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Dear Abby: Friday, July 23

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

Sister's Proselytizing Impacts Man's Social Life

Dear Abby: I have a much older sister who has become very religious. Most of her life decisions are based on her faith, so conversations tend to develop into faith-oriented topics and justifications. I don't initiate these conversations, and I make a genuine effort to understand her perspective. When I am not able to, I have mastered the "smile and nod." My problem is, anytime I bring a friend or date to a family function, she drags them off to the side and begins to question and discuss the importance of faith. Since religion is a widely varied and highly sensitive topic, this can sometimes be uncomfortable. I recently asked her to stop doing it, and I haven't heard from her since. How can I explain healthy boundaries to her so we can have a respectful relationship? — **Younger Brother in Georgia**

Dear Younger Brother: If part of your sister's religion is advancing it or converting others to her faith, you won't be able to convince her to stop. I agree that what she's doing can come across as obnoxious. Because you can't control what she says or does, you may have to stop bringing friends or dates to family functions where you know she'll be present. Otherwise, warn them in advance so they can either avoid being cornered or get away from her.

Dear Abby: My boyfriend was my first crush in grade eight. We are in our late 40s now. He was in a relationship for 17 years with a woman who has three daughters. One hasn't talked to either parent in years. The other two drink, use drugs and have kids of their own. They often ask to "borrow" money, but never pay it back. One of them asked me for enough to put down a deposit for rent on a house. I have two of my own children and my exes don't support them, so I'm wondering how responsible I am for his ex-girlfriend's kids. — **Not Gonna Happen**

Dear Not Gonna: You have no legal, moral or ethical obligation to the children your boyfriend raised with his former girlfriend. Stick to your guns, dear lady, because you are off the hook if you have the backbone to stay that way.

Dear Abby: I am a 50-year-old male. When I interact with a woman whose name I don't know, I address her as "Dear." Surprisingly, many of them respond in a negative way, regardless of age. Is it wrong to call someone "Dear"? And if so, what should I call them if I don't know their name? — **Unsure in Iowa**

Dear Unsure: The women may respond the way they do because they consider being called "Dear" by a stranger to be overly familiar or even condescending. (Other titles to avoid would be "Honey" and "Young Lady," if the woman appears to be past the age of 30.) Be safe — and respectful — by addressing them as Miss or Ma'am.

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.

It Happened This Week: July 22 - 26

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

The following information is taken from the pages of The West Virginia Daily News, The West Virginia News, and The Greenbrier Independent in The West Virginia Daily News archives from 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago. July 23-26, 1996

25 Years Ago...

Jodi Parrish DeHaven recently graduated from the School of Nursing at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College.

She is the daughter of Larry and Glenna Parrish of White Sulphur Springs.

Maj. Henry B. Simpson of White Sulphur Springs has been assigned to Ft. Jackson, SC, as chief of the Air Defense Assistance Team.

He is the son of Debbie Schwarz Simpson of White Sulphur Springs and the late Emmett L. Simpson.

James Brooks was honored with a retirement dinner on May 31 at the Circle J Restaurant with family and friends.

Brooks was employed by Vepco on August 14, 1961, and was transferred to the Fairlea department in May 1972.

He and his wife, Marie, reside in Caldwell.

Three graduates of area high schools were among the 188 seniors who received degrees from Berea College on May 26. They were Mattie Watts, a graduate of Greenbrier East High School; Monica Miller, also a graduate of Greenbrier East; and Christy Smith-Dunbar, graduate of Greenbrier West High School.

There has been a changing of the guard at the Lewisburg/Fairlea Community of Churches Food Locker. After serving as executive director of the organization for its entire 14-year history, Gary Waple decided to step down at the end of 1995.

Karen Houts was selected to take Waple's place.

Marine Pvt. Chad M. Fife, son of Michael J. and Katra B. Fife of White Sulphur Springs, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC.

He is a 1995 graduate of Greenbrier East High School in Fairlea.

