

WVDN JUL 19, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** WASHINGTON, D.C. BUREAU

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021 \$1.00

LOCAL NEWS **Costello** **Dear Abby** **Starbucks**

Scientists At Green Bank Accidentally Discover Intergalactic Structure

Lewisburg Takes Another Step Closer To Welcoming Remote Workers

Area Obituaries

WVDN



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Dear Abby: Adult Son Resists Rent Demands From Parents

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

Dear Abby: Should a 23-year-old son pay room and board even though he spends little time at home and eats out often? He doesn't do laundry or help around the house. His argument is, we shouldn't take money so he can save and buy a condo. We are middle-class people and, at times, some bills are hard to pay. Our 20-year-old daughter contributes \$100 a week, but she earns considerably more than he does. He is laying a guilt trip on us, and now I'm questioning whether our daughter should pay if he doesn't. Your advice will help us clarify how the household should run. — **Temporarily Confused Mom**

Dear Temporarily Confused: Your adult children should both contribute because the income is needed. Since your son earns less than your daughter and can't afford to pay as much as she does, perhaps he should pay the same PERCENTAGE of his income as his sister. However, if that's not feasible, he should absolutely be doing chores around the house to make up for it. The longer you coddle him, the heavier his guilt trips will become and the greater your frustration will be.

Dear Abby: Does it seem to you that the definition of the word "fiance" has changed? It used to mean a future spouse, someone whom you were committed to marry after a planned engagement period. Now, though, it seems to mean merely the person with whom you are currently having sex, or with whom you have a baby in common. Am I right? — **Old Fogey in Phoenix**

Dear Fogey: The definition of fiance has definitely changed since the inception of this advice column. Well into the 1960s, when a couple said they were engaged, it meant they would be married — usually within a year. However, over the last 20 years or so, I have received mail from women referring to the father of their children or the men they have been living with for an extended period as their "fiance." (Men, not so often.) For anyone interested in reading more about this subject, go online and search for a fascinating article that appeared on Slate.com. The title is, "What Do You Call the Person You Are Probably Never Going To Marry?" by Hanna Rosin. I highly recommend it.

Dear Abby: I was recently invited to a potluck baby shower. I have also been invited to potluck weddings! I always thought the point of a shower/wedding was providing for your guests while they provide gifts. Food is not expensive, and if money is an issue, one could schedule a shower outside of mealtimes, or with simple tea and cookies. I'd appreciate your thoughts on this. — **Potluck Baby Shower**

Dear Potluck: My thought is: If the concept of a potluck baby shower or wedding is offensive to you, rather than judge, you should send your regrets.

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.

Highway Cleanup Volunteers To Be Honored Next Month

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

BECKLEY, W.Va. (AP) — The West Virginia residents who remove trash from state highways each year will be honored at a daylong event next month.

The 32nd annual Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held Aug. 7 at the Tamarack Convention Center in Beckley. The event gets underway at 9 a.m. with bingo, broom making, a painting class, children's games and other activities, the Department of Environmental Protection said in a news release.

A catered lunch will be served, and afterward awards will be presented and service pins and safety vests will be given to those volunteers who have 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service.

To register, call (800) 322-5530 or email dep.aah@wv.gov by Saturday.

Adopt-A-Highway volunteers remove 4 million pounds of trash from state highways each year, recycling tons of glass, plastic and aluminum. There are currently 40,000 volunteers in the program.

Greenbrier County Commission Reallocates Trail Funds

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

Financing for the Meadow River Rail Trail repairs and the Greenbrier County Courthouse improvements project was considered by the Greenbrier County Commission during its Tuesday, July 13, meeting.

A \$150,000 grant for the Meadow River Rail Trail is getting reworked after the project received a \$1.8 million dollar grant a few months before.

"After the flood of 2016, FEMA [issued] funds for the repair of the trail and those were actually put with money that was with the DOH," explained Commissioner Tammy Shifflett-Tincher. "That money has been returned to Greenbrier County and this is just a request to FEMA for us to ... request an extension for the money for the FEMA-funded trail repairs along the trail."

The original grant was received in 2017, while Project Manager Matt Ford learned of the new \$1.8 million grant from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in January.

"The funds were to be used for a certain part of a section of the trail near Rainelle, but since we received the \$1.8 million grant, and after working with the DOH and our consultant for the trail, we are going to move that money to use it on another section," Tincher said. "The goal with these funds is to make sure that the bridge going over the Meadow River at Burdette's Creek is decked. This is a confirmation for the DOH that we're going to use this money at a different location than it was applied for. That is per request of DOH."

The commission approved sending the request. In addition, the commission requested an extension from FEMA, looking at May 31, 2022, for the new deadline.

In other business:

- The financing of the Greenbrier County Courthouse improvement project continued, with attorney John Stump explaining the commission needs “to send out the proposals to banks for construction financing with the understanding that the amount in the proposal is a ‘not to exceed amount’ and that certain aspects ... are subject to further negotiation.” Rose noted that the current “not to exceed” amount is \$13,096,888. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Three Arts and Recreation Committee members were reappointed to the board, including Ron Magruder, Todd Ramboldt, Jessica Irons.
- Two open seats on the Board of Zoning Appeals were filled with Gordon Campbell and Kim Kowalski.
- Mike Rose was reaffirmed to serve on the Greenbrier County Airport Authority.
- A new hire for the Greenbrier County Home Confinement program was approved.
- An agreement between the county and Advanced Communications Service Agreement for the courthouse phone system maintenance contract was continued for six months, totaling \$1,975.
- A one-year contract with Mason & Barry Service agreement for the courthouse security system was approved, totaling \$21,500. This amount did not change from last year’s contract.

Is Rural Technification Upon Us?

By by theresa flerx | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



In 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made steps toward rural electrification that ultimately provided the infrastructure needed to supply America’s remote areas with “central station electric service.”

In 2021, many countryside locations are suffering from a lack of broadband internet service. Perhaps now Rural Technification is in order.

West Virginia elected officials, community members, businesses owners, school officials and other stakeholders were already focused on the lack of reliable internet post-pandemic, but COVID-19 brought home the fact that the Mountain State is nowhere near the level needed to teach school children or to operate a business even in the best of times.

Locally, the newly-minted Greenbrier County Broadband Council held a rally in downtown Lewisburg on June 4, calling on everyone to support expansion efforts. Acting under the authority of the Greenbrier County Commission, the council will focus on the best way to acquire funding.

“What can you do? We’ve got several things we would like you to do to help us out and enhance broadband in Greenbrier County,” explained Sen. Stephen Baldwin, one of the council’s organizers. “One is to fill out the [Broadband Council] survey. ... It’s going to be making the rounds for the next couple of weeks. ... That’s the point of all of this, to get better maps. Right now the federal government thinks that broadband in southern West Virginia is just fine. We know that’s not true. It’s not fine. We are tremendously underserved, but we have to prove that. ... If you can fill out the survey, help us get a map together, your business and your home, then it’s going to put us in a better position [for federal and state funds and grants].”

That survey can now be found at greenbriercounty.net at the link under the invitation to, “Please take this survey to help Greenbrier County improve Broadband Internet Access for all residents and be entered to win a brand-new kayak!”

During the rally, Greenbrier County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Bryant explained how the lack of internet access has hurt students and teachers, particularly during the pandemic.

The rally also featured other community stakeholders including Ashley Vickers with the Chamber of Commerce, local Americorp's Jack Stanton, Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White, City Administrator Misty Hill, and cheerleaders from Greenbrier West High School and Eastern Greenbrier Middle School.

During the rally, Scot Mitchell, CEO of Robert C. Byrd Clinic, addressed how the pandemic and the healthcare system brought to light inefficiencies in internet service.

Read more about the rally written by WVDN reporter Bobby Bordelon at wvdn.com/16863/.

In an April 20 press release, U.S. Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, explained the need for U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding for broadband as applied to Webster County.

"Delivering reliable, affordable broadband to every West Virginian is a top priority of mine, and I am pleased EDA is investing in this project to expand broadband access to families and businesses in Webster County," Manchin said. "Broadband access is essential for West Virginians and businesses to compete in the 21st century, and I look forward to witnessing the growth this project will bring to Webster County. The EDA remains a strong partner for West Virginia, and I will continue to work with the EDA and other agencies to bring broadband access to every community in the Mountain State."

"High-speed internet service is essential in the 21st century," Capito said. "West Virginia communities need access to this invaluable tool in order to provide opportunity and educate the next generation, which is why I have been so adamant about finalizing this investment for Webster County. While we have made significant progress in expanding broadband infrastructure through my Capito Connect plan and local efforts, a lot of work remains to be done. I will continue to be a strong advocate for strengthening broadband service in West Virginia, and help connect our communities with the federal and state resources they need to bring reliable internet access into our homes, businesses, and schools."

