

WVDN JUL 16, 2021



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Knights Of Columbus Announce Upcoming Catholic Church Events | 1 |
| Suspect In Rupert Bank Robbery Arrested | 1 |
| White Sulphur City Council Holds Brief Meeting | 2 |
| Gbr. Magistrate's Report | 3 |
| Beckley Mayor Casts Deciding Vote For City Purchase Of Old Zen's Building | 4 |
| Greenbrier County Courthouse News July 8 - 14 | 6 |
| Dear Abby: Friday, July 15 | 9 |
| Let Me Do You A Flavor: Soy And Ginger Cod | 10 |
| Farmers Market Temporarily Moved | 12 |
| More Photos, Details Released About Bank Robbery In Rupert | 12 |
| Fairlea VFD Music Bash Gets Massive Turn Out | 13 |
| GCS Competes For FCC Funds | 15 |
| Marshall Awards Minority Health Funds | 17 |
| Death Of Mine Worker Tied To Operator's Failures | 17 |
| Appalachian States Face Billions In Mining Cleanup | 18 |
| W.Va. BOE Approves Online Charter Schools | 18 |
| West Virginia Awards 4th \$1M Vaccination Prize | 19 |
| Senate Democrats Release Statement on CRT Controversy | 20 |
| US overdose deaths hit record 93,000 in pandemic last year | 21 |
| Eviction Cases Await Moratorium's End In W.Va. | 22 |
| Woman Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy To Manufacture Meth | 24 |

Knights Of Columbus Announce Upcoming Catholic Church Events

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

Local Catholics and their families in Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas, eastern Fayette, Alleghany and Bath Counties are welcome to join together for an Area Catholic Picnic. The picnic will be held on July 18 at 2 p.m. at Shelter #1 in the Greenbrier State Forest. This is just south of I-64, exit 175. Guests should bring a covered dish, hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, all paper products provided.

The Historic Church of Mary Immaculate will be hosting a first Saturday Mass near Williamsburg on August 7, September 4, and October 2 at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be on the grounds.

The Mass on the Feast of the Assumption will be held in the oldest standing catholic church in West Virginia – St. John, the Evangelist Catholic Church, on WV 311 in Sweet Springs, Monroe County. The doors open at 4 p.m. on August 15 for tours, ice cream social on grounds after mass.

Weeks Masses

- Bartow, St. Mark's, Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
- Marlinton, St. John Neuman, Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Rainelle, Sacred Heart, Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
- Ronceverte, St. Catherine Of Siena, Sunday at 11 a.m.
- Snowshoe, St. Bernard, Saturday at 6 p.m.
- White Sulphur Springs, St. Charles Borromeo, Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m.

Ad Sponsored For Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights Of Columbus

Suspect In Rupert Bank Robbery Arrested

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



The suspect in the armed bank robbery at Summit Community Bank in Rupert on Wednesday has been arrested.

On Thursday, July 15, at approximately 9:52 a.m., Cpl. J.W. Gilkeson with the Rainelle detachment of the West Virginia State Police received a tip that the male suspect was seen in the Princeton Walmart.

With assistance from officers with the Princeton detachment and Walmart Loss Prevention, the male was identified as Gary Lee Toler, 65, of Oceana, WV. It was also discovered that he was traveling in a maroon Pontiac Montana van with a female.

A short time later a member of the Princeton Police Department located the van. Both Toler and the female were taken into custody for questioning.

Toler has been charged with armed robbery and grand larceny. He is awaiting arraignment in Southern Regional Jail. The female has not been charged at this time. The status of this investigation remains ongoing and active.

White Sulphur City Council Holds Brief Meeting

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

A brief meeting of the White Sulphur Springs City Council heard reports from departments and committees working for the city on Monday, July 13.

The new White Sulphur Springs City Pool was celebrated during the Parks and Recreation report.

“The swimming pool is being used heavily,” said Councilmember Audrey Van Buren. “People are coming from all over, even Covington and Monroe County.”

Van Buren also noted that of the requests coming from visitors to the pool, a concession stand was the most common.

— Mayor Bruce Bowling noted that a stormwater improvement project on Church Street would soon begin after the contractor received the necessary pipes for the project.

— According to Fire Chief Brian Dolin, there were three motor vehicle accidents with no injuries, three automatic fire alarms, two EMS assists, two helicopter landing zones, and one electrical fire, water in the roadway, electrical lines down, animal rescue, and service call apiece, for a total of 15 calls and 180 call hours in June 2021.

— According to Chief of Police Scotty Teubert, there were 77 calls for service, 60 building checks, 19 written citations, 24 total charges, four drug charges, three written warnings, 10 arrests, one traffic crash, three funeral details, and six domestic calls for June 2021.

— City Council approved AssuredPartners to continue providing insurance to White Sulphur Springs.

Council approved a move to adjourn under five minutes after the meeting started.

“I’m waiting for the magic words,” joked Bowling before the motion to adjourn.

Gbr. Magistrate's Report

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

Greenbrier County magistrates recorded the following convictions in the Magistrate Court Clerk’s Office provided to this newspaper for publication.

The court costs are not included. Greenbrier County Magistrates are Kimberly Johnson, Tim Stover, and Kirby Hanson.

The sentences and convictions listed here are subject to appeal and possible reversal.

