to make an appointment. The library is located at 344 Main St W in White Sulphur Springs. This drive is made possible in part through the support of the White Sulphur Springs Lions.

Let Me Do You A Flavor: Appetizers

By Lindsey Wolford WVDN Columnist | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



Hey and welcome back! I'm so glad you decided to take a break from the heat and sit down and read my little corner of the paper that is bursting with flavor. This week I am bringing you two recipes for appetizers or potluck dishes that are sure to please. So, pour a cold drink and grab those scissors because you will want to write this down!

I like to get together with friends, especially when it's nice out and we can hang out outside. I also like to bring tasty treats to the gatherings so I wanted to share one of my go-to recipes and a new one I just tried over the July 4th weekend! This week I'm bringing you recipes for bacon-wrapped onion rings with a sweet and spicy dipping sauce and crab stuffed mushrooms.

So let's get started! For the first recipe you will need:

Bacon wrapped onion rings w/dipping sauce

2 medium sweet onions
1 - 2 pounds thick sliced bacon
3/4 cup Mayo
1/4 sriracha
1/4 cup honey

Line a cookie sheet or two with aluminum foil and preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Slice the onions in thick slices then pull the slices apart. Now wrap the slices with strips of bacon. This is a tedious process and you can use a toothpick to hold the end of your bacon in place — I do not do this.

Bake for 40-50 minutes checking at around 25 minutes to make sure they aren't burning or don't need to be flipped. I don't flip mine but some do. Mix up the mayo, sriracha and honey and set aside for dipping. Please remember my measurements are approximate so adjust to your liking. These are a big crowd pleaser so you may want to make more than you think you will need!

Moving on to the next appetizer or potluck finger food — **Crab stuffed mushrooms**. I made these last weekend and they were a big hit! For these you will need:

2-3 containers of baby portabella mushrooms (stems removed)
2 6-ounce cans of crab meat
2 8-ounce blocks of cream cheese
3-4 cloves freshly minced garlic
Grated Parmesan cheese
Paprika
Dried oregano
Salt and pepper

Keep that oven on 400 degrees and soften your cream cheese. I put mine in a bowl and microwave it for 30 seconds to 1 minute at a time until soft. Drain the canned crab and put it in the bowl with the cream cheese. Add the garlic and a few good shakes of paprika and oregano — add salt and pepper to taste.

Rinse and pat dry the mushrooms, remove the stems and fill with the crab filling. Top each mushroom with a pinch of Parmesan cheese and bake for 30 minutes. That's it!

One of my most frequently asked questions is, "I'm going to this get-together and need something to make — have any ideas" and these are some of my go-to recipes. You can change up the dipping sauce for the bacon-wrapped onion rings to a mix of equal parts ranch and BBQ sauce or tasty homemade honey mustard. For the stuffed mushrooms you could cut up the stems and add them to the filling to beef it up a little or change out the crab for diced shrimp. No matter what you do make it your own and have fun doing it, and as always I'm sending love from my kitchen to yours!

Applications For State Park Lottery Hunts And

Class N/NN Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits Now Available

By wv daily news | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is now accepting applications to participate in controlled deer hunts at seven state parks.

Controlled hunts are scheduled this fall at Beech Fork, Blennerhassett, Canaan Valley, Cacapon, North Bend, Stonewall, and Twin Falls state parks. Hunters have from July 1 to Aug. 30 to apply. Drawing for the hunts will start on Aug. 31 and successful applicants will be notified between Sept. 6-17.

“Controlled hunts have proven to be an effective way to maintain a balanced deer herd in areas experiencing overpopulation,” said West Virginia State Parks Chief Brad Reed. “These hunts are one of the ways we manage deer populations in our parks.”

Applications for the hunts must be submitted online at WVhunt.com. Hunters must use their existing Electronic Licensing and Game Checking System account or create one to apply. Once logged in, applicants must select “Enter a Lottery Drawing” and choose one of the available options. There is a \$15 application fee for each entry. Each application can be submitted for one or two people.

Each application is for a three-day harvest opportunity using a compound bow, crossbow or muzzleloader, depending on the selected date, hunt type and designated area. Rather than specified hunting stands for each hunter, as used in past controlled hunts, all hunters will be given a map and will be able to hunt within the designated hunting zones. Deer harvested during a controlled hunt do not count against a hunter’s annual deer season bag limit.