Manchin has been requesting speed-tests since 2016 and continues to solicit them as, "Without access to the internet, citizens can't learn, apply for jobs, launch new businesses, or become members of society who can give back to their communities. The sad fact is that many places in West Virginia simply do not have access to reliable broadband and the lack of access affects West Virginians every day. Back in 2015, the FCC released a coverage map that stated 99.9% of Americans had wireless coverage. I knew then what I know now: That is just plain wrong. That's why I'm asking all West Virginians to submit your internet speed-tests, so we can prove to the FCC that our broadband coverage is well below the stated coverage. So far, your efforts have helped the FCC acknowledge that our providers are overstating their coverage, but we must continue to show where and how widespread the lack of broadband coverage is in West Virginia."

Speed-test can be submitted at www.manchin.senate.gov/speedtest.

Mountains — although valued for aesthetic reasons — caused complications when installing and maintaining the important infrastructure once needed to supply electricity, now it causes the same troubles for broadband. Capito serves on the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Broadband and Telecommunications. Capito can be seen in a YouTube video of a June 23 subcommittee hearing titled "Building Resilient Networks" where she addressed the state's terrain and the need for resilient networks for emergency response during events like June 24, 2016, flood.

As residents and business owners return to life in the new normal, local, state and federal governments are addressing this lack of technology, but what are the potential problems toward achieving high-speed internet in every hill, hollow and valley housing a person seeking to earn a living, or simply to communicate with the rest of the world?

On the federal level, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to handle this task, and has issued an interim final rule to implement the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, established under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A portion of these funds is set to provide broadband infrastructure. The provisions in the Treasury's interim final rule were made effective as of May 17, with a public comment deadline set for July 16.

"The COVID-19 public health emergency has underscored the importance of universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage as millions of Americans rely on the internet to participate in, among critical activities, remote school, healthcare, and work," notes the Treasury. "Recognizing the need for

such connectivity, the ARPA provides funds to state, territorial, local, and tribal governments to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure.”

Utilizing data from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Internet Use Survey, the Treasury determined the results “highlighted the growing necessity of broadband in daily lives through its analysis of NTIA, noting that Americans turn to broadband internet access service for every facet of daily life including work, study, and healthcare. With increased use of technology for daily activities and the movement by many businesses and schools to operating remotely during the pandemic, broadband has become even more critical for people across the country to carry out their daily lives.”

This data also underscored the fact that “tens of millions of Americans live in areas where there is no broadband infrastructure that provides download speeds greater than 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps. By contrast ... many households use upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to meet their daily needs. Even in areas where broadband infrastructure exists, broadband access may be out of reach for millions of Americans because it is unaffordable, as the United States has some of the highest broadband prices in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).”

This is certainly true of many West Virginia internet users, plus the “disparities in availability as well; historically, Americans living in territories and tribal lands, as well as rural areas, have proportionately lacked sufficient broadband infrastructure.”

The Treasury also states that “rapidly growing demand has, and will likely continue to, quickly outpace infrastructure capacity, a phenomenon acknowledged by various states around the country that have set scalability requirements to account for this anticipated growth in demand. The interim final rule provides that eligible investments in broadband are those that are designed to provide services meeting adequate speeds and are provided to unserved and underserved households and businesses.”

Recognizing the wide range of varied broadband infrastructure needs across the country, “the interim final rule provides award recipients with flexibility to identify the specific locations within their communities to be served and to otherwise design the project.”

Addressing issues common in the Mountain State where “it would not be practicable for a project to deliver such service speeds because of the geography, topography, or excessive costs associated with such a project ... the affected project would be expected to be designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds 100 Mbps download and between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speeds and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps symmetrical for download and upload speeds.”

The Treasury notes that “Bids submitted as part of the FCC in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), established to support the construction of broadband networks in rural communities across the country, are given priority if they offer faster service, with the service offerings of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload being included in the ‘above baseline’ performance tier set by the FCC.

The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BBIP) of the Department of Commerce, which provides federal funding to deploy broadband infrastructure to eligible service areas of the country also prioritizes projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of not less than 100 Mbps and an upload speed of not less than 20 Mbps.”

Recipients of the federal funds are “also encouraged to prioritize investments in fiber optic infrastructure where feasible, as such advanced technology enables the next generation of application solutions for all communities. The Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize support for broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and co-operatives — providers with less pressure to turn profits and with a commitment to serving entire communities.”

Initial steps have been taken. Money was offered. In-depth questions are asked. Technicalities are being considered. And rules have been established. So, how long until we accomplish the goal of reliable broadband? Rural electrification took 25 years to reach an “almost 97%” rate. Perhaps by submitting speed-tests, filling out surveys and supporting broadband initiatives, rural technification can be completed within a much shorter timeframe.

Spartan Baseball Places Four On All-State Teams

By by brandon baker | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

The Greenbrier East Spartans baseball team felt they greatly underachieved after being upset by Oak Hill in the sectional finals, but even then, still managed to place four players on the all-state teams.

Jordan Mize and Noah Hanna made the second team while Caleb Thomas and Darris Boswell got honorable mention honors.

Mize, on his way to Glenville State next season, hit .382 on the season with a home run and 20 RBI's. He also scored 25 runs and tied for the team lead with eight doubles.

Hanna hit .338 with 24 RBI's — tied for the team lead. He also scored 20 runs and had eight doubles. Hanna will play for Allegany College of Maryland next spring.

Thomas excelled on the pitcher's mound all year and finished with a 5-1 record and a team-leading 0.90 ERA. He also had 54 strikeouts and will take his talents to Bluefield State.

Boswell was the lone underclassman to be recognized. He had a team-best .438 average and knocked in 18 runs. His 38 runs scored led the team by a wide margin. Boswell will return to the Spartans next year with a lot of hype surrounding him.

Williamsburg CEOS Meet To Share And Learn

By Theresa Flerx | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

The first question people typically ask is, " Why are covered bridges covered?"

A popular belief is that cows and other livestock were scared by the sight of rushing water below, which made them hesitant to cross the bridge.

Covered bridges were also often referred to as "kissing bridges" (quoted from the Williamsburg CEOS lesson). You want to know why? Then you need to get the lesson, West Virginia Covered Bridges, created by WVU Extension staff by contacting a local WVU County Extension Office.

Barbara Deeds, club member, presented the program at the July 13 CEOS meeting held at the Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum.

Those participating included Loretta Shirley, Laura Rose, Blanche Knicely, Cassandria Perkins, Laura Ann Tiller, and Burl and Patty Post.

Club members keep track monthly of number of books read (for the Purposeful Reading Committee), Health Motivator Hours, and Volunteer Hours.