Andrew Willis Marshall, Martinsburg, WV, improper lane change, fine \$25;

Austin M. Love, Dayton, OH, speeding, fine \$5;

Christina Sunshine Campbell, Clifton Forge, VA, no insurance, fine \$200;

Lovis Alfredo Fernandez, Ronceverte, WV, no seatbelt, \$25;

Jeromy Dean Deskins, Lewisburg, WV, operation without certificate of inspection, fine \$10;

Jeromy Dean Deskins, Lewisburg, WV, no insurance, fine \$200;

Roger H. Lawhorn Jr., White Sulphur Springs, WV, domestic battery, fine \$50, jail 60 days to be served on

Greenbrier County Home Incarceration;

Roger Lee Cook, Alderson, WV, assault on a police officer, no contest plea, jail six months suspended, place on 12 month unsupervised probation with participation in the Greenbrier County Day Report program;

Roger Lee Cook, Alderson, WV, assault on a police officer, no contest plea, jail six months suspended, place on 12 month unsupervised probation with participation in the Greenbrier County Day Report program;

Carl Wayne Allen, Beckley, WV, speeding, no contest plea, fine \$42;

Sharon Yvonne Massie, Lewisburg, WV, accidents involving damage to vehicle, no contest plea, fine \$100;

Robert Stephen Cobbins, Centreville, VA, speeding, guilty plea, fine \$5;

Steven R. Hicks Jr., Villa Ridge, MO, speeding, guilty plea, fine \$5;

Dakota Lane Phillips, White Sulphur Springs, WV, driving while license suspended or revoked, guilty plea, fine \$100;

Malachi Free Blankenship, Gap Mills, WV, expired registration, guilty plea, fine \$25;

Malachi Free Blankenship, Gap Mills, WV, no vehicle insurance, guilty plea, fine \$200.

Beckley Mayor Casts Deciding Vote For City Purchase Of Old Zen's Building

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



Beckley Mayor Rob Rappold cast the deciding vote for the city to purchase the old Zen's building on Neville Street for just over \$1 million — a decision that has caused controversy for area residents and business owners.

This vote, made during Tuesday evening's council meeting, was divided between the no votes of councilmembers Tom Sopher, Cody Reedy and Janine Bullock and the yes votes of councilmembers Sherrie Hunter, Kevin Price and Bob Canter. Councilmember Robert Dunlap, citing an ethics violation due to his work in real estate law, did not vote.

The city plans to purchase the building and the parking lot across the street for \$1,010,000. Following the purchase, the city will lease the building to Tammy Jordan, CEO of Fruits of Labor.

During a special workshop meeting on June 7, Jordan expressed an interest in the building.

"I have been begged to come to Beckley," Jordan stated. "We have been looking for many, many months now at different locations all across Raleigh County."

Jordan was raised in Beckley but opened her flagship Fruits of Labor location in the Greenbrier County town of Rainelle. Since the founding of Fruits of Labor in 2001, Jordan has been expanding her enterprise into the communities of Alderson and Montgomery, WV.

Her business model focuses on teaching the culinary arts to people in recovery with the ultimate goal of allowing them to find employment in restaurants. She partners with local recovery programs, prisons and community leaders to locate those who would benefit from the services provided by Fruits of Labor.

Rappold stated during that meeting that Fruits of Labor would become an “anchor” for the revitalization of uptown Beckley. However, since the city plans to purchase the old Zen’s building and lease it to Jordan, many are against it.

Councilmember Sopher previously stated “I know no one is buying me a building to put my business in. I know how the public will accept that and it might not go over as well as we think.”

Dr. Kristi Dumas, a Beckley resident and business owner, spoke out against the purchase on Tuesday.

“What about the people — people who are trying to revitalize uptown currently running businesses against the odds of being successful in that space and area?” she asked. “We have to provide incentive and motivation for folks to continue to get up every day to make ends meet. I urge you to vote no.”

Dumas continued that “the business model and perspective of the new occupant may be a new and innovative business model and concept for you, but for me, it feels like deja vu.”

Dumas stated that she had once worked at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in Los Angeles County, CA, a notoriously dangerous jail due to high levels of gang member incarceration. Through her work there, she studied recidivism rates and spoke with many former gang members who received a culinary degree through the famous Homeboy Industries — a pioneering culinary arts training program that specializes in gang intervention and rehab.

Dumas said that, based on her experiences, she believes a culinary training center is unsustainable.

The council must hold a public hearing before the second vote on the purchase of the old Zen’s building before the ordinance is passed. This meeting will occur on Tuesday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m. in city council chambers. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Greenbrier County Courthouse News July 8 - 14

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

Marriages

Samuel Scott Weese to Lorynda Kay Myles;

Virgil K Kelly to Paulette Josette Kelley;

Charles Russell Withrow to Shaelynn Gail McMillion;

Zachary Ryan Blevins to Selena Nicole Varney;

Bryan David Hunt to Daisy Ann Lively;

Douglas Andrew Sheppard to Kimberly Ruth Smith.