Tana R. Schafer, Greenbrier East High School graduate, has been accepted to Davis & Elkins College for the fall term.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Perry of Clintonville.

Lewisburg resident Aaron Mugaas was among the 499 students receiving degrees at Shepherd College's 123rd commencement on May 11.

Greenbrier Physicians Inc. is pleased to announce that Steven E. Vess, D.O., will be joining Dr. Tamea in the orthopedic department effective July 22.

July 22, 1971

50 Years Ago...

Christopher R. Walkup has been advanced from executive vice president of the Bank of White Sulphur Springs to the office of president.

A native of Renick, he is the son of the late Leps Walkup.

At the 77th annual convention of the West Virginia Funeral Directors Association last week, Robert L. Wallace of Rainelle and Lewisburg was elected president. Gordon A. Shanklin of White Sulphur Springs was elected vice president.

Julian C. Cooley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian A. Cooley of White Sulphur Springs, was recently promoted to Army specialist four near Anchorage, Alaska.

Miss Sue Sailor and her mother, Mrs. John Sailor of Frankford, have sold their home and are moving into the North House on the Greenbrier College Campus.

John R. Dawkins of Lee Street, Lewisburg, attended the semiannual meeting of the board of directors of the National Livestock Dealers Association held in Denver, CO. He was reelected a director of that organization.

The Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department was called out Sunday afternoon when a truck caught fire on Caldwell Hill. The truck turned out to be one of Lewisburg's fire trucks.

Navy Petty Officer First Class William S. McClung, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. McClung of Lewisburg, is serving with Fighter Squadron 51 at the Naval Air Station, Miramar, Calif.

Bertram C. Taylor of Ronceverte has been made local manager of Columbia Gas of West Virginia Inc. in charge of gas service in Lewisburg, White Sulphur Springs, Ronceverte, and Union. He is a graduate of Lewisburg High School.

July 25, 1946

75 Years Ago...

Several officials of the Kelly Construction Co. has arrived in Alderson to make preparations for starting work on the Alderson-Fort Spring Road.

Robert Moore of Marlinton lost three teeth and sustained a bad cut on the chin when kicked in the face by a horse several days ago.

The famous Jones boys of Peterstown, Monroe County, numbered 16 until one was killed in action. The remaining 15 now have a baby sister born Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Jones.

Jones, the father, is 56 years old and is a teacher in Giles County, Va. His wife is 44 and was at one time his pupil in school.

The U.S. Senate passed a bill which would give the C&O Railway priority to buy White Sulphur.

Charles A. Butler of Ronceverte will be honored by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of West Virginia, A.F. & A.M. by being presented with a 50-year service button.

July 23, 1921

100 Years Ago...

H.C. Kincaid of Cabin Creek, late of Marlinton, in handling a bunch of bananas was bitten by a scorpion. He was not seriously injured, but the scorpion died.

Vigilant detectives have discovered the newest thing in "booze" caches. When raiding the home of a man in Chicago, they found that the newel post at the foot of the staircase had been hollowed out and several quarts of corn whiskey hidden in it.

Andrew L. Broyles of Wykle, Monroe County, had two, good, 3-year-old steers killed by lightning last Friday evening. The animals were out in the open field near no tree nor other object. A piece of bad luck for Mr. Broyles.

Hollowell Park Hosts State Little League Tournament

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 23, 2021



The West Virginia Little League Tournament came to a close on Wednesday, July 21, with Jefferson County emerging victorious.

Set in Hollowell Park in Lewisburg, the tournament began on July 16 with Governor Jim Justice throwing the first pitch. Local Little League organizer Brian Griffith celebrated the opening pitch and first game of the tournament, explaining that the “kids were thrilled” with getting to play, seeing Babydog join Justice for the opening pitch, and watching a full park cheer their teams on.



Photo courtesy of the governor's social media.