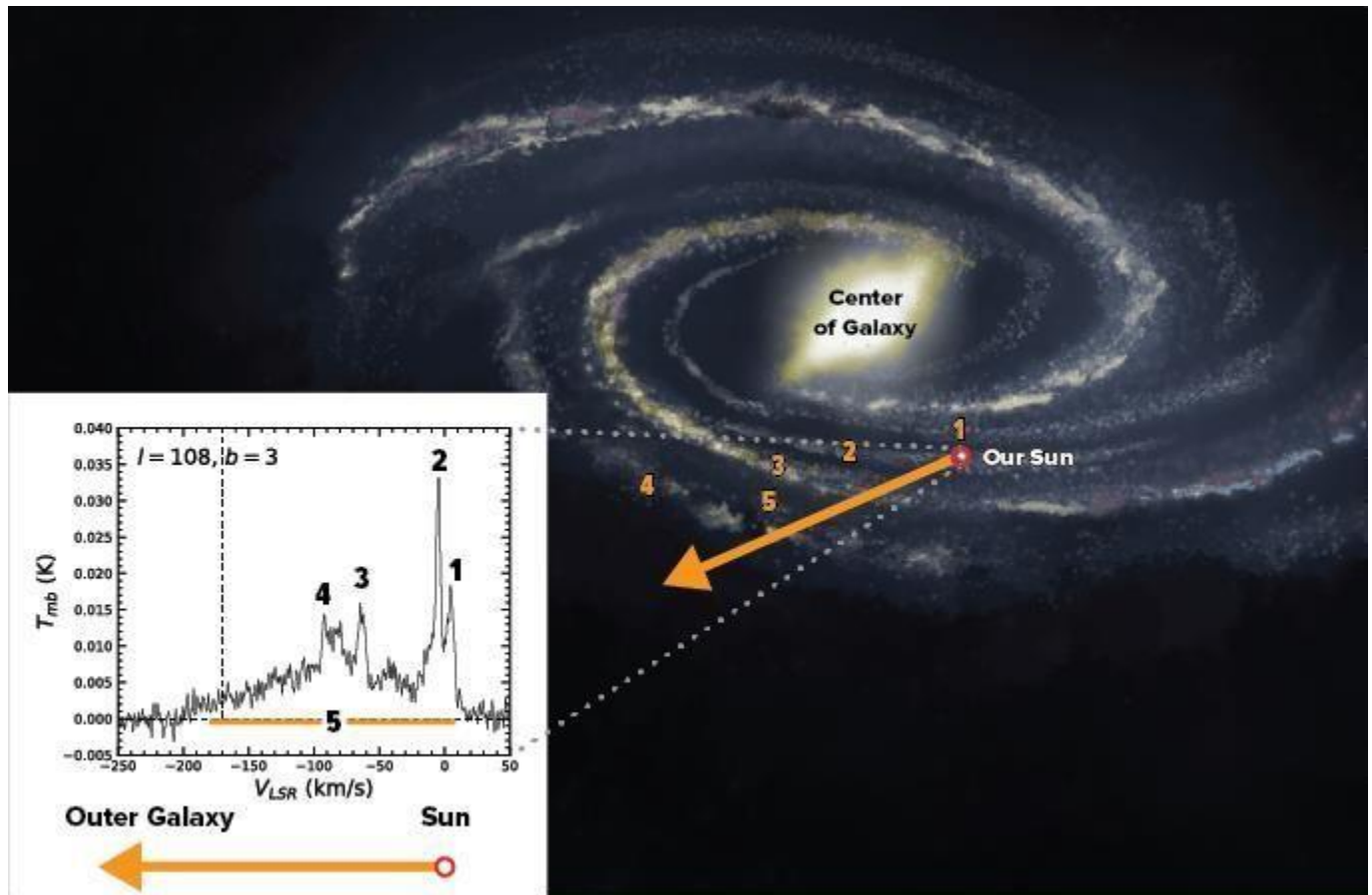
The club was brought up to date on community events and county CEOS events coming up this summer.

The next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, at noon at the Williamsburg Museum.

Although the club will be discussing reorganization for the upcoming year, anyone is still welcome to come to learn about just what the Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) is about.

Scientists At Green Bank Accidentally Discover Intergalactic Structure

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



Scientists using telescopes at the Green Bank Observatory have accidentally discovered a massive, invisible structure inside our galaxy. This discovery is being well-received in the scientific community and will change the way that scientists study the formation of stars in the outer galaxy and may help them better understand where the matter the universe is made up of is distributed.

According to one of the scientists who made the discovery, Astrophysicist Dr. Philip Engelke, the planet Earth is floating in this widespread structure, as is the sun and all the planets and stars we can see.

It is a disk made out of a very thin gas, mostly hydrogen molecules, and fills in all the spaces between the arms of the galaxy and extends toward the outer galaxy.

“It wasn’t easy to detect, but it is there,” Engelke said. “We already know about clouds of molecular gas in the

center of the galaxy and in the arms of the galaxy, but it's a bit more mysterious to know how stars form on the outskirts of the galaxy where we haven't observed as much of this kind of molecular gas in the interstellar medium."

Additionally, the discovery helps scientists more accurately estimate the total mass of the interstellar medium in our galaxy, which contributes to the mass along with stars as well as the mysterious concept known as "dark matter," to better understand how these mass components interrelate.

Engelke said that finding the structure, along with Michael Busch, Ronald J. Allen, and David E. Hogg, was an exciting time. Unfortunately, the man instrumental in finding this structure, Johns Hopkins University professor Ronald J. Allen, passed away last year.

"We were very lucky to have known him," Engelke said. "Ron was truly excited about this discovery, and I know he would have been proud of the result."

The molecular hydrogen gas is nearly invisible, which is why scientists must look for radio signals from other molecules mixed in in smaller quantities, called tracers. The usual tracer is CO (carbon monoxide), but in 2012, Allen unexpectedly found OH molecule signal without corresponding CO signal while working on an unrelated project. He worked with David Hogg of National Radio Astronomy Observatory to create a new research program using the Green Bank Telescope to observe OH as an alternative tracer of hydrogen. The first results of this research was published in 2015.

During the next run of observations, the scientists noticed a faint signal coming from between the arms of the Galaxy. In 2018, 100 hours of independent observations were conducted using the observatory's 20-meter telescope to confirm that this signal was truly real and not an artifact of the first telescope. During this time, Johns Hopkins Ph.D. student Michael Busch joined Allen's team and played a major role in this work.

These findings were published in The Astrophysical Journal on June 10.

"It was exciting," Engelke said. "It was the product of several years of work. I think it was good that we were finally able to get this published."

Michael Busch plans to continue working on follow-ups to this discovery after he finishes his Ph.D. Although Engelke said that he is working in a different job, he plans to continue work on this discovery in his spare time. The new goal is to see if a similar structure exists in the Andromeda Galaxy, the closest spiral galaxy to our own.

Rupert Bank Robbery Suspect Arraigned In Greenbrier County

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



Gary Lee Toler, 64, has been arraigned in Greenbrier County Magistrate Court after allegedly robbing Summit Community Bank in Rupert at gunpoint.

According to the criminal complaint, Cpl. J. W. Gilkeson of the West Virginia State Police was dispatched to Summit Community Bank at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, regarding an armed robbery.

The caller stated that a white male had entered the building with a face covering and hat, the complaint states. He presented a gun and a handwritten note demanding money. Bank employees proceeded to give the man money, all \$50 bills as he requested. He then put the money in his backpack and left on foot.

The following day, Thursday, June 15, at 9:52 a.m., Gilkeson received a call from the Greenbrier County 911 center that Toler's wife had called the Sheriff's Department in Rupert stating it was her husband who robbed the bank and that he was at the Princeton Walmart, the complaint alleges.

Officers from the Princeton detachment of the West Virginia State Police notified Walmart employees and were able to take Toler, along with a female companion, into custody.

Both Toler and his female companion possessed \$50 bills stamped by the bank with a routing number. Toler was arrested and has been charged with one felony count of armed robbery. He is currently at Southern Regional Jail on a \$200,000 cash/surety bond.

At this time, the total amount of money stolen from Summit Community Bank has not been disclosed. Charges have not been filed against Toler's female companion.

Lewisburg Takes Another Step Closer To Welcoming Remote Workers

By by theresa flerx | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



Proud of its beautiful niche in the world, the city of Lewisburg, along with Greenbrier Valley tourism promoters, have been shouting its praises for many years. The town was even deemed a “coolest small town in America.” Lewisburg is now placing a welcome mat out in an entirely new way, and extending that invitation to come enjoy every nook and cranny of its surrounding mountains, each flow of area waterway, meandering twists of various trails, and the clearest views of blue or starry skies, making up a complete outdoor package found only in the Greenbrier Valley. But the catch is, you have to work for it. Remotely that is.

This welcome mat comes through Ascend WV, an incentive designed to encourage remote workers to move to Lewisburg.

First introduced on April 12, the Ascend WV program will provide \$12,000 cash and a year’s worth of free outdoor recreation to those who move into one of the state’s first three host cities — Lewisburg, Morgantown or Shepherdstown.

The invitation proved to be a hit right off the bat. By April 14, Gov. Jim Justice announced that within 36 hours, 2,000 people from 38 states had filled out an application to move to West Virginia following the program’s initial launch.

On Friday, July 16, stakeholders of the Ascent WV program met at the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss the next steps necessary to bring the program to fruition.

Gordon Gee, WVU president; Danny Twilley, head of Ascend WV; Chelsea Ruby, secretary for the WVU remote worker program; Rich Edwards, infrastructure coordinator for Ascend WV’s Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative (OEDC); Beverly White, Lewisburg’s mayor and other city officials; Lowell Rose, Greenbrier County commissioner; Tammy Tincher, GC commissioner (via Zoom); Kara Dense, CVB executive director; Ruthana Beezley, executive director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation; Jesse Anderson, superintendent at Greenbrier State Forest; Brett McMillion, deputy chief at West Virginia State Parks; and many local business owners, attended the meeting to share their ideas and experiences.

“It’s wonderful to see you all again,” said Twilley. “Just the warm welcome, it just continues. Love it. We are excited to be here today with President Gee and Secretary Ruby... When we started thinking about coming down to visit, the energy that we felt in this room from the same group that last time, I tell you. I’ve been

doing these meetings around these types of topics for some time, you are just so positive, cooperative, thoughtful, all moving in the same direction, and we are getting it moving.”