Fiduciaries

Tamara L Lucas, Administratrix of the Johnie Dale Lucas estate;

Donna Adkins, Executrix of the Henry Lee McCormick Jr. estate;

Jason A Dolan, Administrator of the Harold Mack Dolan Jr. estate;

Harold L Walkup, Executor of the Ella J Walkup estate;

Jeff Camp, Administrator of the Theodore Curtis Camp Sr. estate;

Alan T Lee, Executor of the Dojae Lee estate;

Tina Altizer, Executrix of the Nancy M Altizer estate;

Dreama E Johnson, Executrix of the Russell Lee Johnson estate;

Elaine Babylon, Administratrix of the Terry L Whitaker estate;

Stephen B Cooke, Executor of the Mary Sue Cooke estate;

Chris Scruggs, Administrator of the Bobby Gene Scruggs estate;

Amanda Bryant, Executrix of the Jeffrey Douglas Bryant estate;

Elain B Withrow, Executrix of the Jessie Garnet Beckett estate;

Norma Gale Lowe, Executrix, Stephen Erwin Lowe estate;

Ruth Ann Patterson, Executrix of the Geneva Propps estate;

Sherry Feury, Executrix of the Lida Spencer estate;

Sharon L Whited, Executrix of the James Richard Harrah estate;

Joseph Michael Arbaugh, Executor of the Sandra Kaye Arbaugh estate;

Claude James Dodd, Administrator of the Violet Arlene Dodd estate;

Andrew Vance, Administrator of the Alvin Jonathon Vance Jr. estate;

Betty A Hann, Executrix of the Leta F Hann estate;

Brenda Quick, Administratrix of the Kenneth Wayne Quick estate;

Sheila Leslie and Lisa M Rush, Co-Executrixs of the Ida Sue Zimmerman estate;

Brenda Scott, Administrator of the Dallas Lewis Ware estate;

Marcella Brandon-Jackson, Administratrix of the Chester E Brandon estate;

Richard E Hamilton, Executor of the Naomie Hattie Hamilton estate;

Elvina Dewitt, Administratrix of the William Ronald Dewitt estate;

Lisa A Elliott, Executrix of the Glen Douglas Elliot estate;

Rodney Ferrell, Administrator of the Kevin G Ferrell estate;

Bridgett M Krystynak, Executrix of the Charles Lee Krystynak estate;

Christopher Traxler, Administrator of the Chris Edward Traxler estate;

Charlotte E Sheppard, Administratrix of the Paula Ann Legg estate;

William F Burdette, Administrator of the Clifford Paul Burdett estate;

Larry V Barnett, Executor of the Everett Leroy Barnett estate;

Thomas E Dolan, Executor of the Mazie Jewell Dolan estate.

Land Transfers

Beverly Payne to Clifford Wayne Judy and Lisa Dawn Judy, 10,400 square feet, Meadow Bluff District;

Jordan M Patterson to Jordan M Patterson and Jamie Rae Patterson, 1.20 acres more or less, Frankford District;

Mae Enterprises LLC to Adam Whanger, 2.567 acres more or less, Alderson Corp District;

Bernard Wayne Ayers to Carl Franklin Osborne, Lot 44 Huart Addition, Meadow Bluff District;

Brian F Cleveland and Lillian F Cleveland to Robert Rowe and Karen Rowe, Lot 23 Trout Run Subdivision, Blue Sulphur District;

Richard Simms and Donna Simms to Chandler Piner and Katelin Martin Piner, 1,200 square feet and Lot 27, Alderson Corp District;

Robert J Tavares and Heidi M Tavares to Andrew Wayne Wellman, Part of Lot 52 and Lot 1 Oak View Subdivision, Ronceverte Corp District;

Juan M Jones and Latosha Traynham to Albert Cosby Jones and Jasmine Anniya Jones and Latosha Traynham, Lots 15, 16 and 17, White Sulphur Springs Corp District;

William M Hutchinson and Margaret J Hutchinson to Four One Eight LLC, 2.01 acres more or less, Falling Springs District;

Patricia Louise Milam and Stephen H Milam to Lori Kay Millam Crabtree and Cynthia Beth Millam and Stephen H Millam, 10 acres more or less, Meadow Bluff District;

Sandra A Janniro and Wendy J Young to Delon Robert Peck, Lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 Clear Creek Addition, Meadow Bluff District;

David R Mills to Matthew David Spencer and Ashley Rae Spencer, Lot Number 7 Valley Ridge Estates, Frankford District;

Polly Ann Gadd to Edwin O Gadd, 13,600 square feet, Meadow Bluff District;

Gladys Nadine Gulliams and Richard Keener and Shirley Parkins to Clifford Keener and Sally Keener, 2 Properties with excepted and reserved, Meadow Bluff District;

Mountain State Getaways LLC to Elizabeth Iwckline and Jeffrey Gee, 1.76 acres, Frankford District;

Ruh Ruh LLC to Mountain State Getaways LLC, 1.76 acres, Frankford District;

Douglas W Moore to Richard George Cardillo III, Lots 20 & 21, Lewisburg Corp District;

Cecil B Wingler and Sandra L Holmes to James R Holmes, 50 X 150 Lot, Falling Springs District;

Donald L Weikle and Barbara Weikle to Claire Pomeroy Schroyer and Garrett Whitney Reeves, 2 Tracts, Fort Springs District;

Ora R Henson by Power of Attorney Susan M Wade to Rebecca Wade, 2.00 acres more or less, Blue Sulphur District;

Ora R Henson by Power of Attorney Susan M Wade to Susan Wade and Sherman Ray Wade, 0.32 acres more or less, Blue Sulphur District;

Adam C Long and Jillean Justice to Michael P Perilli and Martha M Parilli, Lot 15 & 16, Lewisburg Corp District;

Kimberly Kay Frymire to Joseph Isaac Thompson, .470 acres, Blue Sulphur District;

Edwin Ray Longanacre and Maureen Longanacre and Benjamin Ray Longanacre to Sonya Michelle Shafer, one acre and 49 ½ poles, Irish Corner District;

Volusia Ventures LLC to Brooke Carpenter, 0.139 acres, Meadow Bluff District.

