

WVDN JUL 12, 2021



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Dear Abby: Monday, July 12

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

Man Breaks Pact While Demanding Wife Sticks To It

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been together almost 20 years. When we first started dating, I would have an occasional drink. He said he chewed tobacco, but I never saw him do it. We agreed that I wouldn't drink and he wouldn't chew. I found out later that he continued to do it about twice a year. I feel misled. He doesn't want me to drink because of some incidents with his family when he was young. I've pointed out to him that this is controlling, but he insists it's not. There are times I would like to have a drink at family celebrations, and I can't and it's awkward. Should I really be held to something I agreed to when I was a young 20-something? — **Under Control in New Mexico**

Dear Under Control: It may be time to revisit that deal you made with your husband. If he reneged, you are free to do as you wish. If these "incidents" involved his family, they have nothing to do with yours. And you should not be prevented from enjoying an alcoholic beverage at your family celebrations when you like.

Dear Abby: Several years ago, my teenage nephew "Jim" gave my younger son his collection of trading cards. He'd outgrown the game, and my son was just starting to get interested. Before Jim gave them away, my brother (his dad) suggested that some of the cards might be valuable and that Jim should check before giving them away. Instead, Jim decided to hand them all over. It turns out that part of the collection is quite valuable, and we could sell them for a significant sum. I'm inclined to do that and put the proceeds toward my son's college fund, which would really help us out. The question is, should I split it and send half to my nephew? Usually, a gift is the recipient's to do with as they'd like, but Jim was just a kid with a kind heart when he made this gift, and he was thinking more about playing the game than about money. He's out of school now with no debt and is established in a job. What do you think? — **Act of Kindness**

Dear Act of Kindness: Jim doesn't need the money from the sale of those cards, but it could make a big difference to your son. Since you asked for my opinion, I would suggest you at least offer a portion of the money to Jim.

Dear Abby: My daughter is married to a very nice man, but he's a know-it-all. When we have a conversation, he is always "right" and disregards my point of view. I know my daughter is upset by it but, of course, she takes his side. I have tried to be close with him, but he cannot take a joke or let anyone have an opinion that differs from his. They have two beautiful children I love watching twice a week. What can I do? — **Never Right in the West**

Dear Never Right: What you should do is start dwelling on the positive. Thank your lucky stars that the know-it-all is a good husband and father. Accept that you will probably never be closer to him than you are now, and derive your enjoyment from watching your beautiful grandchildren.

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.

The Back Pew: Patriotism

By Sen. Stephen Baldwin | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



Something has been burning on my heart this week. I'm not saying it as a pastor or a senator; I'm saying it as an American citizen who loves our country and thinks this is a critical time in the life of our nation.

What does patriotism mean?

Patriotism means love of country.

Patriotism means flying the flag, proudly.

Patriotism means preserving our freedoms...and fulfilling our responsibilities.

Patriotism means caring for veterans and active duty military who defend our democracy.

Patriotism means supporting law and order and those who preserve it.

Patriotism means funding emergency first responders.

Patriotism means respecting differences.

Patriotism means getting involved.

Patriotism means loving your country 365 days a year.

Patriotism means treating each other with respect and dignity.

On bad days, I fear for our nation. Because we are so bitterly divided. And that division too often leads to dark places. When we demean and dishonor our fellow Americans by tearing those with whom we disagree down, Lady Liberty grieves. When politicians wave the flag but fail to enact policies that support those whose sacrifices allow us to fly it, Lady Liberty grieves. When leaders face death threats, Lady Liberty grieves.

On good days, I hope our future is bright. Because our better angels always show up at just the right time. Good people stand up and hold the line. When citizens peacefully demonstrate their patriotism, Lady Liberty rejoices. When we treat others like we want to be treated, Lady Liberty rejoices. When we stand firm in our commitment to unity despite efforts to divide us, Lady Liberty rejoices. When we put country first, Lady Liberty rejoices.

I see examples of goodness and grace all around our community every day. Random acts of kindness. Support for families in need. Prayers turned into action. A positive word at just the right time. These things rarely make

the news, but they do make up the fabric of our republic.

When I think about patriotism, I think about the 13 letters written across the top of the national seal, to match the thirteen stripes on the flag. E PLURIBUS UNUM. It means, "out of many, one."

Out of many people, one nation.

Out of many opinions, one nation.

Out of many beliefs, one nation.