Dense, having grown up in Greenbrier County, and through 14 years in her role with the CVB, she is in the position to notice that “the energy and synergy is the best it’s been” since she can remember. “I believe this program is an integral part of that. Thank you for choosing Lewisburg. When people choose Lewisburg, they choose all of the Greenbrier Valley, because we have so much to offer.”

Gee said the Ascend WV project is not only wonderful but transformative.

He noted that the state has exported “coal, oil, gas and talent. And that is a tragedy for us because we have been losing population. And one of the things that I think we all know is that West Virginians love West Virginia, and born-again West Virginians love West Virginia, and they want to live here and particularly the young people want to live here. We just need to provide the opportunity and the reason for them to move here. What we know about the millennials and the Z generation [is] the fact that their number one priority is being able to have a good living, and being able to have a good family setting, and being able to have a comfort zone in which they can reside ... and we are the ideal spot. We are really devoted to making certain that West Virginia becomes a destination. Tourism is important not only for people living here but also a place in which we build a whole new structure. [The state] can really move from coal to cool, and in so doing, we are becoming a destination place for people who want to have a great living and want to have a great quality of life.”

Ruby told of a trend across the country to create various departments to address outdoor recreation initiatives and a huge push to create one in the Mountain State. But she suggested that “instead of creating another agency in state government, let us try to work with our partners at WVU and create a different model, a different way to do this. So I’m thrilled that that is what we are working on doing. We are now getting calls from other states asking us how we are doing this. Danny and I did a call last week with Colorado, and after the call, we just sort of laughed and said, ‘wait did they just call us?’ And it felt very real.”

Twilley spoke briefly about the WVU’s team visit to Lewisburg about a month and a half ago to “plant the seeds” and returned on Friday after giving the seeds time to “germinate.”

Upon that return, Ruby called the local effort the, “Best collaborative example that I’ve ever been a part of and that maybe has ever existed.”

Elkins told meeting attendees about writing a \$15,000 grant proposal for a WSS bike park.

“In White Sulphur, we are a West Virginia HubCAP team,” said Elkins. “So there are a lot of people in this room who are a part of that team. Kara Dense is on there, and we work together to build cohesion around, really, the rebranding of White Sulphur Springs as an outdoor recreation destination.”

Dense further explained the WSS team, “It’s a community achievement program through the West Virginia Hub, which is about community development, and I think Richwood has been a HubCAP community, I think Marlinton is one right now, so we meet as a group... We’ve been together for about a year and we meet monthly and this is the [bike park] project that we’ve come up with.”

Lewisburg’s City Manager Misty Hill expressed excitement about the purchase of riverfront property and requested ideas on its use. With its river access and level ground, “It’s perfect for mountain biking and many, many [things].”

Hill also discussed an American Cares Act reimbursement used for the placement of a synthetic baseball field at Hollowell Park just in time to hold the Little League State Tournament that started Friday evening.

“We made the deadline by the hair on our chinny-chin-chin,” Hill said. “We are so excited to hold the state Little League Tournament like that. I think COVID has impacted everyone, everyone sitting in this room, but our children have been impacted the most. And seeing that they are out there and riding bikes, and out playing sports... I’m super excited for them.”

Other thoughts were discussed before the topic of the area’s problematic high-speed internet access was raised by Maggie Hutchinson, president of the Greenbrier Trail Association.

“What are we going to do about broadband?” asked Hutchinson. “That’s a serious issue.”

Gee agreed, “Broadband is the number one priority in the state... Once we solve that problem, Katy bar the door.”

Rose said if current plans are successful, Greenbrier County will have one of the first broadband lines run throughout the county within a year.

"We are working on it very hard to get fiber into the county, and to have redundancies where we can attract businesses, especially like to the airport, kind of like a hub," Rose said. "We are, the county is, working on that pretty hard."

Members of the Greenbrier Valley are doing the hard work in anticipation that Ascend WV recipients will be ready to work in the Greenbrier Valley. Through this local effort, surrounding communities are also expected to benefit.

The idea for Ascend WV was born in early 2020, at the Inaugural Marshall University CEO Panel, just weeks before the world would face a major pandemic. Inspired by the discussion between Brad D. Smith and the CEOs of Adobe and Paypal, the seed for Ascend WV was planted. With a generous gift, Brad and Alys Smith created WVU's OEDC, and in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Tourism, the vision came to life. The Ascend WV program officially launched in April of 2021 as Ascend Morgantown opened for applicants. More information can be requested at ascendwv@mail.wvu.edu.

Ascend WV is made possible by a generous \$25 million gift from Brad and Alys Smith, founding the West Virginia University Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative.

Clarksburg Fined For Not Sending Lead Water Notice

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

The Clarksburg Water Board failed to notify the public about the risk of lead exposure in drinking water and now faces fines from the state, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources said Wednesday.

The department earlier this month said it began reviewing the lines after sampling in several homes showed lead levels above a limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Since the issuance of a state order on July 2, Clarksburg officials failed to send notices to households potentially served by lead service lines within three business days. The Clarksburg Public Water System serves approximately 17,686 people and provides water to other public water systems that serve an additional 38,225 people, according to the state.

The board also failed to provide public education about lead service lines within five business days of the state's order.

The state said the water board faces fines of up to \$5,000 a day for noncompliance.

The health department will work with the EPA to identify lead service lines and ensure the board follows the state's order, state health officer Dr. Ayne Amjad said in a statement.

"We remain very concerned about the public health situation in Clarksburg and stand ready to protect the health and well-being of the customers of the water system, as well as ensure compliance," Amjad said.

Amjad has urged parents of young children who live in older homes to discuss the risk of lead exposure with a pediatrician.

Lead lines were phased out in the 1950s, the agency said in a news release, and it's unlikely homes built after 1960 would have them.

Commission Punts On Confederate Memorials

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia's Capitol Building Commission met Wednesday, but did not take up the issue of whether to move a statue and bust of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from the Capitol grounds, The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported.

The commission held a public hearing on the issue in December when seven of eight speakers called for removing the statue from the southeast corner of the Capitol complex and the bust from the Capitol Rotunda. Since then, the commission has met twice but the issue has not appeared on its agenda.

Calls to remove the monuments date back a decade, but they intensified last summer as part of a wave of Confederate memorial removals across the South during protests against the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police in May 2020.

The Kanawha County Board of Education unanimously voted to change the name of Charleston's Stonewall Jackson Middle School last year after community protests. That school's student body is 42% Black, the highest percentage of any of the state's public middle schools, according to the West Virginia Department of Education.

Meanwhile, Commissioners in Harrison County, where Jackson was born, voted last year to keep his statue outside the courthouse there after hearing public comments on a proposal to remove it.

Earlier this week, the Virginia Military Institute removed the duplicate of the West Virginia Capitol's Stonewall Jackson statue from its grounds.

21 W.Va. Hospitals Receiving \$258K Apiece For COVID Work

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Hospitals throughout West Virginia will receive a total of \$5.4 million from the federal government for COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin announced the funds Thursday, saying each of the 21 rural hospitals will receive \$258,376. The funds are distributed through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program.

"The American Rescue Plan continues to deliver critical relief to West Virginia, and this funding for 21 rural hospitals across the state will help curb the spread of the virus," Manchin said.

Hospitals receiving funding are Boone Memorial Hospital, Broadus Hospital, Grafton City Hospital, Grant Memorial Hospital, Hampshire Memorial Hospital, Minnie Hamilton Health System, Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital, Montgomery General Hospital, Plateau Medical Center, Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, Roane General Hospital, Sistersville General Hospital, Summers County Appalachian Regional Healthcare, War Memorial Hospital, Webster County Memorial Hospital, West Virginia University Medicine Braxton County Memorial Hospital, WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital, WVU Medicine Jefferson Medical Center, WVU Medicine Potomac Valley Hospital, WVU Medicine St. Joseph's Hospital and WVU Medicine Summersville Regional Medical Center.

Child Tax Credit Dollars Head To Parents

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The child tax credit had always been an empty gesture to millions of parents like Tamika Daniel.

That changes Thursday when the first payment of \$1,000 hits Daniel's bank account — and dollars start flowing to the pockets of more than 35 million families around the country. Daniel, a 35-year-old mother of four, didn't even know the tax credit existed until President Joe Biden expanded it for one year as part of the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that passed in March.

Previously, only people who earned enough money to owe income taxes could qualify for the credit. Daniel went nearly a decade without a job because her oldest son is autistic and needed her. So she got by on Social Security payments. And she had to live at Fairfield Courts, a public housing project that dead-ends at Interstate 64 as the highway cuts through the Virginia capital of Richmond.