Dear Abby: Friday, July 15

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

Ungrateful Daughter Resorts To Intimidation

Dear Abby: My 40-year-old daughter has never worked. She never married but has a 5-year-old son and is expecting a girl in six months. My husband bought a house for her to live in, but she didn't like it. When he passed away, I bought her a different house and sold the first one. I footed all the bills on both houses. I used my savings to pay cash for the second home. Since she didn't like that one either, we put it on the market, and it quickly sold. I put both our names on that house, thinking that way she wouldn't be able to take out a loan against it without my knowledge. My daughter wants me to split the proceeds, although she never paid a dime for it. She refuses to sign the closing documents unless I agree. She has 60 days to move, but I don't want her to move in with me. If I don't agree, I'll never see my grandkids again. She's been in rehab for drugs and alcohol several times. She's clean now because she's pregnant. Should I let her move in? She'll have half the money from the house, so she could live on it for a couple of years and then would probably be on the street. — **Mom of a Woman-Child**

Dear Mom: It's time to allow her to do something she should have done 20 years ago: assume responsibility for the life choices she has made. That she would blackmail you after everything you and her father have done for her is despicable. You WILL see your grandkids again. If she can't provide for them, child protective services will be contacting you. For your own sake and for theirs, be strong. Allow her to suffer the

consequences of her actions and do not cave into her demands.

Dear Abby: I was in a car accident in which I broke multiple bones in my foot. After surgery, I'm in the process of healing and use crutches to walk. My husband and I are retired. He is my caregiver and has taken on all the household chores I have always done. I thank him often and appreciate his help. However, since I've become dependent on him like this, he has started criticizing me about my weight, my wardrobe and lack of exercise. He buys our favorite foods, stores them where I can't reach them and eats them in front of me. He says he's no longer attracted to me because of my size and rarely kisses me anymore. We had a healthy, frequent sex life before the accident. I'm hurt by his behavior and can't understand why he is treating me like this or what to do about it. — **Sidelined in Indiana**

Dear Sidelined: Your husband is acting like this because he is angry. He may blame you for the accident and resent being recast from the role of husband and lover to that of caregiver. Punishing you by withholding affection, criticizing you for being unable to exercise (on crutches, yet!) and consuming your favorite foods in front of you while he's depriving you of them is abusive.

Tell your doctor what is going on and inquire about respite care for your husband, so he is shouldering less of the burden. Remind him that you won't always be as dependent as you have been, and you will work on any other issues when you are sufficiently healed. And consider marriage counseling if things don't improve.

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

Let Me Do You A Flavor: Soy And Ginger Cod

By by lindsey wolford | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



Hey and welcome back! I hope you are finding ways to stay cool and enjoying these beautiful summer days! This week I am bringing you an easy weeknight meal that won't take up a bunch of time, allowing you and family and friends to get back to having fun. So, pour a drink and grab your scissors to cut out this easy Soy and Ginger Cod with Sugar Snap Peas and Jasmine Rice!

I love an easy weeknight meal that is full of flavor and is easy to clean up so I am going to share that with you. For this meal you will need:

- 4-6 cod filets (I used frozen ones and thawed them)
- 2-3 small bags of sugar snap peas
- Jasmine rice cups (can be found at Walmart)
- 3-4 tablespoons fresh ginger or ginger in the squeeze tube (found in the produce section)
- 1/2-3/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Juice of one lime
- 1/2 tablespoon garlic powder
- Salt and pepper

First, you want to put one tablespoon each of sesame oil and vegetable oil in a pan and put it on medium high heat. Add the cod fillets to the pan and food on each side for about 3-4 minutes.

Place the cooked cod on a plate and add the remaining sesame oil and vegetable oil to the pan and add the sugar snap peas and salt and pepper to taste. Cool the peas tossing them frequently for about 4 minutes — you want them to be cooked but still crispy.

Remove the sugar snap peas from the pan and add the chicken broth to the pan to deglaze it and bring off all those flavor bits from the bottom of the pan; you may need to use a wooden spoon to help those bits get off the bottom of the pan. Then add the ginger, soy sauce, lime juice and garlic powder to the chicken broth and give it a taste. If it feels like it's missing something give it a splash of sesame oil.

Cook the jasmine rice cups according to the package and then assemble your plates with rice on the bottom, fish on top of the rice and sugar snap peas on the side and give everything a drizzle of that tasty soy-ginger sauce. I served mine with sliced raw radishes on the side and some store-bought egg rolls but this would also be good with some green onions on the top!

I hope you find ways to make this meal your own. I used cod because it's mild but I am sure you could make this using salmon or mahi-mahi! No matter what you do to make it your own this meal should only take about 30-40 minutes allowing you time to spend with the family! I hope you enjoy and as always I'm sending love from my kitchen to yours!

Farmers Market Temporarily Moved

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

Due to safety reasons this week's Lewisburg Farmers Market on Saturday July 17 from 8 a.m. -noon is being moved to the horse arena/track in front of the grandstand.

More Photos, Details Released About Bank Robbery In Rupert

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



Officers continue to seek information about the identity of the man who robbed Summit Community Bank in Rupert at gunpoint.

On Wednesday, July 14, at approximately 12:15 p.m., an unknown white male with a medium build entered the bank armed with a handgun and wearing a mask.

He then forced employees to give him money from the vault at gunpoint.

At this time he has not been located or identified and the investigation is ongoing.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene in an attempt to locate the male suspect.

Responding agencies included Rupert Police Department, West Virginia State Police, Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, and agents from a local FBI office.

Anyone with information should contact Sgt. Steve Murphy at the West Virginia State Police Detachment at 304-438-3000.