From there, teams from across West Virginia began to face off. Central Greenbrier County's own All-star team started off strong, winning the first game 3-0 against Summersville. As they continued into the bracket, however, the team took two losses, including a 4-11 final loss at the hands of Barboursville.

"Sadly, Central Greenbrier Little League 10- to 12-year-old All-stars lost tonight and have been eliminated from the West Virginia State Tournament BIG thanks to everyone who came out to support them!" announced the local Little League on social media. "It was great to see so many past, present and future little leaguers, coaches, family members and supporters at the field tonight. We're humbled by your support of the league and couldn't do this without you! ... We couldn't be prouder of them and their coaches. Thank you for a GREAT season!"

The Barboursville team then went on to face Beckley on Tuesday, July 20, where they emerged with a victorious 6-0.

"This is an awesome team," said Jeremy Adkins, coach for Barboursville. "They come out every day fired up and ready to go. They didn't give up after their loss to Jefferson back in the lower bracket and I expect us to be in the Championship game tomorrow evening. Today was excellent for us."

Tucker Adkins and Jacob Courts were two of the Barboursville players, each excited and fresh off the victory. Courts pitched the Wednesday game, impressively catching a ball hit right back to him in the latter half of the game.



Barboursville takes on Beckley

Both boys complimented Lewisburg and Hollowell Park, Courts saying “people are really nice around here.”

The pair of boys looked forward to their next game.

“I feel like we’re going to win,” Adkins said.

“We’re going to be coming in, striking hard, striking fast, it’s going to be great,” Courts said.

The tournament came to a close on Wednesday, July 21, with the final tournament brackets facing off. Barboursville took on the Logan County All-star team, who took the win, 8-1, continuing onto the final game.

Around 8:30 p.m., the Logan County and Jefferson County All-star teams were prepped, and the players recited the Little League Pledge — “I trust in God, I love my country, and will respect its laws. I will play fair, and strive to win, but win or lose, I will always do my best.”

Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White stepped out to throw the final first pitch of the tournament, waving to the crowd she joined moments later.

“That was a curveball! That’s good!” Griffith told the mayor after the pitch. White laughed, later saying “I know baseball.”



Mayor Beverly White throws the final opening pitch.

The match for the championship finished in the fourth inning, with Jefferson County winning 10 to Logan County's 0.

"It's awesome," said Jefferson Little League Vice President Mike Moulton. "This is a really tight-knit team. We just got out there and played the way we played — I don't think we had an error the whole state tournament, which was pretty impressive. We only had three runs scored on us — we 10-run-ruled everybody. ... This group won the state championship when they were ten. They've been an awesome team all around, one through 13, everyone can hit. It's been a pleasure to coach these guys."



Jefferson County (maroon) took the championship 10-0.

The Jefferson County team will go on to represent West Virginia in the Little League Southeast Regional Tournament at the Warner Robbins, GA, this coming August.

As the winning team took a victory lap, White slipped away for a moment, speaking to Logan County. She then returned to take a celebratory photo with the winning team. White was initially expected to award the champions a victory banner, but the correct banner had not yet arrived in Greenbrier County.



The Jefferson and Logan county teams mingle and shake hands after the Championship game.

The field hosting the tournament is the closest to the skate park, which was recently upgraded by the city with synthetic turf and new nets just before the tournament began. Public Works Director Tony Legg noted in a recent meeting of the City Council that the new field is holding up to the weather.

"[The tournament] started up Friday night and should wind up Wednesday or Thursday night," said Legg. "The kids really love it, the field is doing great. They had heavy rain and [the drainage is doing well] because in a half an hour, they could play on it. It's really doing great."

For those that were unable to attend the games, each can be found online to stream, with commentary from Jeff Campbell, from Video Productions' social media: facebook.com/videostreamWV or youtube.com/c/WVVideoProductions/videos.

"This has been my view the last five days broadcasting the West Virginia State Little League Baseball Tournament," Campbell posted to social media. "Special thanks to Butch Mounts of Video Productions for allowing me to call baseball play-by-play for the first time since I worked Princeton Reds and Bluefield Orioles in 1995."