But the extra \$1,000 a month for the next year could be a life-changer for Daniel, who now works as a community organizer for a Richmond nonprofit. It will help provide a security deposit on a new apartment. "It's actually coming right on time," she said. "We have a lot going on. This definitely helps to take a load off." Biden has held out the new monthly payments, which will average \$423 per family, as the key to halving child poverty rates. But he is also setting up a broader philosophical battle about the role of government and the responsibilities of parents.

Democrats see this as a landmark program along the same lines as Social Security, saying it will lead to better

outcomes in adulthood that will help economic growth. But many Republicans warn that the payments will discourage parents from working and ultimately feed into long-term poverty.

Some 15 million households will now receive the full credit. The monthly payments amount to \$300 for each child who is 5 and younger and \$250 for those between 5 and 17. The payments are set to lapse after a year, but Biden is pushing to extend them through at least 2025.

The president ultimately would like to make the payments permanent — and that makes this first round of payments a test as to whether the government can improve the lives of families.

Biden will deliver a speech Thursday at the White House to mark the first day of payments, inviting beneficiaries to join him as he seeks to raise awareness of the payments and push for their continuation.

“The president felt it was important to elevate this issue, to make sure people understand this is a benefit that will help them as we still work to recover from the pandemic and the economic downturn,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who successfully championed increasing the credit in 2017, said that the Democrats’ plans will turn the benefits into an “anti-work welfare check” because almost every family can now qualify for the payment regardless of whether the parents have a job.

“Not only does Biden’s plan abandon incentives for marriage and requirements for work, but it will also destroy the child-support enforcement system as we know it by sending cash payments to single parents without ensuring child-support orders are established,” Rubio said in a statement Wednesday.

An administration official disputed those claims. Treasury Department estimates indicate that 97% of recipients of the tax credit have wages or self-employment income, while the other 3% are grandparents or have health issues. The official, who requested anonymity to discuss internal analyses, noted that the credit starts to phase out at \$150,000 for joint filers, so there is no disincentive for the poor to work because a job would just give them more income.

Colorado Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet said the problem is one of inequality. He said that economic growth has benefited the top 10% of earners in recent decades, while families are struggling with the rising costs of housing, child care and health care. He said his voters back in Colorado are concerned that their children will be poorer than previous generations and that requires the expansion of the child tax credit.

“It’s the most progressive change to America’s tax code ever,” Bennet told reporters.

Parenthood is an expensive undertaking. The Agriculture Department estimated in 2017, the last year it published such a report, that a typical family spends \$233,610 to raise a child from birth to the age of 17. But wealthier children get far more invested in their education and upbringing, while poorer children face a constant disadvantage. Families in the top third of incomes spend about \$10,000 more annually per child than families in the lower third.

The child tax credit was created in 1997 to be a source of relief, yet it also became a driver of economic and racial inequality as only parents who owed the federal government taxes could qualify for its full payment.

Academic research in 2020 found that about three-quarters of white and Asian children were eligible for the full credit, but only about half of Black and Hispanic children qualified.

In the census tract where Daniel lives in Richmond, the median household income is \$14,725 —almost five times lower than the national median. Three out of every 4 children live in poverty. For a typical parent with two children in that part of Richmond, the expanded tax credit would raise income by almost 41%.

The tax credit is as much about keeping people in the middle class as it is about lifting up the poor.

Katie Stelka of Brookfield, Wisconsin, was laid off from her job as a beauty and haircare products buyer for the Kohl’s department store chain in September as the pandemic tightened its grip on the country. She and her sons, 3-year-old Oliver and 7-year-old Robert, were left to depend on her husband’s income as a consultant for retirement services. The family was already struggling to pay for her husband’s kidney transplant five years earlier and his ongoing therapies before she was laid off, she said.

With no job prospects, Stelka re-enrolled in college to study social work in February. Last month she landed a new job as an assistant executive director for the nonprofit International Association for Orthodontics. Now she needs day care again. That amounts to \$1,000 a week for both kids.

All the tax credit money will go to cover that, said Stelka, 37.

“Every little bit is going to help right now,” she said. “I’m paying for school out-of-pocket. I’m paying for the boys’ stuff. The cost of food and everything else has gone up. We’re just really thankful. The tide feels like it’s turning.”

Associated Press writer Todd Richmond in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

California Fire Prompts Evacuations; Oregon Blaze Balloons

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

DAISY NGUYEN and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A rapidly growing wildfire south of Lake Tahoe jumped a highway, prompting more evacuation orders and the cancellation of an extreme bike ride through the Sierra Nevada on Saturday as critically dangerous wildfire weather loomed in the coming days.

The Tamarack Fire, which was sparked by lightning on July 4, exploded overnight and was over 32 square miles as of Saturday evening, according to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The blaze was threatening Markleeville, a small town close to the California-Nevada state line. It has destroyed at least three structures, authorities said, and was burning toward the Alpine County Airport after jumping a highway.

A notice posted on the 103-mile Death Ride’s website said several communities in the area had been evacuated and ordered all riders to clear the area. The fire left thousands of bikers and spectators stranded in the small town and racing to get out.

Kelli Pennington and her family were camping near the town Friday so her husband could participate in his ninth ride when they were told to leave. They had been watching smoke develop over the course of the day, but were caught off guard by the fire’s quick spread.

“It happened so fast,” Pennington said. “We left our tents, hammock and some foods, but we got most of our things, shoved our two kids in the car and left.”

Saturday’s ride was supposed to mark the 40th Death Ride, which attracts thousands of cyclists to the region each year to ride through three mountain passes in the so-called California Alps. It was canceled last year during the coronavirus outbreak.

Paul Burgess, who drove from Los Angeles to participate in the ride, said most of the cyclists he met were thankful to steer clear of the fire danger.

“They just said this is just how it goes,” Burgess said. “It’s part of climate change to a certain extent, it’s part of just a lot of fuels that are not burnt, the humidity is low, the fuel moisture levels are low, and ... around the state, many parts of it are much like a tinderbox.”

Afternoon winds blowing at 20 to 30 mph fanned the flames as they chewed through bone-dry timber and brush. Meteorologists predicted critically dangerous fire weather through at least Monday in both California and southern Oregon, where the largest wildfire in the U.S. continued to race through bone-dry forests.

The Bootleg Fire grew significantly overnight Saturday as dry and windy conditions took hold in the area, but containment of the inferno more than tripled as firefighters began to gain more control along its western flank. The fire was still burning rapidly and dangerously along its southern and eastern flanks, however, and authorities expanded evacuations in a largely rural area of lakes and wildlife refuges.

The fire was 453 square miles in size, or more than 100 square miles larger than the area of New York City.

“This fire is large and moving so fast, every day it progresses 4 to 5 miles,” said Incident Commander Joe Hassel. “One of the many challenges that our firefighters face every day is working in new country that can

present new hazards all the time.”

Extremely dry conditions and heatwaves tied to climate change have swept the region, making wildfires harder to fight. Climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

In southern Oregon, fire crews have dealt with dangerous and extreme fire conditions, including massive “fire clouds” that rise up to 6 miles above the blaze. The Bootleg Fire has destroyed at least 67 homes and 117 outbuildings.

The conflagration has forced 2,000 people to evacuate and is threatening 5,000 buildings, including homes and smaller structures in a rural area just north of the California border.

The Tamarack Fire sent heavy smoke over Lake Tahoe and into Nevada.

The National Weather Service warned of possible thunderstorms stretching from the California coast to northern Montana on Sunday and that “new lightning ignitions” are likely because of extremely dry fuels across the West.

Firefighters said in July they were facing conditions more typical of late summer or fall.

The fires were just two of numerous fires burning across the drought-stricken U.S. West, as new fires popped up or grew rapidly in Oregon and California.

There were 70 active large fires and complexes of multiple fires that have burned nearly 1,659 square miles in the U.S., the National Interagency Fire Center said. The U.S. Forest Service said at least 16 major fires were burning in the Pacific Northwest alone.

A fire in the mountains of northeast Oregon was also growing rapidly and was 17 square miles in size on Saturday. The Elbow Creek fire started Thursday and has prompted evacuations in several small, rural communities around the Grande Ronde River about 30 miles southeast of Walla Walla, Washington.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act to mobilize more firefighters and equipment to help fight that fire.

The Dixie Fire, near the 2018 site of the deadliest fire in the U.S. in recent memory, was 5% contained and covered 39 square miles Saturday. The fire was in the Feather River Canyon, northeast of the town of Paradise, California, and survivors of that horrific fire that killed 85 people watched warily as the new blaze burned.