Fairlea VFD Music Bash Gets Massive Turn Out

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



Nearly 4,000 people turned out to the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash on Thursday, July 8, according to one of the event coordinators, Paco Grimmett.

“It was great, the atmosphere was really good,” said Grimmett. “Todd Cameron put on a great show, Riley Green put on an excellent show. The weather held off — it rained a little that morning and when it came close to the time to open the gates, the clouds parted and the sun shined.”

The concert series is a fundraiser for the fire department, looking to supplement the funding it receives from the state. The event organizers expected a large crowd, noting the concert was the area’s first since COVID-19 restrictions began in 2020.

“We were expecting a large crowd,” Grimmett said. “It wasn’t necessarily the first thing you could do [after COVID], like the Dandelion Festival, Alderson Fourth of July, the Ronceverte River Festival, but people want to get out and go do things. ... There was an excellent turnout and we’re very appreciative of that. Without people showing up, we wouldn’t have any success.”

According to Grimmett, a potential delay, or new restrictions due to COVID-19, kept the event’s organizers nervous during planning and advertising.

“The bad thing was that we were late advertising because we still didn’t know what was going to happen. It was still a fundraiser, if we go and pay x amount of dollars, then we have to postpone, we already paid that. Then we have to pay it again.

Despite that potential setback, turnout was still tremendous.

“We were still kind of shocked,” Grimmert said. “It was almost 4,000 tickets! We expected big, but when it turned out to be big, we were still like ‘Oh!’ ... The majority of our tickets were track seats. We did sell some Grandstand seats, but the majority were track seats.”

Grimmett thanked the event’s many sponsors and everyone who turned out, better equipping the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department with the funds it needs to keep the town and the State Fair of West Virginia safe. It also helps them plan for the 2022 Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash.

“We’re looking forward to next year — We’ve already been asked ‘who’s next, who’s next?’” Grimmett joked. “Of course we don’t know who or what we’ll have for next year yet.”

Anyone looking to keep up with the event through the year can follow the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash Facebook page, with photos and information.

“[On] behalf of the Fairlea VFD we thank each and everyone of you all that came out to the Riley Green concert and supported us,” reads the Facebook page. “We hope you all had a fun night and enjoyed the show.”



Photo courtesy of the Fairlea Volunteer Fire Department Annual Music Bash Facebook page.

GCS Competes For FCC Funds

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

A new federal fund providing internet connectivity equipment could help improve access for Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) if enough parents and staff provide the school system with information.

On June 29, FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced \$7.17 billion from the Emergency Connectivity Fund would be made available to schools and libraries.

The fund was created by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. The applications could provide money to Greenbrier County for laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections to serve unmet needs for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons.

“Internet connection provides students valuable learning opportunities, and Greenbrier County Schools is delighted to support our community and families through the Emergency Connectivity Fund,” said Greenbrier County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Bryant. “GCS will be submitting an application for Internet connection and service for one year for eligible families. This application will be based on parent and staff response to a survey. ... We encourage all families to fill out the survey whether they have Internet or not, because funds may be awarded to those with inadequate and/or no service, as well as those who struggle to pay for Internet.”

To help the school system collect the data it needs for the application, go to greenbriercountyschools.org and click “Click here to complete the survey to apply for FREE INTERNET” on the top of the page.

“Congratulations! Greenbrier County School students may now qualify for FREE Internet (or assistance in getting connected to the Internet) for one year,” reads the survey. “While this funding does not come from Greenbrier County Schools, the Federal Communications Commission has asked school districts to gather information to assist families. Please fill out this survey to help determine if you are eligible. Financial need and/or lack of service in your area can help determine eligibility.”

From June 29 to August 13, applications to the FCC will be available for eligible schools and libraries that can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services for the 2021-22 school year.

“Every family with a student in Greenbrier County Schools is eligible to apply based on federal guidelines,” reads the GSC press release. “Students may qualify if they do not live in an area currently served by Internet providers, if the connection they currently have is not sufficient, or if they have financial need and struggle to pay for Internet service. Greenbrier County Schools will apply on behalf of families, but the FCC will determine who is eligible and what will be awarded. All GCS families and staff need to do at this time is fill out the survey.”

According to the FCC’s press release, the “Universal Service Administrative Company will serve as the program’s administrator with FCC oversight” on the federal level, and the fund “leverages the processes and structures used in the E-Rate program for the benefit of schools and libraries already familiar with the E-Rate program.”

More information about the program at www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org. GSC also noted parents, guardians, and potential applicants could “please direct questions to the GCS Technology Department at 304-647-6484 or the Board of Education main office at 304-647-6470.”

Locally, the Greenbrier County Broadband Council is also conducting mapping of the area's internet access writ large. To help them acquire this data, take the survey located on greenbriercounty.net by clicking "take survey" under Greenbrier County Broadband Survey.

Marshall Awards Minority Health Funds

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — A dozen community-based organizations have been given mini-grants from the Marshall University Minority Health Institute in West Virginia, the school said.

The awards are for as much as \$5,000 and are intended to help groups that work to promote health equity and predominantly serve racial or ethnic minorities in West Virginia.

The groups receiving the awards are Ebenezer Medical Outreach, Economic Development Greater East, Reset incorporated, Dunbar School Foundation, Connection to the Connection Inc., Sheba International Inc., South Central Educational Development Inc., Positive People Association Inc., African American Community Association of Jefferson County, The Healing House Inc., Aspire Achievement Project and A More Excellent Way of Life Center Church.

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and the Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation provided funds, and the West Virginia State Office of Rural Health matched the funds.