Griffith, the Central Greenbrier Little League, all of its players, Lewisburg Public Works, and the ample volunteers are now left to prepare for the next season in Hollowell Park and beyond.

"The 2021 WV state tournament is officially over," the Little League posted. "Good luck Jefferson County Little League. We need help tomorrow at 5:30 to help clean up the fields if anyone would like to help. Thank you to all our volunteers on the field and in the concession stand."



A celebratory photo with Jefferson County.

Greenbrier County Awards Arts and Recreation Grants

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

The Greenbrier County Commission has released the final list of Arts and Recreation grant winners.

During the June 11 meeting of the commission, the board voted to approve the applicants listed above.

The approved projects total \$360,869.94, a majority of the \$406,241.92 requested by all applicants.

Normally Arts and Recreation grant applicants go through a series of interviews, but that process was disrupted in 2020. Continued issues with COVID-19 led to the interviews not being conducted for this year either, leading the commission to approve all the projects that were eligible for funding. This includes partial funding or rejection for some projects that were not able to be approved due to rules around bed tax funds.

The fund is financed through a 3% hotel/motel tax, also known as a bed tax, on relevant businesses in Greenbrier County, such as The Greenbrier, the hotels in Lewisburg near I-64, and bed-and-breakfast businesses. After a bill passed by the West Virginia Legislature this year, this now includes online AirBnB-type businesses as well. The tax, which can be as high as 6% due to State Code restrictions, is divided between an Arts and Recreation fund and the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), an organization that actively markets the area to potential tourists, travelers, and conventions. The focus of the tax is to draw more tourists to these businesses through the marketing efforts of the CVB.

Arts and Recreation funds are also spent on other projects throughout the year, such as the often split vote of funds going to the Greenbrier County Sportsplex project. Commissioner Tammy Shifflett-Tincher typically votes against these approvals, with Commission President Lowell Rose and Commissioner Mike McClung voting in favor.

Investigation Into Greenbrier County Jane Doe Continues

By autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 23, 2021



Just over 20 years ago, along a lonely stretch of Route 60 in Greenbrier County, the skeletal remains of a woman were found. To this day, officers have not discovered who this woman is or why her body was left near the side of the road, but they haven't stopped trying.

First Sgt. Andy Evans with the West Virginia State Police Lewisburg Detachment is now in charge of the investigation and he is looking for answers. He, along with everyone who worked on the case, is determined to finally discover the identity of this woman and bring the person(s) responsible for her murder to justice.

According to Evans, back on May 9, 2001, a WV Paving employee was searching for Mason jars over an embankment located at a popular wide spot along Route 60 near Alta. People would frequently park at the wide spot and would often throw trash over the hill, making it the perfect spot to search for old treasures. As the paving employee was looking around, he noticed what appeared to be a human skull and called the police.

Vince Deeds, who now works for the Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney's office, was a sergeant in the West Virginia State Police at the time. He was one of the original officers who responded to the call.

"It was apparent that the skull had been there for some time," Deeds recalled. "We began a full crime scene. We took the time over several days to gather evidence including trash, deer bones and everything else. Some of the things we found were not relevant to the case, but we took all the bone matter to Regina Reynolds at the state medical examiner's office."

Medical examiners were soon able to discover that the remains were of a white woman who would have been about 5 ft. tall and between the ages of 37-47 at the time of her death. Her left humerus (upper arm bone) showed evidence of a healed fracture and she had a chip in one of her lower teeth. Additionally, she most likely bore at least one child, may have been left-handed and may have been a smoker. During her life, she had received quality dental work.

Based on the condition of the remains, investigators believe that she was the victim of a homicide and that

her date of death is estimated to have occurred sometime between 1998-2001.