Applicants may enter for multiple hunts occurring at the same or different state parks on different days. If chosen for more than one concurrent hunt, the applicant will be given the opportunity to choose the one they want. A multiple hunt winner cannot split the three days between two or more parks. Applicants may only enter each hunt once, either as an individual or as part of a group.

Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit

Applications are also being accepted for Class N or NN antlerless deer stamps. There are six counties or parts thereof that require resident Class N or nonresident Class NN antlerless deer hunting with prior permit application. Those counties are Boone, Greenbrier (North Portion), Kanawha (North Portion), Nicholas, Raleigh (East Portion) and Webster.

Additionally, Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area, national forest lands in Randolph and Pocahontas counties, Camp Creek State Forest and Greenbrier State Forest have a limited number of Class N or Class NN stamps available for antlerless deer hunting.

To be eligible to hunt in one of these areas, an application must be submitted online by August 13. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land. Successful applicants will receive notification from the DNR by mail. Applicants can also check their application status online at WVhunt.com beginning on August 20. There is no cost to apply for an antlerless deer hunting permit.

In limited resident and nonresident antlerless WMAs and national and state forest hunts, a hunter may take only one deer in the antlerless season.

Hunter Requirements

If chosen, each hunter will be required to confirm their intent to participate in the hunt. They must also possess a valid West Virginia hunting license (or be legally exempt from purchasing a license) within one week of being contacted. Successful applicants will be contacted with more detailed information regarding the controlled hunt. West Virginia hunting regulations apply to all controlled hunts.

Specific Hunting Dates and Methods

Specific rules, hunting dates and hunting methods are available on the electronic licensing system at WVhunt.com. For additional information about a specific park hunt, call the state park of interest and indicate the call is regarding controlled hunt information.

Controlled Hunts Benefits

When deer populations reach levels that become detrimental to the landscape, over-browsing can lead to loss of native vegetation, prevent forest regeneration, and alter habitat for all wildlife species living in the park. Controlled hunts help reduce deer numbers to levels that prevent habitat loss, property damage, vehicle collisions and potential human injuries.

Controlled hunts help the DNR maintain a healthy deer herd population while still allowing visitors the opportunity to view deer and other wildlife throughout the state park.

Judge asked to dismiss lawsuit over WVa transgender ban

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Education officials are asking a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit challenging West Virginia's new law that bans transgender athletes from competing in female sports in middle schools, high schools and colleges.

Education and athletic officials said in court documents filed last week that they can't be held liable for the law, which they didn't request and largely won't be responsible for enforcing, the Charleston Gazette-Mail reported.

The American Civil Liberties Union and its West Virginia chapter filed the lawsuit in May on behalf of an 11-year-old transgender girl who had hoped to compete in cross country in middle school in Harrison County. The girl is seeking an injunction to prevent the law from being enforced.

The ban is set to take effect Thursday and will require the state Board of Education to establish rules to determine the means by which local athletic officials can enforce the law.

Attorneys for the West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission argued that they can't be held responsible for the law because they aren't responsible for enforcing it.

Attorneys for Harrison County Schools said the district "was not responsible for and did not pass" the transgender athlete ban and has not caused harm to the girl.

"(The law) was not created by the County Board, and it is not under the County Board's control," the response said.

The U.S. Justice Department intervened in the case last month, saying the ban was a violation of federal law.

West Virginia street renamed in honor of slain officer

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A street has been renamed in honor of a West Virginia police officer who was fatally shot on the job.

Officials in Charleston held a ceremony Wednesday to rename Garrison Avenue as Patrolman Cassie Johnson Avenue.

Johnson, 28, died on Dec. 3, two days after being shot while responding to a parking lot complaint.

Johnson grew up on Garrison Avenue, the same street where the shooting occurred.

“She was a hero to all of us,” Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin said at the start of the ceremony. “She gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep this city and her people safe. When she talked about policing and her call to serve, you could tell that was actually what she was meant to do.”

Johnson joined the city as a humane officer in October 2017 and was sworn in as a patrol officer in January 2019.