Death Of Mine Worker Tied To Operator's Failures

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — An underground coal mine worker in West Virginia died after an incident in January because the operator of the mine did not have rules in place to prevent such accidents, a federal review has concluded.

The Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration tied the death of 38-year-old shuttle car operator Justin Lafferty to the mine operator's failure to ensure there was safe passage for underground haulers. The mine is run by Aracoma Coal Co. Inc. in southern Logan County.

Lafferty died on Feb. 21 after sustaining injuries in a Jan. 22 crash. He was injured when another shuttle car struck the vehicle he was operating.

"The accident occurred because the mine operator did not have policies or procedures in place to assure safe underground haulage," the report concluded.

The accident occurred about 7:40 a.m. when Lafferty's right hip and leg were struck, according to the investigation. Local paramedics arrived at the mine at 8:13 a.m. and transported him to the Logan Regional Medical Center.

He was discharged with a walking boot because of a fracture to his right fibula. After a few follow-up appointments, Lafferty experienced sudden chest pain at his home in the early morning hours of Feb. 21, the report said. Paramedics performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation and transported him to the emergency room, where he died.

“The autopsy report noted the immediate cause of death was pulmonary thromboembolism as a direct consequence of the blunt impact injury of the right lower extremity,” the report said.

Appalachian States Face Billions In Mining Cleanup

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The cleanup and reclaiming of coal mines in seven Appalachian states will cost billions, and Kentucky and West Virginia have the largest bills coming due, according to an environmental group’s new report.

Total reclamation liability for the two states is between \$4.1 and \$5.8 billion, with less than half of that covered by existing bonds, according to estimates in the report by Appalachian Voices.

Reclamation of coal sites typically includes improving the environment and reversing the damages of surface and underground mining.

As the coal mining industry has declined over the last decade, corporate bankruptcies have increased, and “large-scale mine abandonment by several companies” has occurred in Kentucky and West Virginia, it said. The report, titled “Repairing the Damage: The Costs of Delaying Reclamation at Modern-Era Mines,” draws attention to the funding gap, which could cause environmental damage, water contamination and pose safety hazards if mines aren’t cleaned up. The report was discussed during an online presentation Wednesday.

Erin Savage, the primary author of the report, said during the presentation that the lack of reclamation can be a burden and hazard to coal communities, The Herald-Leader reported.

“We need to say it as much as we can: this is not just environmental, this is a public safety problem,” Savage said.

The seven states, which also include Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia, have about 633,000 acres in need of reclamation. Kentucky and West Virginia have about 400,000 of those acres, the report said.

W.Va. BOE Approves Online Charter Schools

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Fully online education and other changes for charter schools have been approved by the West Virginia Board of Education.

The board also Wednesday approved policy changes that allow an unelected board to open charters and make way for 10 new charters every three years, instead of three every three years, The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported.

The board, which had banned fully online charters in an earlier policy, did not go against lawmakers, who passed a law this year making the changes regarding charters.

Debra Sullivan cast the only vote against the changes, out of the nine board members. Daniel Snively said he left the room to take an emergency call and was the only member absent.

Board member Stan Maynard noted that starting in January, the board had mandated that public schools offer

some amount of in-person learning in response to problems with online education. But the changes approved Wednesday open West Virginia to fully online charters.

“I just have a concern that we’ve opened Pandora’s Box and somebody can step through,” Maynard said.

West Virginia Awards 4th \$1M Vaccination Prize

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP) — Timothy Jackson is the latest million-dollar winner in West Virginia’s vaccination sweepstakes.

Gov. Jim Justice visited Jackson’s office at West Virginia University’s Robotic Technology Center in Fairmont on Wednesday to present the prize, according to a news release. Justice was accompanied by his pet English Bulldog — Babydog — who is the mascot of the “Do it for Babydog” vaccination sweepstakes.

The governor presented Jackson, of Bridgeport, with a ceremonial check for \$1 million. He is the fourth person to win the million-dollar prize, one of 50 prizes announced on Wednesday.

Justice also surprised Thomas Sowers, an assistant football coach at Riverside High School, and Grace Fowler, who lives in the community of Nettie in Nicholas County, presenting each of them with a brand-new custom-outfitted truck.

Liam Cox, of Weston, and Christopher Ellis, of Bruno, each won a four-year scholarship to any public institution in the state. Other West Virginians won lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, custom hunting rifles, custom hunting shotguns, and weekend getaways to West Virginia State Parks.

Senate Democrats Release Statement on CRT Controversy

By wv senate democrats | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: *It is the policy of The West Virginia Daily News to publish articles and columns written by the community's elected officials as is; uncensored and unedited. The community has made its voice heard by electing these individuals and therefore should have the opportunity to hear from them on a regular basis. However, this policy should, in no way, be interpreted as The West Virginia Daily News' endorsement of, or support for any candidate or elected official, regardless of political affiliation or ideology. The West Virginia Daily News remains impartial in all political matters and exists in the service of our constituency of readers. I, as the managing editor, firmly believe that a thoroughly informed electorate, regardless of how comfortable or agreeable that information may be, is the only true measure of defense against the enemies of democracy.*

- Matthew Young

Across the state and nation, discussion of "critical race theory" is reaching a fever pitch. With county commissions considering resolutions, school systems receiving questions, and WV Senate Republicans drafting legislation, West Virginia Senate Democrats weighed in today.

"Here they go again. Critical race theory is not taught in West Virginia public schools, nor should it be. We all agree on that," said Senator Rich Lindsay (D-Kanawha). "This manufactured controversy, where there is no disagreement, just divides and distracts us from the real problems we face."