DNA was collected from the remains and her DNA profile was entered into the FBI's CODIS database, Deeds said. Also, during this time, West Virginia State Police Sergeant Michael Spradlin, now retired, worked with local Fayette County artist David Weaver to have a clay facial reconstruction model made to show what she may have looked like. To date, this is the only facial reconstruction available.

The skull was later sent to forensics expert Dr. Douglas Owsley at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. where additional testing, including dental x-rays, were completed. This information was entered into the NCIC database to help identify her. Her skull remains at the Smithsonian today.

After all this effort to determine the identity of this woman, there have been no DNA matches and every missing person report follow-up has come back empty.

"We are still looking for leads and answers," Deeds said. "We are hoping and praying that one day someone's DNA will be put into CODIS and we will have a hit."

In the meantime, Deeds said it is important for people to continue to discuss this incident in the hopes that an old memory may be the missing puzzle piece that helps solve the case.

"Now that some time has passed, a family member may be willing to come forward with information that they were not previously ready to disclose, or a person might be more willing to come forward with much-needed details," Deeds said. "Help from those in the public is priceless."

Since 2001, the wide spot, which was large enough for semi-truck drivers who needed a break from traveling nearby I-64 to park in, has been filled in with gravel and dirt. Unless a person has lived in the area for years, they would never know a wide spot had ever been at that location. Unfortunately, for those who know better, every time that site is passed, old memories return.

"We have no suspects," Evans said one evening as he sat behind his desk going through the Jane Doe evidence box at his side. "This is unfinished business. This was someone's mother, daughter, family member — we would love to be able to identify her."

"I just want closure for her and for her family," he continued. "I want to know about the person who did this to her. I want to know if this is the only person they have done this to."

Through CODIS, 23 missing females have been cleared as being Greenbrier County's Jane Doe.

Members of the public are encouraged to call First Sgt. Evans and provide any information they may have. He may be reached at the Lewisburg Detachment of the West Virginia State Police at 304-647-7600.

Bill Would Ban Conversion Therapy In Charleston

By matthew young | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Officials in West Virginia's capital city have introduced a proposal to ban the discredited practice of conversion therapy for LGBTQ children.

The Charleston Gazette-Mail reports that Councilwoman Caitlin Cook, a council liaison to the city's LGBTQ

Working Group, introduced the bill on Monday.

Conversion therapy is a practice used to try to change sexual orientation or gender identity. Many people who have been through it say it deepened feelings of depression and increased thoughts of suicide.

If approved, Charleston would be the first in West Virginia to enact such a ban.

“This ordinance really is about protecting and valuing our LGBT community members that call Charleston home as well as and making it known to visitors that may come to Charleston that we are an inclusive community,” Cook said.

The proposed ordinance carries a fine of up to \$1,000 for violations.

More Prizes Given Away

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

TRIADELPHIA, W.Va. (AP) — Two women have won custom-outfitted trucks and a nurse won \$1 million as the latest recipients of West Virginia’s vaccination sweepstakes prizes.

Gov. Jim Justice surprised Shannon Cook of Glen Dale in Marshall County while she was shopping Wednesday by calling her name over the store’s loudspeaker. She came to the front desk and was told she was among the winners in the fifth prize drawing of the sweepstakes, the governor’s office said.

Justice presented Hope To of Charleston with keys to another truck, and he surprised Morgantown nurse Denise Morrison of Fairmont with the week’s \$1 million prize.

Marshall University Seeks Input

By The Associated Press | WVDN JUL 23, 2021

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Marshall University’s presidential search committee is seeking input from students, faculty and the public, as well as others, about the type of person needed to faces the challenges Marshall will be encountering.

The committee is planning a second series of on-campus listening sessions for students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community members, the university said. The sessions are scheduled for Aug. 3 and 4 on the Huntington and South Charleston campuses.

Two days of listening sessions were held last week on the Huntington campus.

President Jerome A. Gilbert announced in April he would not seek an extension of his contract, which ends next July.

The university’s presidential search website has information about the schedule of sessions.