Officials ordered the evacuation of a wilderness recreation area and kept in place a warning for residents of the tiny communities of Pulga and east Concow to be ready to leave.

“We’re prepared,” said Mike Garappo, a retired military veteran. “We’ve dealt with fires living in the mountains forever. We know there’s a chance it may not hit here, but we’re ready to go in case.”

Flaccus reported from Portland, Oregon. AP journalists Terry Chea in Belden, California, and Julie Walker in New York City contributed to this report.

Car Chase Results in Drug Court Deal

By by bobby bordelon and matthew young | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

A wreck in the Greenbrier Valley Medical Center parking lot lead to a guilty plea on Tuesday, July 13.

Christina Marie Perkins was indicted on one count of reckless fleeing from an officer in April 2021 by a Greenbrier County Grand Jury.

Perkins plead no contest to the indictment, meaning the court could find her guilty of the offense. However, the prosecution and defense agreed to instead enroll Perkins in the Greenbrier County Drug Court Program.

"If you're successful in that program, you have a chance to come back before the court and withdraw your guilty plea and have the charge against you dismissed," said Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Robert Richardson. "Under those circumstances, you would suffer no conviction at all with regard to this case. On the other hand, if you are unsuccessful in completing the drug court program, ... you would be convicted of the felony ... and would be subject to being sentenced."

According to the state code, felony reckless fleeing could carry a sentence of \$1,000 to \$2,000 fine and imprisonment in a state correctional facility between one to five years.

During the hearing, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Blake explained the circumstances around Perkins' arrest. On December 15, 2020, Avery Demond Lewis, 46, of Dale Hollow Lane in Frankford and Christina Marie Perkins, 35, of Main Street in White Sulphur Springs were arrested after a chase.

"If this matter did, in fact, proceed to trial, the state would intend to introduce the following evidence - that on December 14, 2020, [a deputy] with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department was patrolling the area of Fairlea in Greenbrier County," said Blake. "Specifically, the [area near a Fairlea trailer park], in reference to an investigation that was being conducted ... regarding one Avery Lewis. It was believed that Mr. Lewis was a passenger in a tan Chevrolet Malibu vehicle that was driven by the defendant."

According to the criminal complaint, after the vehicle attempted to get away on Route 219, Perkins struck the stone sign near the entrance to the parking lot.

"The vehicle did enter that intersection at a wide angle and struck the stone sign at the entrance of the parking lot, lost control, then spun in circles and came to a rest near the vehicles in the parking lot," said Blake. "At this point, [the deputy] noticed Mr. Lewis exited the passenger side of the vehicle and did attempt to flee the scene. [The deputy] also noticed and alleges that Ms. Perkins attempted to flee the parking lot area in the vehicle and that deputy confronted her, instructing her to exit the vehicle. She complied after multiple attempts. ... She was placed in custody."

Lewis is alleged to have then attempted to flee the area. However, deputies were able to detain Lewis on the ground beside their patrol car. As deputies were detaining Lewis, Perkins then also allegedly attempted to flee the parking lot with her vehicle. According to the criminal complaint, deputies approached the vehicle and instructed Perkins "to stop and exit the vehicle."

After the instruction had been repeated several times, Perkins complied and exited the vehicle with her hands raised. Deputies then took Perkins immediately into custody. Once both Perkins and Lewis had been secured, deputies performed a search of Perkins' vehicle. The complaint also states that within Perkins' vehicle deputies located two plastic baggies, which contained a white crystal-like substance. The contents of both bags were tested, yielding positive results for methamphetamine and fentanyl.

In a no contest plea, the defendant accepts any consequences for the charges but does not admit guilt. Perkins explained why she would take the plea deal despite contesting the facts, and noted she lives with a drug addiction.

"I believe that this is the best thing, even though stuff happened that didn't happen, I believe that taking it to trial wouldn't be in my best interest," said Perkins. "It's he said and she said, and I can't run the risk of becoming a convicted felon. ... That's the only reason. I'm scared of taking it to trial and losing there."

Richardson accepted the plea and moved forward with placing Perkins in the Greenbrier County Drug Court Program.

"Ms. Perkins, I look forward to working with you in the drug court program. I hope that you will use that

opportunity to equip yourself to live a drug and substance abuse free lifestyle. It is not an easy program, as you indicated. ... There are two things that I tell to every participant in the drug court program. ...

Richardson also offered some advice on how to get through the drug court.

“If you do these two things, all the other rules and requirements will fall into place,” Richardson said. “First is to show up. ... That’s more than just having your body where it’s supposed to be, but it’s having all of yourself where you’re supposed to be and focused on the thing you need to be doing. ... The second thing that I always emphasize to new drug court participants is that they need to be honest. In order for people to help you, and the drug court is intended to help you, you have to be honest with yourself and the people that are trying to help. ... You’ll have life-long benefits from having avoided the life-long detriment of having a felony conviction. Good luck.”

Dear Abby: Man Still Depending On Ex-Wife For Everyday Needs

By jaine schmidt wyatt | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

Dear Abby: I have been with my boyfriend, “John,” for a year and a half. He had been divorced for two years after a 20-year marriage when we got together. He told me he and his ex, “Jessica,” were still good friends. I thought it was OK since they were co-parenting their kid. I have children of my own, and I understand. I gave up everything and moved two hours away to move in with John. Then I realized he was constantly talking and texting with her. Then I noticed all the food containers in the fridge were from her. It made me realize how much he depends on Jessica. John told me they divorced because they grew apart. When we discussed it further, John admitted he still depends on Jessica for everything from dinners to paying his bills and daily conversations. They are both in relationships and continue to act like this. Their “kid” is now 18 and has graduated from high school. Am I wrong for not wanting to move forward in this relationship? John doesn’t seem to want or need me. — **Confused in Montana**

Dear Confused: To say that John is overly dependent on Jessica would be an understatement, and Jessica seems to like it that way. You’re not wrong for preferring not to move forward in this relationship; you are intelligent. For you to move forward, Jessica would have to step aside — and it appears that neither she nor John is open to doing that.

Dear Abby: I am a petite, 53-year-old woman who works out four to five times a week, so I’m in very good shape. I often perform manual labor jobs instead of hiring someone or using equipment. I regard it as an opportunity for an extra workout. Someday I may have to take the easier path, but not yet. When people see me do things that are considered hard work, they presume I need help. For instance, today I bought 30 cement blocks to start building a wall. Several men asked if I needed help. I refused politely as I always do, saying they were thoughtful to offer but I didn’t need help. They replied, “No problem.” A short time later it started raining. A woman walked by carrying an umbrella and offered to help, and I responded just as politely. She put her umbrella down and started lifting the blocks into my car anyway! I said, “No need. You were sweet to offer, but I’m getting my morning workout.” She took offense and snapped, “Sorry to ‘impose.’ I was trying to help,” and stalked off! This happens often. I feel bad after these encounters. It seems I am perceived as ungrateful, but if I need help, I will ask for it. How can I convey this more effectively, or must I just accept the help? — **Trying Hard in Ohio**

Dear Trying Hard: If multiple people are offended when you refuse their offers of help, there may be something wrong with the way you're delivering your message. Sometimes it isn't what we say but the words we choose or their tone that can be off-putting. My advice is to talk this over with some of your friends and see how they react.

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.

Federal help available to residents impacted by storms

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The deadline for West Virginians impacted by severe storms earlier this year to apply for federal assistance ends Monday.

WCHS-TV reports that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering grants and loans for qualifying residents in Cabell, Kanawha, Mingo or Wayne counties who suffered losses and damages between Feb. 27 through March 4.

The assistance can be used for child care, medical costs and help with damaged and uninhabitable housing.

"We want to reach everyone that had damage," FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Jeff Jones said.

"If you know of someone who was affected, even if you think it's minor, have them call," Jones added. "It will be a little bit of time to talk to us on the phone, but it's worth asking rather than just not getting anything."

A series of winter storms caused millions of dollars in damage between February and March. The ice storms and flooding left some residents stranded in their homes as roads were blocked by fallen trees and debris.

To apply for an application, you can call 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585. Residents can also go online at DisasterAssistance.gov.

Kids Farmers Markets Connect Students With Fresh Produce

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



JESSICA WILT, The Journal

SPRING MILLS, W.Va. (AP) — The final group of kids shuffled into the cafeteria at Potomack Intermediate on Tuesday afternoon, a buzz coming from the Berkeley County Schools summer program students as they eyed the colorful vegetables and fruits perched on the tables in front of them.

As the students waited excitedly at the tables, and the adults in charge finished refilling the baskets with fresh produce, West Virginia Department of Agriculture Planning Coordinator Nathan Bergdoll commented that those smiles were what it was all about, his face giving away the pleasure in connecting the students with healthy food from local farms.