West Virginia Senate Democrats believe we should be working on issues that affect our everyday lives. The priorities of West Virginia Democrats are to grow good paying jobs, improve our infrastructure (including broadband, roads, and water), and support individuals, small businesses, and families as we recover from the pandemic.

Just this week, CNBC rated West Virginia as number 47 on their list of best states for business, dropping the state two places since the last rating in 2019. The business network scored all 50 states on 85 metrics in 10 broad categories of competitiveness. Data came from public disclosures of state economic development entities and a broad cross-section of federal, business and consumer resources. West Virginia was rated in the top 10 worst states for roads and infrastructure, and 46th in business friendliness. Plus, the state dropped four spots to 45th for public and higher education.

"The Republicans are once again putting a wholly divisive spin on an issue that is not taught in our schools, nor are we aware that anyone is asking for it to be taught," said Minority Leader Senator Stephen Baldwin (D-Greenbrier). "This spin-doctored issue is just a distraction. People are leaving our state in droves because folks can't raise their families here."

In the past ten years, the state lost nearly 59,000 people, which means that West Virginia will lose a seat in the US House of Representatives. Despite promises that "Right to Work" laws, repeal of prevailing wages, and reducing taxes on the wealthy would bring prosperity, the exodus of citizens has only accelerated.

"At the beginning of the decade, our state's population was holding steady, even growing each year," said Senator Lindsay. "Under the current majority and their policies, West Virginia's population has declined more than 10,000 people each year since 2015. We must change our focus to retain and grow our population."

“The leaders of West Virginia, more than ever, need to quit hiding behind divisive social issues,” said Leader Baldwin. “It’s time for us all to work together to solve the critical problems we face each day in the Mountain State, so that our people can stay, rebuild, and succeed.”

US overdose deaths hit record 93,000 in pandemic last year

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 16, 2021



MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Overdose deaths soared to a record 93,000 last year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. government reported Wednesday.

That estimate far eclipses the high of about 72,000 drug overdose deaths reached the previous year and amounts to a 29% increase.

“This is a staggering loss of human life,” said Brandon Marshall, a Brown University public health researcher who tracks overdose trends.

The nation was already struggling with its worst overdose epidemic but clearly “COVID has greatly exacerbated the crisis,” he added.

Lockdowns and other pandemic restrictions isolated those with drug addictions and made treatment harder to get, experts said.

Jordan McGlashen died of a drug overdose in his Ypsilanti, Michigan, apartment last year. He was pronounced dead on May 6, the day before his 39th birthday.

"It was really difficult for me to think about the way in which Jordan died. He was alone, and suffering emotionally and felt like he had to use again," said his younger brother, Collin McGlashen, who wrote openly about his brother's addiction in an obituary.

Jordan McGlashen's death was attributed to heroin and fentanyl.

While prescription painkillers once drove the nation's overdose epidemic, they were supplanted first by heroin and then by fentanyl, a dangerously powerful opioid, in recent years. Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain from ailments like cancer but has increasingly been sold illicitly and mixed with other drugs.

"What's really driving the surge in overdoses is this increasingly poisoned drug supply," said Shannon Monnat, an associate professor of sociology at Syracuse University who researches geographic patterns in overdoses.

"Nearly all of this increase is fentanyl contamination in some way. Heroin is contaminated. Cocaine is contaminated. Methamphetamine is contaminated."

Fentanyl was involved in more than 60% of overdose deaths last year, CDC data suggests.

There's no current evidence that more Americans started using drugs last year, Monnat said. Rather, the increased deaths most likely were people who had already been struggling with addiction. Some have told her research team that suspensions of evictions and extended unemployment benefits left them with more money than usual. And they said "when I have money, I stock up on my (drug) supply," she said.

Overdose deaths are just one facet of what was overall the deadliest year in U.S. history. With about 378,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19, the nation saw more than 3.3 million deaths.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed death certificates to come up with the estimate for 2020 drug overdose deaths. The estimate of over 93,000 translates to an average of more than 250 deaths each day, or roughly 11 every hour.

The 21,000 increase is the biggest year-to-year jump since the count rose by 11,000 in 2016.

More historical context: According to the CDC, there were fewer than 7,200 total U.S. overdose deaths reported in 1970, when a heroin epidemic was raging in U.S. cities. There were about 9,000 in 1988, around the height of the crack epidemic.

The CDC reported that in 2020 drug overdoses increased in all but two states, New Hampshire and South Dakota.

Kentucky's overdose count rose 54% last year to more than 2,100, up from under 1,400 the year before.

There were also large increases in South Carolina, West Virginia and California. Vermont had the largest jump, of about 58%, but smaller numbers — 118 to 186.

The proliferation of fentanyl is one reason some experts do not expect any substantial decline in drug overdose deaths this year. Though national figures are not yet available, there is data emerging from some states that seem to support their pessimism. Rhode Island, for example, reported 34 overdose deaths in January and 37 in February — the most for those months in at least five years.

For Collin McGlashen, last year was "an incredibly dark time" that began in January with the cancer death of the family's beloved patriarch.

Their father's death sent his musician brother Jordan into a tailspin, McGlashen said.

"Someone can be doing really well for so long and then, in a flash, deteriorate," he said.

Then came the pandemic. Jordan lost his job. "It was kind of a final descent."

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Eviction Cases Await Moratorium's End In W.Va.