An August trial is set for Joshua Phillips, who is charged with first-degree murder.

Police said Johnson ordered Phillips to place his hands behind his back but he turned toward Johnson in an aggressive manner. During a struggle, Phillips threw Johnson’s handcuffs into the street, took out a handgun hidden in his waistband and shot Johnson in the neck, police said in a criminal complaint.

This story corrects the day of the week to Wednesday, not Thursday.

WVa gov orders speed limit enforcement after fatal wreck

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice on Thursday ordered stepped-up enforcement of speed limits on major highways a week after an accident killed two people.

Justice announced the additional measures at a news conference in Charleston. He ordered state police to enforce reduced speed limits in work zones and directed the state Department of Transportation “to go above and beyond” national safety standards with signs and traffic control.

While last week’s accident along Interstate 81 did not occur in a construction zone, Berkeley County Sheriff Nathan Harmon said Thursday that work zones are common elsewhere along the interstate.

According to police, two vehicles lost control, went through the median and crashed into a parked tractor-trailer at a rest stop June 30 near Martinsburg. Two men who were tractor-trailer operators and had walked to the scene to help then were hit by another vehicle that had lost control. Speed and weather conditions were listed as factors.

In a news release after the accident, Harmon called it “an unfortunate situation, one of the worst I have seen in my career.”

Morrisey Issues Statement on Purdue

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey reiterated his opposition Thursday to how a multibillion-dollar settlement with Purdue Pharma may be split among states, while he also applauded news that continued negotiations have yielded commitments for more money and greater accountability as part of the proposed settlement.

“We still need more resources for West Virginia and greater accountability from Purdue,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “I remain vigorously opposed to a proposed allocation formula that would distribute settlement funds largely based on a state or local government’s population – not intensity of the problem.

“Any such allocation formula is harmful to West Virginians, and fails to recognize the disproportionate harm caused by opioids in our state. I look forward to arguing our case in court this August,” he added.

The Attorney General, with support from several dozen counties and municipalities, prevailed in April by forcing Purdue Pharma to disclose how its bankruptcy plan would shortchange West Virginia.

The Attorney General’s objection, filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, had argued that Purdue’s failure to disclose how its multibillion-dollar proposal would be split among states undermined its desire to avoid court challenges to an inherently inequitable arrangement.

Purdue Pharma responded days later by disclosing publicly the once-closely held Denver Plan, which the Attorney General opposes since it would distribute settlement funds largely based on population – not intensity of the problem.

To that end, the Attorney General has argued that an allocation plan based upon population – with only minimal consideration given to the intensity of the addiction epidemic – will render the broader bankruptcy plan unconfirmable since it would fail to account in any meaningful way for the great disparities in intensity of opioid addiction and opioid death that exist between the states.

The Attorney General joined a preliminary framework with 27 attorneys general in September 2019 and has since filed a proof of claim in the matter on behalf of West Virginia. Fifteen additional states signed onto the deal late Wednesday.

Attorney General Morrisey filed suit against Purdue Pharma and former chief executive Richard Sackler in May 2019. The lawsuit alleges Purdue Pharma created a false narrative to convince prescribers that opioids are not addictive and that its opioid products were safer than they actually were.

The lawsuit contends Purdue Pharma proliferated a deceptive marketing strategy with reckless disregard for compliance enforcement. It also alleges company sales representatives routinely claimed that OxyContin had no dose ceiling, despite assertions by federal regulators that OxyContin’s dose ceiling was evident by adverse reactions.

The lawsuit marked West Virginia’s second against Purdue Pharma. The first, filed in 2001, resulted in a \$10 million settlement in 2004. However, that case involved an earlier version of the opioid than the reformulated, so-called tamper-resistant OxyContin that debuted in 2010.

Read a copy of the Attorney General’s objection at <https://bit.ly/2QTWYq5>, as well as the Denver Plan

disclosure brought to light as a result of the objection at <https://bit.ly/3xrCS2j>.

Pentagon cancels disputed JEDI cloud contract with Microsoft

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said it canceled a disputed cloud-computing contract with Microsoft that could eventually have been worth \$10 billion. It will instead pursue a deal with both Microsoft and Amazon and possibly other cloud service providers.