Patriotism means being fully committed to our UNITED states, diverse and different as we are. Men and women. Young and old. Rich and poor. Black and white. Democrat and Republican.

The good book tells us, "There is a time for everything." After a tumultuous and trying time locally and across this great nation, it's time for healing. It's time for the Golden Rule. It's time for unity. Let us not fall victim to our inner demons; let us call forth our better angels.

We are more alike than we are different. We are stronger because of our diversity. We are patriots. We are America. Out of many, WE ARE ONE.

Senator Stephen Baldwin is the Minority Leader and a local pastor. Reach him at 304-357-7959 or stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov. Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV.

East Girls All State Softball Selections

By by brandon baker | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

The Greenbrier East Lady Spartans had an incredible 2021 season and after it concluded, four players were named to the all-state teams.

Taylor Graham was named to the first team as an outfielder after hitting .431 with one home run and 22 RBI's. Graham also excelled on the pitching mound.

Annabelle Honaker, Lindsey Black and Josi Ervin were named to the honorable mention team. All three had great years.

Honaker hit .357 with 13 RBI's. Black hit .385 and led the team in homers with four. She also knocked in 19 runs.

"It's an honor to be selected to the AAA all state team because it has always been such a big goal of mine. Even though our season came up short, I'm very proud of my team and I for how far we made it despite missing all of last season. I couldn't have done it without the amazing support of my family, teammates and coaches, and of course our amazing fans," Honaker said.

Ervin batted .284 with two home runs and 14 runs batted in. The sophomore also pitched 85.1 innings and struck out 123 on the hill.

Graham was thrilled that others outside of the program noticed the work she had put in for herself.

"To have been chosen for an all state award, period, is an absolute honor but first team is absolutely mind blowing. To know that there are people out there that have let my hard work and dedication go unnoticed is

truly amazing. Being told you've been recognized as one of the top players in the state is a feeling that is indescribable," Graham said.

"I have to thank my parents, friends and family for supporting me and pushing me always to continue to try my hardest and play my best at any position i'm placed in. My dad always implanted in my mind that every player is valuable and accounts for something within the game, so when you play try your hardest and it will account for something also, and to also remember someone is always watching. This could have not been more true this year for me," Graham concluded.

The other three girls were very thankful as well.

"It is a privilege to be accepted for honorable mention in AAA softball. I am thankful for my wonderful team mates that supported and pushed me throughout this season. I look forward to next year," Black said.

When you have worked so hard for something and finally get it that is the best feeling in the world. I plan to work even harder in the off season & come back even better for my Lady Spartan Softball team," Ervin exclaimed.

Week In History July 11-17

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 12, 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.

July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under the command of General George McClellan defeated Confederate forces.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The structure was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural, and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. More than 50,000 schoolchildren from 50 West Virginia counties and 21 counties in surrounding states visit the center each year.

July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of Barboursville during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business, but he is best remembered for the establishment of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the

war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.

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.

Gbr. Commission To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

10:00 AM Regular County Commission Meeting, Room 132

LIVE STREAM FROM [https://www.facebook.com/ gbrcourthouse/](https://www.facebook.com/gbrcourthouse/)

Agenda:

PRELUDE - Opening Invocation

PLEDGE

CALL TO ORDER

Regular Business:

-Approve minutes of June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes & June 29, 2021 Emergency Meeting

-Settlements of Estates/Cindy Alley -Fiduciary Supervisor

-Exonerations/County Splits/Consolidations-Joe Darnell, Assessor

Financial Approvals - County Clerk Robin Loudermilk

-Arts & Recreation Transfer

-Budget Revisions

-Line Item Transfer

-Pay Bills

New Business:

-Discussion regarding and consideration of any actions related to the bids and construction contract for the Courthouse Annex Project.

- Act on any matters related to the above regarding the Courthouse Annex Project.
- Consider Mason & Barry Service agreement for courthouse security system
- Consider Advanced Communications Service Agreement for courthouse phone system maintenance contract.
- Consider a new hire for Home Confinement to fill a vacancy
- Meadow River Rail Trail – Review and Sign Letter regarding 2017 Recreational Trail Program grant award funds reallocation.
- Meadow River Rail Trail – Review and Sign FEMA Extension Request (FEMA Funded Repairs)
- Approve appointments and reappointments for Board of Zoning Appeals, Arts & Rec Committee and Greenbrier Valley Airport Authority.
- Consider moving the date of the next County Commission meeting to July 28th

Adjournment

June D.A.R.E To Succeed Students Named

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



(For layout purposes - this information is also formatted as the cutline. Pick the one that works best.) By earning top G.P.A. scores and excellent attendance records, every nine weeks, one student from sixth, seventh and eighth grades are acknowledged for their hard work through the D.A.R.E. To Succeed program at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School.