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

By JOHN RABY Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A federal freeze on most evictions enacted last year is scheduled to expire July 31, after the Biden administration extended the date by a month. The moratorium, put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September, was the only tool keeping millions of tenants in their homes. Many of them lost jobs during the coronavirus pandemic and had fallen months behind on their rent. Landlords successfully challenged the order in court, arguing they also had bills to pay. They pointed out that tenants could access more than \$45 billion in federal money set aside to help pay rents and related expenses. Advocates for tenants say the distribution of the money has been slow and that more time is needed to distribute it and repay landlords. Without an extension, they feared a spike in evictions and lawsuits seeking to boot out tenants who are behind on their rents.

As of June 7, roughly 3.2 million people in the U.S. said they face eviction in the next two months, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. The survey measures the social and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic every two weeks through online responses from a representative sample of U.S. households.

Here's the situation in West Virginia:

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF EVICTION MORATORIUMS IN THE STATE?

West Virginia wasn't among the states that enacted a moratorium last year halting eviction proceedings and is generally following the federal moratorium. Gov. Jim Justice had pleaded with landlords not to act toward evicting tenants during the pandemic, but thousands of eviction cases were filed, anyway.

WHAT'S BEING DONE TO HELP PEOPLE FACING EVICTION?

Justice was among four governors, all Republicans, who chose not to set up statewide rent-relief programs last year after Congress passed its first coronavirus relief package.

This year, West Virginia received \$152 million for emergency rental assistance under the American Rescue Plan championed by President Joe Biden. Renters who meet income thresholds can apply for the program, administered by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund. An additional \$38.5 million is earmarked to help low-income residents pay utility bills.

Public housing authorities and local government consortiums throughout the state also have received millions of dollars this year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help offer rental assistance.

HOW ARE THE COURTS HANDLING EVICTION HEARINGS?

Magistrate courts have continued to accept eviction filings, but most hearings have been delayed until the CDC moratorium expires, said West Virginia Supreme Court spokeswoman Jennifer Bundy. Once the freeze ends, the state court system can expect "an influx of filings and hearings," she said.

According to Legal Aid of West Virginia, the court eviction process moves fast. Typically a magistrate court hearing is held no more than 10 days after a landlord starts a case.

There are two types of procedures. One, called a summary eviction, is used by a landlord to take quick action, but generally they cannot ask for monetary damages or rent unless the tenant fails to answer the complaint or appear at trial. Under the other procedure, called an unlawful detainer, the landlord can ask for damages. Bundy said 10,625 summary eviction cases were filed from June 2020 to June 2021, while there were 920 unlawful detainer cases.

HOW AFFORDABLE IS HOUSING IN THE STATE'S MAJOR RENTAL MARKETS?

The market value for a two-bedroom apartment in West Virginia is among the lowest in the nation at \$778, but many residents can't even afford that. About 16% of West Virginia residents live in poverty, while 34% of

children had parents who did not work full time in 2019, according to the U.S. Census.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition said there is a shortage of affordable rental homes available to low-income households. It says the annual household income needed to rent a two-bedroom home in the state is about \$31,000.

"It sounds like affordable housing, but it's not affordable when you're not making even \$15 an hour," said Ellen Allen, executive director of the nonprofit assistance group Covenant House in Charleston. "There's so many people that are on the edge, that are just cobbling together enough part-time jobs to get their rent and utilities paid."

The Washington, D.C., metropolitan market, which is among the most expensive in the country, includes parts of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The median monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment there had risen 5.9% over the last year to \$2,328, according to a report released June 16 by Realtor.com.

ARE EVICTIONS EXPECTED TO CREATE A SURGE IN HOMELESSNESS?

Allen said she is "greatly concerned" that homelessness will rise as court cases are heard.

One indication of the scope of the problem is census data showing 6,042 state residents worried that they could be evicted over the next two months.

Woman Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy To Manufacture Meth

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 16, 2021

A Greenbrier County woman responsible for a clandestine drug laboratory plead guilty to conspiracy to manufacture a controlled substance on Wednesday, July 14.

In February 2020, Nina Deamer was indicted on two charges; operating a clandestine drug laboratory and conspiracy to manufacture a controlled substance, specifically methamphetamine.

"The state would expect to show that on the 14th day of October of 2019, Ms. Deamer, along with an individual named in the indictment ... conspired to manufacture ... the controlled substance of methamphetamine, Schedule II, a controlled substance in West Virginia," explained Prosecuting Attorney Patrick Via. "... They operated a clandestine drug laboratory."

However, a plea deal struck was struck — Deamer entered a guilty plea to count 2, conspiracy, while the state moved to drop count 1, spelling out one possible sentence.

"It tells you the worst thing that could happen to you as a result of entering this plea of guilty," said Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent. "That is that you could be incarcerated in the penitentiary of this state for an indeterminate period of not less than one year no more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000, or ... both."

However, this sentence is contingent on Deamer not completing a pretrial diversion program, which could either see all the charges dropped or the imposition of a sentence, depending on her adherence to its rules.

"It [The plea deal] indicates that upon the acceptance of this plea, the parties are requesting that the court delay any finding or adjudication of guilt and allow you to participate in a diversion program," Dent said. "Upon finding that you have unsuccessfully discharged from the diversion agreement, then the state makes a

known recommendation regarding sentencing.”

During the hearing, Deamer did not refute Via’s position on the facts of the case and explained why she wanted to participate in the diversion program — in order to avoid a felon label.

“Oh, yes, I do [understand],” said Deamer. “I wouldn’t be able to go to nursing school like I’m planning on doing if I’ve got that on my record.”

Dent accepted the deal.