“With the shifting technology environment, it has become clear that the JEDI Cloud contract, which has long been delayed, no longer meets the requirements to fill the DoD’s capability gaps,” the Pentagon said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement did not directly mention that the Pentagon faced extended legal challenges by Amazon to the original \$1 million contract awarded to Microsoft. Amazon argued that the Microsoft award was tainted by politics, particularly then-President Donald Trump’s antagonism toward Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos, who stepped down Monday as the company’s chief executive officer. Bezos owns The Washington Post, a newspaper often criticized by Trump.

The Pentagon’s chief information officer, John Sherman, told reporters Tuesday that during the lengthy legal fight with Amazon, “the landscape has evolved” with new possibilities for large-scale cloud computing services. Thus it was decided, he said, to start over and seek multiple vendors.

Sherman said JEDI will be replaced by a new program called Joint Warfighter Cloud Capability, and that both Amazon and Microsoft “likely” will be awarded parts of the business, although neither is guaranteed. Sherman said the three other large cloud service providers — Google, IBM and Oracle — might qualify, too.

Microsoft said in response to the Pentagon announcement, “We understand the DoD’s rationale, and we support them and every military member who needs the mission-critical 21st-century technology JEDI would have provided. The DoD faced a difficult choice: Continue with what could be a years-long litigation battle or find another path forward.”

Amazon said it understands and agrees with the Pentagon’s decision. In a statement, the company reiterated its view that the 2019 contract award was not based on the merits of the competing proposals “and instead was the result of outside influence that has no place in government procurement.”

Oracle, which had earlier sought the JEDI contract but didn’t make it to the final round, declined comment Tuesday. In separate statements, IBM said it was evaluating the new Pentagon approach and Google said it looked forward to discussing it with Pentagon officials.

The JEDI project began with the \$1 million contract award for Microsoft, meant as an initial step in a 10-year deal that could have reached \$10 billion in value. The project that will replace it is a five-year program; Sherman said no exact contract value has been set but that it will be “in the billions.” Sherman said the government will negotiate the amount Microsoft will be paid for having its 2019 deal terminated.

Amazon Web Services, a market leader in providing cloud computing services, had long been considered a leading candidate to run the Pentagon’s Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure project, known as JEDI. The project was meant to store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the U.S. military to improve communications with soldiers on the battlefield and use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities.

The JEDI contract became mired in legal challenges almost as soon as it was awarded to Microsoft in October 2019. The losing bidder, Amazon Web Services, went to court arguing that the Pentagon’s process was flawed and unfair, including that it was improperly influenced by politics.

This year the Pentagon had been hinting that it might scrap the contract, saying in May that it felt compelled to reconsider its options after a federal judge in April rejected a Pentagon move to have key parts of Amazon’s lawsuit dismissed.

The JEDI saga has been unusual for the political dimension linked to Trump. In April 2020, the Defense Department inspector general’s office concluded that the contracting process was in line with legal and government purchasing standards. The inspector general found no evidence of White House interference in the contract award process, but that review also said investigators could not fully review the matter because the White House would not allow unfettered access to witnesses.

Five months later, the Pentagon reaffirmed Microsoft as winner of the contract, but work remained stalled by Amazon’s legal challenge.

In its April 2020 report, the inspector general’s office did not draw a conclusion about whether the Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft Corp. was appropriately declared the winner. Rather, it looked at whether the decision-making process was proper and legal. It also examined allegations of unethical behavior by Pentagon officials involved in the matter and generally determined that any ethical lapses did not influence the outcome.

That review did not find evidence of White House pressure for the Pentagon to favor the Microsoft bid, but it also said it could not definitely determine the full extent of White House interactions with the Pentagon’s decision-makers.

Associated Press writers Matt O’Brien and Joseph Pisani contributed to this report.

Biden says US war in Afghanistan will end August 31

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 09, 2021



By ZEKE MILLER and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday said the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on Aug. 31, saying “speed is safety” as the United States seeks to end the nearly 20-year war. “We did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build,” Biden said in a speech to update his administration’s ongoing efforts to wind down the U.S. war. “Afghan leaders have to come together and drive toward a future.” Biden also amplified the justification of his decision to end U.S. military operations even as the Taliban make rapid advances in significant swaths of the country. The administration in recent days has repeatedly sought to frame ending the conflict as a decision that Biden made after concluding it’s an “unwinnable war” and one that “does not have a military solution.”