Winners of June's D.A.R.E. To Succeed awards are: sixth-grader, Avery Thompson; seventh-grader, Tonya Martin; and eighth-grader, Connor Friend, who earned not only recognition, but a locker sticker and certificate, both created by Lisa Dolan, EGMS technology education teacher, and a Dairy Queen coupon booklet to enjoy a Blizzard every week for nine weeks.

The D.A.R.E. program gives kids skills needed to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence.

Next school year, Deputy S.L. Morris, police resource officer with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, said he hopes to restart D.A.R.E. classroom lessons, that were put on hold during the pandemic.

New sponsors are encouraged to provide additional incentives for the D.A.R.E. To Succeed program. Contact Morris at 304-647-6498 ext. 2212 for more information on the program or to sponsor a reward.

Message From The Editor

By by matthew young | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



Over the past few weeks, The West Virginia Daily News has been criticized for our editorial coverage. And although much of this criticism has been made by a small group of individuals who rarely bother to read the entire newspaper, and often merely glance at a few headlines, I feel compelled to share several points with our readers that they may not all be aware of.

For starters, I am the managing editor. Simply put, this means that every single piece of editorial content that goes into our newspaper is there with my final approval. If you don't like it, or if it is inaccurate, the blame is mine and mine alone. My involvement in advertising, obituaries, legals and classifieds is relegated solely to placement within the newspaper, and I have no involvement in their sale or design. (We have an exceptional team of talented people who handle that.) In fact, aside from managing the editorial department budget, I am all but removed from the financial end of the business. That is as it should be.

Our editorial department consists of what I consider to be the most talented group of writers and editors in the state, who are limited only by my leadership. The work they produce is of the highest quality available anywhere and is designed to inform, educate and reveal truth. While I take every possible step to ensure they are reasonably compensated for their efforts, I can assure you that there is not one member of my team who does what they do solely for the paycheck. Make no mistake, these people are among the journalism elite.

Now, for some unfathomable reason, certain readers have recently called my political ideologies into question. The logic behind this eludes me. Neither my opinions nor those of my staff, have any bearing on our reporting or the production of our newspaper. Journalism does not exist to tell the reader what to think. Journalism exists to inform the reader of the facts of a situation so that they have the tools necessary to develop their own informed opinion. Sometimes those facts are horrific. Oftentimes they are uncomfortable. On a good day, we have the opportunity to share facts that make us happy. We do not lay claim to a "bias towards fairness," because the world is not fair. We do not promise to tell "both sides of the story" because not every story has two sides. Some have only one, while others may have ten. Our bias belongs solely to the truth.

But for those of you who may feel as though my political ideologies either qualify or disqualify me from my position as editor, I don't mind sharing: I was born and raised a New York liberal. But with that said, I do not consider myself to be a Democrat because I do not believe in "big government." However, I don't consider myself to be a Republican either, because I do believe in "enough government." I believe that any form of government should be a body under which people can come together, and no one gets left behind. No more, no less.

In my 11 months with this newspaper, I have been told that I was "turning the Daily News into a liberal rag" and "I only care about not sounding like a Democrat." However, the most concerning accusation made of me to this point is that I am "trying to be the conservative voice of the Greenbrier Valley."

Now, a “conservative voice” is no more or less concerning than a “liberal voice,” as both are essential to the overall success of our democracy. But the suggestion that I, as a journalist and newspaper editor, am trying to impose myself as the “voice of the Greenbrier Valley” is truly frightening. The Greenbrier Valley is very capable of creating its own voice. And if you stop and listen, it can be heard as clear as day. At its heart, the “voice of the Greenbrier Valley” is that of you, your neighbors, your friends and family, and those with whom you disagree. Our job as journalists is merely to serve the community as its mirror, not install ourselves as judge and jury.