“These pop-up markets give our youth the opportunity to learn about fresh, nutritious produce, where and how the food they eat is grown and a chance to meet the producers that grow it,” he said.

The farmers market was one of seven, at each intermediate school in the district that hosted summer programming, the initiative coming from a collaboration from BCS, the Department of Agriculture, United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, WVU Medicine and several local farms, including Spring Valley Farm & Orchard, Powder Keg Farms, Town and Country Nursery, Orr’s Farm Market and Young Harvests.

The variety of squash, peaches, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, radishes, peppers and green onions in front of the students all came from farms not far from home.

Charlotte Norris, a board member from United Way, explained the farmers market idea started small and quickly grew, as the organizations came together to create a wonderful experience for the students. Not only did each student receive coupons to pick out some produce to take home, but each also received a reusable bag and took part in an educational activity that connected to healthy eating and living.

“Through the Promise Neighborhood Initiative, which falls under United Way, we’re involved in a variety of food initiatives because of our partnership with Burke Street School and the fact it sits in a food desert,” Norris said. “Some of the things we’ve done in the past was starting our community garden, summer food service

program at the school, anything to make sure families have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

“One of our former summer vistas came with the idea, ‘Why don’t we do a kids farmers market?’ I got on a call with her and with Carla (Toogan). She pulled in some other folks. Nathan had funds through his program, and so we wanted to make sure all six of the sites we’d be able to serve.”

Funds from the Promise Neighborhood Initiative hosted programming at Orchard View and Eagle School, while a specialty crop block grant through the Department of Agriculture helped fund the event for the other schools.

“One of the things we’ve always tried to do as part of the partnership with the Promise Neighborhood Initiative is partner with other organizations to bring those resources together for families,” Norris said.

Chattering animatedly in line as each student picked out vegetables, many taking the time to thoughtfully explain why the particular ones were chosen, the students were connected with food they might not typically see on their plates.

Jennifer Miller, BCS registered dietician, shared the story of one young boy who went through the line, pointedly picking out a cucumber, because he’s never had one before.

“Many of the kids have never tried some of these things before,” she said. “For them to not only see but touch it and get to take it home, they’re much more likely to enjoy that in the future. It gets them excited, because they get to do this all on their own. Many kids have come through and said they purposefully got things they’d never eaten before.

“It’s really neat to see the kids try stuff they’ve not been exposed to before.”

In the end, that connection and those smiles are what made the day worth it, as the students finished up their activity with Berkeley County student Melanie Jimmerson and headed back to the classrooms with bags full of goodies.

“We hope that these students garner interest in growing their own food and potentially becoming our next generation of farmers, but at a minimum, they will be the next generation of consumers, so educating them on the nutritional value and the impact sourcing local foods can have in their lives and their communities is extremely pertinent,” Bergdoll said. “These markets touch on multiple aspects of the impact that local products can achieve.”

Judge scraps order halting West Virginia needle exchange law

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

surge, clustered mainly around the state capital of Charleston and the city of Huntington, was attributed at least in part to the cancellation in 2018 of Charleston's needle exchange program.

The surge has led to an investigation by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that last month found emergency departments and inpatient medical personnel rarely conducted HIV testing on intravenous drug users in Kanawha County.

Previously, city leaders and first responders complained that the program in Kanawha County led to an increase in needles being left in public places and abandoned buildings, and it was shut down.

The CDC describes syringe programs as "safe, effective, and cost-saving."

Litter Removed From Public Lands, Roads

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Volunteers have been out in West Virginia cleaning up the state's roadways and landscape.

This spring, more than 8,500 volunteers removed 489 tons of litter, the state Department of Environmental Protection said.

The agency's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan administers the Make It Shine program in April and May's Adopt-A-Highway cleanup.

About 170 volunteer groups participated in Make It Shine, cleaning 737 acres of public lands and 46 miles of streams. For the Adopt-A-Highway program, 412 volunteer groups removed trash and tires from 1,081 miles of state roadways.

EPA Orders Clarksburg To Provide Clean Water Amid Lead Cases

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

CUNEYT DIL Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency ordered officials in Clarksburg, West Virginia to provide a clean source of drinking water or filters to remove lead from tap water after elevated levels of the toxin were found.

The EPA said conditions "may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health" and directed the Clarksburg Water Board to submit a plan to resolve the issue by August 1.

The order, filed on Wednesday afternoon, comes more than two months after three cases of children with elevated blood lead levels were reported, according to the EPA. Water samples taken on May 7 at three households showed lead levels above an allowable limit set by the EPA.

Further testing of drinking water conducted in June turned up more samples with the toxic metal, which the EPA says is not safe at any level and can be particularly harmful to children.

The Clarksburg Water Board currently faces fines from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources after it failed to notify the public about the risk of lead exposure. The agency issued an order on

July 2 but Clarksburg officials failed to send notices to households potentially served by lead service lines within three business days.

Lead lines were phased out in the 1950s, the agency said previously, and it's unlikely homes built after 1960 would have them.

The Clarksburg Public Water System serves approximately 17,686 people and provides water to other public water systems that serve an additional 38,225 people.

Tim Stranko, an attorney for the Clarksburg Water Board, said Thursday the utility plans to comply with both orders from the EPA and state, The Exponent Telegram reported.

In a statement, the environmental group Natural Resources Defense Council said a national review of lead service lines found West Virginia has about 20,000 lead pipes, and that they are widespread across other states.

"How many more communities must face a lead contamination crisis and poison their children before we get every lead pipe out of the ground across the nation?" Erik Olson, a senior director with the group, said in a statement. "Today it's Clarksburg, West Virginia."

TX Dems Who Fled Elections Bill Vote Get COVID

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



DARLENE SUPERVILLE and KEN MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three of the Democratic state lawmakers who fled Texas to stymie a Republican-backed

effort to impose broad new voting restrictions have tested positive for COVID-19 and are quarantined, the Texas House's Democratic Caucus director said Saturday.

One lawmaker tested positive Friday and the other two did so on Saturday, according to caucus director Phillip Martin. All three were fully vaccinated against the disease, according to Martin, who declined to release their names or conditions to "respect the privacy of Members and their personal health."

More than 50 Texas lawmakers arrived in Washington on Monday after leaving their home state on a private charter flight. They received criticism from Republicans and others after a photo showed them maskless on the plane, though federal pandemic guidelines don't require masks to be worn on private aircraft.

Rep. Chris Turner, the caucus chairman, said in a statement that the caucus was conferring with health experts in Texas for additional guidance.

"This is a sober reminder that COVID is still with us, and though vaccinations offer tremendous protection, we still must take necessary precautions," Turner said.

COVID-19 infections in people who have been fully vaccinated against the disease — also referred to as "breakthrough" infections — are rare, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Democrats left the state to deny the Republican-controlled Legislature the necessary quorum to pass a bill that would place new restrictions on voting in Texas.

Members of the caucus met with Vice President Kamala Harris, including two of the three lawmakers who tested positive, Harris spokesperson Symone Sanders said a statement on Twitter.

"Based on the timeline of these positive tests, it was determined the Vice President and her staff present at the meeting were not at risk of exposure because they were not in close contact with those who tested positive and therefore do not need to be tested or quarantined," Sanders wrote.

"The Vice President and her staff are fully vaccinated," according to Sanders.

Martin said it is not known where or when the three Texas lawmakers were infected.

"We don't know. In order to be on the plane everybody had to be fully vaccinated," according to Martin.

Members of the group also met with Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, but none of the three infected attended that meeting and Schumer's office has been notified of the positive tests, according to Martin.

Turner said the White House was also notified.

Texas House Speaker Dade McPhelan, a Republican, issued a statement saying he and his wife were praying for the health and safety of the sick lawmakers.

"My staff has reached out to Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, and his epidemiology team for any additional guidance on protocols for those exposed to COVID-19 post-vaccination," Phelan wrote.

Miller reported from Oklahoma City.

Letha "Frances" McCoy

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 19, 2021

MCCOY

Letha "Frances" McCoy, 57, of Williamsburg, WV passed away, Thursday, July 15, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born June 23, 1964, at Ronceverte, WV, she was the daughter of the late George Allen and Letha Mae Mason Scott.