“How many more, how many more thousands of American daughters and sons are you willing to risk?” Biden said to those calling for the U.S. to extend the military operation. He added, “I will not send another generation of Americans to war in Afghanistan, with no reasonable expectation of achieving a different outcome.”

Biden said he didn’t trust the Taliban but trusted the capacity of the Afghan military to defend the government.

Before his speech, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden administration officials always anticipated

an “uptick” in violence and greater turmoil as the U.S. withdrawal moved forward. She added that prolonging U.S. military involvement, considering former President Donald Trump had already agreed to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by May 2021, would have led to an escalation of attacks on American troops.

“The question fundamentally facing him was after 20 years was he going to commit more American troops to a civil war in Afghanistan,” Psaki said.

Biden said it was “highly unlikely” that one government will control Afghanistan after the U.S. pullout, and urged the Afghan government to reach a deal with the Taliban.

The president added that there is no “mission accomplished” moment as the U.S. war comes to an end.

“The mission was accomplished in that we got Osama bin Laden and terrorism is not emanating from that part of the world,” he said.

U.S. forces earlier this week vacated Bagram Airfield — the U.S. epicenter of the conflict to oust the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaida perpetrators of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. that triggered the war.

Remaining U.S. troops are now concentrated in Kabul, the capital. The Pentagon said the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, is expected to end his tour of duty later this month as final arrangements are made for a reduced U.S. military mission.

Biden in recent days has bristled at reporters when asked about the drawdown and the security situation in Afghanistan. Asked last week at an event to highlight a strong jobs report whether he was concerned that the Afghan government could fall in a matter of months, he didn’t hide his annoyance.

Biden, answering questions from reporters after his remarks on Thursday, said that Kabul falling to the Taliban would not be an acceptable outcome. But the president also pushed back against the notion that such a scenario was certain.

“Do I trust the Taliban? No,” Biden said. “But I trust the capacity of the Afghan military, who is better trained, better equipped and more competent in terms of conducting war.”

Biden continues to face pressure from congressional lawmakers to offer further detail on how he intends to go about assisting thousands of Afghans who helped the U.S. military as translators, drivers and in other jobs who are now fearful they will be targets of the Taliban once the U.S. withdrawal is complete.

The White House says the administration has identified U.S. facilities outside of the continental United States, as well as third countries, where evacuated Afghans would potentially stay while their visa applications are processed. Biden added that 2,500 Afghans have been granted special immigrant visas since he took office in January.

“Our message to those women and men is clear,” Biden said. “There is a home for you in the United States if you so choose. We will stand with you, just as you stood with us.”

Dear Abby: Friday, July 9

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 09, 2021

Red Flags Are Flying In Daughter’s Marriage

Dear Abby: I am afraid for my daughter. She has been married less than a year to a very controlling man. He doesn’t ASK her to do anything, he DEMANDS that she do what he wants. She cannot go out to eat or to a movie or anyplace like that unless he is with her. She works a 40-hour-a-week job, and in addition, she must do all the work inside the house plus mow the lawn while he plays games on his computer. Don’t you have a list of things to look for to tell someone when it is time to get out while the getting is good? — **Very Worried Mother**

Dear Mother: I certainly do, and you have a right to be worried. It has been a while since I shared this important information about abusive behaviors. Read on:

1. **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.
2. **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.
3. **CONTROLLING:** If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.
4. **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.
5. **ISOLATION:** Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.
6. **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.
7. **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."
8. **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.
9. **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.
10. **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.
11. **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation or waking you with relentless verbal abuse.
12. **RIGID EXPECTATIONS:** Demands that you serve, obey and remain at home.
13. **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.
14. **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.
15. **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

Readers, ANYONE at risk of spousal or partner abuse should contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or thehotline.org.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In our continued effort to provide our readers with the best possible content, WVDN is re-evaluating our current offerings. If you are enjoying reading "Dear Abby" each day, please send an email to hello@wvdn.com and let us know your thoughts.*