The decision not to provide editorial coverage of the events that transpired in the city of Lewisburg over the Fourth of July weekend was mine and mine alone. There was simply no way to report the truth of the situation without worsening it within the community. And yes, my decision was motivated primarily by my desire to protect the community and was made in stark contradiction to my journalistic integrity. There are those who will read this and take what I just said to mean different things, and I cannot control that. But not covering the things that happened was a mistake on my part, and it is one I will not make again.

Below this letter are letters and social media comments from members of the community. There are many more which we have received over the past few weeks, and I chose to omit the more explicit ones. I have also chosen not to print the names of those who have written them. However, if you want your name to stand with your comments, let me know and I will certainly print it in our next edition.

I hope this letter will provide clarity for some of you. We do not make the news. We exist solely to report it, and unfortunately, it is not always the news anyone wants to receive. In those instances, we don't enjoy reporting it any more than you do reading it.

In closing, I promise this: we will continue to report the news as factually as possible. We will continue to provide a balanced offering of news in the hope that every single member of the community can find something within our pages that speaks to them. I do not promise that you will like every article in every edition. But I promise that every edition will be an accurate reflection of what is going on around you.

I promise that we will always hold true to our mission statement: *“Nothing shall be indifferent to us in which advances the cause of truth and morality, or which concerns the welfare of the community in which we live.”*

And to those of you who have hurled the name “the daily disappointment” as an insult to our newspaper, this is what I will tell you: if you have been disappointed by accurate reporting and a balanced offering of information, then I promise you will continue to be disappointed.

To everyone else, I say thank you.

- Matthew Young

Social Media Comments:

Comment made on post: “Rainelle FD Announces Fourth Of July Decorating Contest Winners.”

- “Why is there nothing in the paper about the Patriots Flag Parade in Lewisburg this week? Haven't seen the first word or picture in the paper all week.”

Comments made on post: “Lewisburg Passes Crown Act.”

- “You just can't fix stupid. Doubt LEWISBURG is still the coolest 'lil town but wears a crown.”
- “How ridiculous! Idiots living in Lewisburg.”

Comment made on post: "Alderson 4th of July Parade Begins At 10:30 a.m."

- "Very disappointed that the coverage was so narrow in boosting the Republican party."

Comments made on post: "First Greenbrier Valley Pride Event happening now in downtown Lewisburg!"

- "Why refer to this as a Pride event??? Pride of WHAT? Definitely NOT the PRIDE of majority of Greenbrier County West Virginia population. Name this event correctly @The West Virginia Daily News. Such as the Great G... event."
- "And this is front-page worthy??? So aggravated the OBITUARIES moved from the front page to be lost in the middle and sometimes even on back of the newspaper! These were people that lived and died and deserve the respect and common courtesy... as do their families... of being front-page news!!! Instead let's all act in the manner of "political correctness" and put a lot of garbage on the front page. This will be my last subscription from this so-called "news" paper!!! Tsk tsk!"

Letter To The Editor:

Dear Editor,

While you gave massive coverage to the Pride parade and celebration in Lewisburg and great coverage of the Alderson 4th of July celebration, I have not seen a single sentence or picture to cover the huge patriotic demonstration held at Lewisburg to protest the city's failure to display the American Flag on July 4th.

Was this not a newsworthy event? Or do you only choose to cover those things that you deem "proper" or within your editorial perspective of what people need to know?

I am extremely disappointed in your newspaper and hope you can do a better job in the future.

Letter To The Editor:

I just saw the front page of your "newspaper" with the "article" about the 4th of July parade. Plastered across the front are ONLY Trump photos. There were two groups out of hundreds in a two-hour parade, and that's what you picked to represent the whole thing. And you only interviewed Republicans. Really??? That's what you got out of the whole lovely celebration for ALL Americans? You made it all completely political! That's not news, that's propaganda!! I am absolutely disgusted and disappointed. You lost an advertiser and a subscriber right here. And you solidified the paper's old nickname of "The Daily Disappointment."

Letter To The Editor:

Why was the front page of the July 7 edition an advertisement for Trump and Morrisey?

Surely there were plenty of other non-partisan people and activities to report on than these two photos/narratives? I believe this parade was and always has been a celebration of our country, not a rally for those who wish to FORCE their views on others. I assumed that this publication was unbiased and not a party to the divisive tactics of these subjects.

I'll not pay for or read another issue.