Frances worked for Pro-Careers for over seventeen years. She loved hummingbirds. She had many feeders and would frequently watch them eating.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Troy Allen Scott and Gilmer Ray Scott. Survivors include her husband of thirty-four years, Patrick McCoy; son, George Warren McCoy of Williamsburg, WV; K9 son, Festus; brother, Robert Lester Scott of Anjean, WV; sister, Donna Jean Wickline (Milton) of Williamsburg, WV; and sister-in-law, Pam Scott of Williamsburg, WV; her grand-dog, Gracie; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel - 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, WV with Theo Morgan officiating. Burial will follow in the McCoy Cemetery, Williamsburg, WV. Visitation will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, July 19, 2021, at the funeral home.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Joe Beck Buttram

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



BUTTRAM

August 11, 1933 – July 15, 2021

Joe Beck Buttram, 87, passed away on the morning of July 15, 2021, after a brief illness.

Joe spent his formative years in the fields and on the farms of Northeast Texas. The choral and band programs at DeKalb high school ignited a passion for music that followed him throughout his life.

After completing a Bachelor's in Music Education at the University of North Texas, Joe picked up his clarinet and trotted the globe as a Bandsman in the U.S. Army's 9th Division. After an honorable discharge, it was back to North Texas for a Master's degree, followed by a position teaching instrumental music and voice at Springfield High School in Springfield, CO. He started a family while returning to school yet again, this time earning his Doctorate in Music Education at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

In subsequent years, Joe distinguished himself both professionally and artistically. After only three years as Assistant Professor, Joe was named Dean of the College of Music at Loyola University in New Orleans, where his love of music was refined into a love of jazz. Joe subsequently served as Director of the School of Music at the University of Kentucky and at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. He never put down his horn, actively performing in countless ensembles, large and small, throughout his career and into his retirement.

If anything, Joe was busier in retirement than during his professional career. He served as President of Local 674, American Federation of Musicians for several years, and served at various intervals as Development Officer, Music Director, composer, and actor for the Greenbrier Valley Theater in Lewisburg, WV. He is perhaps best known for over 100 performances in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in GVT's production of A Christmas Carol, a role he described as, "ideally suited for him."

Joe is preceded in death by his parents, Jarman and Lorene (Lipe) Buttram; and his beloved younger brother, Pat Rice. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Cathey and his canine girl, Sally; three children, Joanie (Jim), Bob (Darcy), and Patrick (Jamie); his sister, Jan, and brother, Mike (Becky); nephew, Will and his family; his in-laws who became his close family, and his admiring young nephew, Theo, a burgeoning prodigy on piano and trumpet who had the honor of being Joe's last student.

Following a private burial, a memorial service will be held at the Greenbrier Valley Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20. Dress is casual. Memorial gifts may be made to Greenbrier Valley Theater.

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

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

Patsy Ann Wingo (née Christian)

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



WINGO

On Monday, July 12, 2021, Patsy Ann Wingo (née Christian) died at the age of 85 in her West Virginia home in Lewisburg. She was a confirmed snowbird for over thirty years and also maintained a home on Siesta Key off of Sarasota, FL throughout the winter season with her husband, Walter, until his death in 2011. She is survived by her four sisters, Juanita, Virginia, Betty, and Charlotte, and her brother, Darius.

Patsy was born at home on the Christian family farm in Keister by the Greenbrier River in West Virginia and attended a one-room schoolhouse, until she moved to “the city” to attend her alma mater, Lewisburg High School. Lewisburg would remain her home and community for the most of her life, until retiring to Florida. Patsy remained active in both the Lewisburg House & Garden Club and Sarasota Garden Club and served as a nationally accredited Flower Show Master Judge Emeritus, a member of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church’s Women’s Circle, and an avid golfer with a Hole-in-One to her credit.

She began her professional career at The Greenbrier and worked primarily in the Publicity Department in the MadMen Era of business. She had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing many famous individuals in that role, but her fondest one was with Pearl S. Buck, Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning author. But most importantly, she made lifetime friends and met her future husband at the resort. Together, she and Walter mortgaged their home to the SBA and sold her U.S. savings bonds to create Walter H. Wingo - Fine Jewelry which serviced the needs of hotel guests through the late 20th century.

The Wingos spent many years visiting Walter’s children across the world, including Hawaii and Germany. When their only child together, Gregory A. Wingo, left for various schools, they visited him in Blacksburg, Los Angeles, Italy, and Clemson, and later throughout Europe. For her 80th birthday, Patsy chose to cruise Greece, the Dalmatian coast, and Italy with her son; his wife, Rachel; and their daughter, Kearney, as her last great traveling adventure.

While only having one child with Walter, Patsy was also a mother figure for her stepson, Walter H. Wingo, Jr. (Butch), and a grandmother to Gregg’s four children, Helvetia, Adele, and Celeste of Switzerland, Kearney and his stepson, Korey, both of Lewisburg. She was also a great-grandmother of Floyde and Livio of Switzerland; however, long before that she was Grand Patsy to Walter’s grandchildren: Chuck, Scott, Andy, Jennifer, Chris,

David, Justin, Dylan, Ransom, and Sarah. She was, of course, also Great Grand Patsy to their fourteen sons and daughters. Her home was often filled with the laughter and playfulness of children of all ages.

A memorial service will be held August 28, 2021 at noon at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, WV with a reception following immediately afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lewisburg Foundation's Flowers Forever fund in Patsy's name. Donations should be sent to the Lewisburg Foundation, 674 Church St., Lewisburg, WV 24901. The foundation can be contacted at (304) 647-3520 to answer questions concerning their community beautification mission.

Patsy will be interred with her husband and eternal dance partner, Walter, in the Sarasota National Cemetery this Fall on a date to be determined.

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

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

Ellen Evey Frerotte

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



FREROTTE

Ellen Evey Frerotte, 70, exited this life on Thursday, July 15, 2021, after a year-long illness.

Born Ellen Ann Evey in Williamsport, PA in 1951, daughter of Sheldon Wade Evey and Alice Edwards Evey; she was always a quiet, creative, and humble spirit. High School friends described her as the "real deal", never needing to hold court or "toot" her own horn. Her positive impact on others has been felt across borders and widely here at home.

Ms. Frerotte had several careers, initially as a dental technician, then as a picture framer, a potter, and then at forty, she returned to college to get her teaching degree. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Morehead State University and went on to teach in Minnesota, North Carolina, and West Virginia. She was one of the first certified ESL teachers in the field. During her career, she taught in prisons, middle and high schools, most recently at Davis Stuart School, and at the Eastern Greenbrier Middle School. While in North Carolina, she received her Masters degree from Western Carolina University in Multicultural Studies.

Surviving Ms. Frerotte are her husband of 42 years, James Frerotte of Alderson, WV; her sister, Nancy Jane Evey of Las Cruces NM; her sons, Noel and Gessler; their wives, Jessica and Lisa; nine grandchildren; and many loving friends and neighbors.

Evey's hobbies included gardening, soap making, canning, sewing, knitting, beekeeping, wine making, and reading. She won ribbons At the WV State Fair for her wine and honey. For years, she also sold her goods at the Alderson Community Market and served on the board of the Alderson Hospitality House. Evey felt very blessed to be a member of this West Virginia community.

"Evey", to friends and family in West Virginia, was well traveled, having lived in, besides Williamsport, Lancaster, PA; Fairfax, VA; Clearfield, PA; Tracy, CA; Crookston MN; and Asheville, NC, before moving to Alderson, WV in 2010.

Joining the society of Friend in Asheville, she fully exemplified Quaker virtues as a caring and thoughtful Friend. She is remembered there for her generous work with those most in need.

Evey request will be honored by being cremated.

Rather than flowers, it was Evey's request that donations in her honor be made to The Alderson Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 647, Alderson, WV 24910; Hospice Care, 1606 Kanawha Boulevard W., Charleston, WV 25387; and the Friends of Feral Cats and Kittens, 848 Mount Zion Road, Alderson, WV 24910.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com.

Lantz Funeral Home in Alderson is in charge of arrangements.

Beckley Police Searching For Man Allegedly Involved In Shooting

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 19, 2021



Members of the Beckley Police Department are looking for a man involved in a shooting on Sunday.

According to information provided by the Beckley Police Department, at around 2 p.m. on July 18, officers responded to a shooting incident in the area of Westline Drive in Beckley.

Upon arrival, they discovered that one female victim had suffered a gunshot wound to her lower body. She was transported to a local hospital for treatment where she is currently in serious but stable condition.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the victim had been shot during a domestic-related assault. The suspect, Albert Shacore "Snoop" Jones, 25, of Beckley was later observed in the area of Maxwell Hill Road. An extensive search was conducted by multiple agencies, however, Jones has not been located. Arrest warrants have now been obtained on charges of malicious wounding, burglary and wanton endangerment.

Anyone with information related to this incident or the suspect's location is encouraged to contact the Beckley Police Department at 304-256-1708 or Crimestoppers WV at crimestopperswv.com or their P3 Tips app.