Letter To The Editor:

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed in your paper's coverage of the Alderson 4th of July parade. The 4th committee is composed of many hard-working nonpolitical volunteers. The parade is a celebration of our country's birthday. There were many floats built by churches, youth organizations and businesses with no political messages. But the two pictures you put on the front page were terribly political. Yes, that group had a right to be in the parade but I find it offensive that of all the beautiful locally built floats, horses, fire trucks and cars you picked the most divisive ones to print.

Morrissey Targets Google

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey joined a coalition of 37 attorneys general in filing suit against Google alleging the tech giant engaged in unlawful conduct relating to the Google Play Store for Android mobile devices and Google Billing.

The bipartisan, antitrust lawsuit sets forth allegations of anticompetitive and unfair business practices. It accuses Google of using its dominance to unfairly restrict competition with the Google Play Store. The action harmed consumers by limiting choice and driving up app prices.

"Vigorous competition protects consumers and helps the economy thrive," Morrissey said. "Our nation's antitrust laws play a vital role in helping to foster innovation and ensure that consumers pay a fair price. Likewise, our nation loses when one company can use unlawful means to monopolize a particular market. We must feverishly oppose such tactics."

The lawsuit centers on Google's alleged exclusionary conduct, which substantially shuts out competing app distribution channels.

The attorneys general allege Google unlawfully requires app developers that offer their app through the Google Play Store to use Google Billing as a middleman. Such an arrangement forces app consumers to pay Google's commission — up to 30% — on in-app purchases of digital content the consumers create through apps that are distributed via the Google Play Store.

The lawsuit further alleges that Google works to discourage or prevent competition, violating federal and state antitrust laws.

The attorneys general allege Google broke its early promise to app developers and device manufacturers that it would keep Android "open source," allowing developers to create compatible apps and distribute them without unnecessary restrictions.

The lawsuit also alleges Google sought to enhance or protect its monopoly position by buying off its potential competition, requiring contracts that foreclose competition and imposing technical barriers to strongly discourage or effectively prevent third-party app developers to achieve success outside of the Google Play Store.

West Virginia joined the bipartisan lawsuit led by Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee, along with Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South

Dakota, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

Read a copy of the coalition's civil complaint at <https://bit.ly/2UBbwaU>.

Old West Virginia tennis court turned into community garden

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

By DAVID KIRK, Times West Virginian

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP) — An old, abandoned tennis court in the middle of Fairmont has received new life as a community garden.

Just above Coal Run Hollow down a gravel road off of Oliver Street in the middle of Fairmont sits a paved lot, which was formerly a tennis court. Now it's covered with wooden plots, filled with flowers, vegetables and other fauna, planted by the Fairmont community and local organizations.

At the start of 2021, the Marion County Parks and Recreation Commission was contacted by a group of students from Fairmont State University about a possible project management course. Their idea was to form a community garden.

"They contacted us for some possible vacant property," said Rachel Mitchell, assistant director for MCPARC.

"We didn't have any property at the time within city limits. (The students) were wanting it to be near the university."

Originally, MCPARC was going to just leave it to the students and the university to search for a property, then help them with the labor of building the plots and support to help fund the garden.

Mitchell remembered that the City of Fairmont owned a plot of land that was an abandoned asphalt court that had been turned into a community garden by an organization called Learning Options, though the site was in disrepair and hadn't been used in several years.

"We got with the city and they were on board with us using the property," Mitchell said. "I got in contact with Learning Options, so with Fairmont State and Learning Options things got off the ground."

Not long after, other organizations joined in. The Marion County Master Gardeners and the WVU Extension Office pitched in on the idea. These two together with MCPARC, Fairmont State and Learning Options make the five groups who are most active in the garden.

"Between the five organizations we were able to start the MCPARC Community Garden as it's known today," Mitchell said.

This year brings the first season of the community garden's new life. There are beds specifically reserved for the five partner organizations, but the rest of the plots are open to be rented by the public.

At first, MCPARC was to take a sideline role in the garden's creation,. But as the project evolved, MCPARC became more and more involved.

The organization cleaned the garden, staffed the site and committed to maintaining the location.

"It really wasn't on our radar until those students from Fairmont State came to us," Mitchell said. "It turned out to be something really great for the community and all the interested groups."

Since the start of the season, the garden has been used by each of the vested organizations to do some sort of programming. Learning Options did a class on how to grow food, WVU Extension Office has taught about healthier eating, and MCPARC is making sure everything runs smoothly.

There are around 11 families who are renting beds and growing in the garden, and there's a Girl Scout troop that also has a bed there.

When the garden was owned by the city, there were many stipulations for growing there. MCPARC hired a garden coordinator to help make the garden more accessible to the public.

"I love watching things grow. I love when the kids come in and I get to teach them about growing," said Shelby Dillon, the coordinator for the community garden.

And even though the growing season is at its mid-point, it's never too late to take a peek at what's going on in the garden, Dillon said.

"I think it's important that people learn to grow their own food," Dillon said. "I just think it's important to get dirt under your fingernails and enjoy the sun."

The goal of the community garden is to allow local residents a place to garden, especially if they lack space to do so on their own properties, and for MCPARC, that goal has been a success.

"One of the big picture missions of this garden was to increase accessibility to gardening for the community," Mitchell said. "I think we've done that."

Once spring rolls around, the process to rent a bed will be open again.

Renting a bed at the garden is \$20 for the season and the garden supplies everything needed — from seeds to soil to water.

For more information about the community garden, call MCPARC at 304-363-7037 or visit the group's website at www.mcparc.com/community-garden.

Testimony nears end in WVa suit against opioid distributors

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A landmark civil trial could be winding down in West Virginia against three large opioid distributors accused of fueling a local opioid crisis, as attorneys for the defendants indicated they expect to wrap up their case one month ahead of schedule.

While the federal bench trial in the lawsuit filed by Cabell County and the city of Huntington against distributors AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. had been scheduled to last through mid-August, company attorneys said Thursday they expect to finish questioning witnesses next week, The Herald-Dispatch reported.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs finished up more than six weeks of testimony by calling their final witnesses last week.

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. Dr. Kevin Murphy, a health economist, testified for the defense Thursday that the responsibility for the crisis rested with doctors, not the distributors.

Economist Peter Borberg also testified and disputed previous testimony from U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration investigator James Rafalski, who said under oath that distributors failed to properly flag suspiciously large pain pill orders to the DEA. Borberg said the methodologies used by Rafalski were flawed and unreliable.

West Virginia for years has led the nation in the rate of drug overdose deaths.

Yellen: Compete on economic strengths, not low tax rates

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that deterring the use of tax havens will let countries compete on economic fundamentals — instead of by offering ever-lower tax rates that deprive governments of money for infrastructure and education.

Yellen spoke after finance ministers from the Group of 20 major economies endorsed a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15%, a measure aimed at putting a floor under tax rates and discouraging companies from using low-rate countries as tax havens.

“This deal will end the race to the bottom,” she said at a news conference after the end of the meeting in Venice.

“Instead of asking the question: ‘Who can offer the lowest tax rate?,’ it will allow all of our countries to compete on the basis of economic fundamentals — on the skill of our workforces, our capacity to innovate, and the strength of our legal and economic institutions.”

“And this deal will give our nations the ability to raise the necessary funding for important public goods like infrastructure, R&D, and education.”

The global minimum proposal faces political and technical hurdles before it would take effect. Details are to be ironed out in coming weeks at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, followed

by a final endorsement by presidents and prime ministers of the Group of 20 at an Oct. 30-31 meeting in Rome.

Countries would then need to legislate the rate into their own laws. The idea is for headquarters countries to tax their companies' foreign earnings at home if those earnings go untaxed in low-rate countries. That would remove the reason for using complex accounting schemes to move profits to subsidiaries in low-tax nations where the companies may do little or no actual business.

The U.S. already has such a tax on overseas profits, but the rate is below the 15% minimum. Congressional Republicans have expressed opposition to President Joe Biden's proposal to raise the rate on overseas corporate profits to 21% to help pay for infrastructure and investments in clean energy. The Democratic president has only a narrow majority in Congress.

Three European Union countries that took part in talks over the minimum tax have refused to endorse the proposal. Ireland, Hungary and Estonia could obstruct adoption in Europe, where tax matters at the EU level require unanimity. Ireland, whose low tax rates are part of its pro-business economic model, has said its 12.5% headline rate is a fair rate.

The tax proposal would also give countries the right to tax part of the profits of big global companies that earn money in their jurisdiction but have no physical presence. Examples would include online retailing and digital advertising.

Some countries, led by France, have already started imposing such taxes on U.S. tech companies such as Google and Amazon. The U.S. considers such taxes to be unfair trade practices and has threatened retaliation through tariffs on imported goods. Under the tax deal, countries would drop those taxes in favor of a single global approach.

Jimmy Carter, wife Rosalynn celebrate 75 years of marriage

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter on Saturday turned to his wife Rosalynn and thanked her for 75 years of marriage, telling her that she's always been right for him.

"I want to express particular gratitude for being the right woman that I chose for my wife," Carter said at a 75th wedding anniversary celebration in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. About 300 friends and family members attended the event at Plains High School, part of which was livestreamed.

Rosalynn Carter, sitting by his side, recounted how she didn't care for dating young men while growing up and never thought she'd get married.

"I didn't know how to talk to them, I didn't want to go out with them," she said. She added that she used to urge her mother to tell suiters calling for her on the phone that she wasn't around.

"And then, along came Jimmy Carter and my life has been an adventure ever since," she said.

In a recent interview, the 39th president told The Associated Press that the couple's marriage is "a full partnership."

The two met in Georgia when Jimmy Carter, at the time a young midshipman, was home from the U.S. Navy Academy. His younger sister set him up on a date with Rosalynn, who was a family friend who already had a crush on the future Georgia governor and U.S. president.

The two were married on July 7, 1946, in Plains, a town of fewer than 1,000 residents.

Their anniversary is the most recent milestone for the longest-married presidential couple in American history.

Rosalynn Carter is 93. The former president, at 96, is the longest-lived of the 45 men who've served as chief executive.

Those who attended Saturday's celebration included former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, along with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Country music stars Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks; and media businessman Ted Turner also attended, the Carter Center said in a statement.

Carter, wearing a dark suit jacket with a yellow flower on the chest, closed his brief remarks with six simple words to those gathered: "I love you all very much."

W.Va. Firm Partners with Arizona dairy to produce biogas

By the associate press | WVDN JUL 12, 2021

PHOENIX (AP) — A new energy facility southwest of Phoenix scheduled to open in December will capture methane from cow manure and reuse the biogas as renewable natural fuel.

Facility stakeholders told The Arizona Republic the process will capture harmful gases that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere and exacerbate climate change.

The project is a partnership between West Virginia-based renewable energy company Avolta and the Butterfield Dairy Farm in Buckeye.

Southwest Gas Holdings Inc. will help transport the gas for sale to other outlets.

A handful of renewable natural gas facilities have sprouted up in the Southwest, including in Arizona and California in recent months.

The Avolta facility is one of at least five renewable natural gas plants in or coming to Arizona. Others are expected to open in Tucson, Gila Bend and Maricopa, The Republic reported.

Unlike electric utilities in Arizona, which must generate 15% of their energy from renewable sources by 2025, Southwest Gas has no such required standard, according to the newspaper.

Still, the gas utility is partnering with five facilities in Arizona and California. Spokespeople told The Republic that the utility company is committed to partnering with more renewable natural gas developers.

Southwest Gas' five partnerships will generate about 10 million therms of energy with Butterfield Dairy LLC accounting for 3 million therms.

The energy will account for a small portion of overall energy produced in the state.

Southwest Gas alone generated 800 million therms last year, according to The Republic.

Avolta officials said the emissions savings from Butterfield Dairy will be equivalent to removing 3,500 cars from the road each year. Combined with the upcoming Maricopa facility, emissions savings will equate to 8,000 cars off the road.

Some 10 million gallons (38 million liters) of cow manure will be stored in an underground sealed container at the Avolta site for about 22 days at a time while it undergoes the "anaerobic digestion" process that creates biogas.

The process occurs in vessels without oxygen, where bacteria breaks down the waste into reusable products, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Butterfield cows' waste will transform into biogas, mostly made up of methane and carbon dioxide, and digestate — leftover manure stripped of most of its methane and carbon dioxide.

The container, about the size of 10 Olympic swimming pools and larger than two football fields, will process 55,000 tons (50 million kilograms) of manure a year.

The Republic said the biogas at the end of the process will then be "conditioned and upgraded" to renewable natural gas by a West Virginia-based gas technology company.

Gatlin James and Carroll Darlene Johnson

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 12, 2021



JOHNSON

Twins Gatlin James and Carroll Darlene Johnson, children of Jacob and Gabrielle Johnson of Organ Cave, passed away July 5, 2021 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

A private service will be held later.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte is in charge of arrangements.