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Two Men Arrested Following Theft At J&J Fabrication In Beckley

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 29, 2021



Two Beckley men are at Southern Regional Jail following a theft at J&J Fabrication on Ragland Road.

Joshua Paul Farley, 32, and Brandon Jamie Smith, 25, were arrested on July 24 by a Raleigh County Sheriff's Deputy after a brief search led to their whereabouts.

According to the criminal complaint filed in Raleigh County, Smith entered J&J Fabrication through the garage door after using a garage door opener found in a vehicle located on the property. Once inside, he opened drawers at the front of the business, located a money box and took \$180 out of it.

Smith can then be seen on camera taking an orange ECO 4510 chainsaw valued at \$329 and a black ICS concrete saw valued at \$3,000. Two kayaks were stolen from a vehicle outside. The value of the two kayaks is estimated at \$1,100, the complaint alleges.

Utilizing a K-9 officer, the deputy was able to track Smith to an abandoned house on Fernandez Drive. Located in the woods near the house was the chainsaw. Inside the house, the officer found Smith and Farley, the garage door opener, the kayaks and the money.

The concrete saw was not recovered.

After their arrest, the complaint states that both men refused to give statements saying, "there was no need and the [officers] already had it figured out."

Smith faces one felony count of entering without breaking, one felony count of grand larceny and one felony charge of conspiracy to commit a felony. His surety/cash bond has been set at \$50,000.

Farley faces one felony count of grand larceny and one felony count of conspiracy to commit a felony. He faces an additional misdemeanor charge of shoplifting following an incident on July 10 when he allegedly stole a Kobalt blower/trimmer valued at \$199 from Lowe's on Eisenhower Drive. His surety/cash bond has been set at \$25,000.

City Of Beckley Will Own Former Zen's Building On Neville Street, Lease To Fruits Of Labor

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

The old Zen's building on Neville Street and vacant lot across the street will now become property of the city of Beckley for the purchase price of \$1,110,000 following the second and final reading of an ordinance at Tuesday evening's common council meeting.

This purchase, which has caused much controversy throughout the city, will be leased to Tammy Jordan, CEO of Fruits of Labor — a culinary arts training center and cafe that helps those in recovery gain a skill and find employment in the restaurant business.

Mayor Rob Rappold once again became the tie-breaking vote as the council was divided between the no votes of council members Tom Sopher, Cody Reedy and Janine Bullock and the yes votes of council members Sherrie Hunter, Kevin Price and Bob Canter. Councilmember Robert Dunlap, citing an ethics violation due to his work in real estate law, did not vote.

Five citizens spoke out against the purchase during the meeting, including Dr. Kristi Dumas, Christina Baisden, Danielle Stewart, Adam Taylor and Brian Brown.

Dumas stated that the city shouldn't be purchasing properties at over \$1 million when residents in under-served areas of the city are struggling. In the Hartley Avenue area, residents have been pleading with the city to address flooding concerns — prompting the NAACP to file a class-action lawsuit, Dumas said.

"Voters are watching like never before," she reminded the council.

Baisden told the council that this vote is showing that "Beckley is not business-friendly," while Stewart stated that the purchase is "blatant favoritism" of one business over another and an "economic bailout" for current Zen's building owner Jenny Weng.

"She made a bad investment and her investment failed," Stewart said. "Councilmembers please put the needs of the other 17,000 residents above the need to bail out one business owner."

Taylor, a local attorney, stated that the downtown area of Beckley does not feel like a safe place due to loiterers and those struggling with drug addiction.

"It's not a good area for business . . . it's not a good environment for anybody to thrive," he said.

Brown, a local real estate agent, stated he doesn't believe the city should be funding private businesses like Fruits of Labor. He added that there are many other properties, with a much lower price tag, that the council should have looked at before making this decision.

"I think it's important that we become good stewards of the finances that we have been entrusted," Brown said. "There's so many other opportunities for us to spend our money in much better ways than to invest 1.1 million dollars of the hard-earned money of these people of this community than there." Further, he said that two years ago the council was unwilling to help Stratton Elementary students fund a field trip to New York, but now they are willing to purchase a building.

"I think that sets a bad precedent," Brown said.

Those speaking in favor of the purchase included attorney Alan Larrick, executive director of the New River Gorge Development Authority Jina Belcher and President/CEO of the Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce Michelle Rottellini.

Larrick stated he would enjoy having a cafe in downtown Beckley. He said it may help prevent loitering from "vagrants" and provide a meeting place for those doing business. His law firm is located beside the Zen's building.

Belcher stated that the purchase will help revitalize the downtown area and Rottellini said there are many public/private partnerships throughout the nation and that these partnerships are important "catalysts of change."

"That is the type of change that will get the ball rolling for us in downtown Beckley," Rottellini said.

In response to a question from councilmember Reedy regarding the lease arrangement with Jordan, Rappold responded that an agreement will be discussed at a later date, but that he estimates her lease being less than \$5,000 a month.

"Since I've been mayor, I have mentioned to each of our council people, this council and previous council, that the city is interested in a public/private partnership to spur economic development," Rappold said.

Reedy responded that before The Great Race rolled into the city several weeks ago, officers had to run the homeless away. He said the city should focus its efforts on city-wide issues, rather than investing in one location.

Everyone is welcome to attend Beckley Common Council meetings both in person and through Web-ex, an online platform. They take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

County Courthouse News July 22 - 28

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

County Courthouse News July 22 - 28

Marriages

Joshua Heath Coulter to Amanda Gayle Sharp;

Dyllan Chance Lewis to Ricki Cheyenne Fisher;

Mark Frederic Drennen to Minnie Kathryn Browning;

Brian Heath O'Conner to Megan Marie Wykle;

Patryk James Akers to Tomisha Justus Giese.

Fiduciaries

Stewart C Lewis and Richard E Ford, Executors of the Sandra Lewis estate;

Brian Redden, Administrator of the Charles Jackson Redden estate;

Garnett J Shialt Jr, Executor of the Robin Lynn Shialt estate;

Gary Morgan, Executor of the Margery Joan Holliday estate;

Joe Sharp and John Austin Sharp, Executors of the David Buster Sharp estate;

Crystal Lynn Dixon, Administratrix of the Teresa Lynn Anderson estate;

Judi Spinks, Administratrix of the Cristie B Dawson estate;

Howard L Estep, Administrator of the Dorothy Marie Estep estate;

Vickie K Whitt, Executrix of the Danny J Whitt estate;

Polly Angle, Administratrix of the Garnie Woodrow Angle estate;

Andrea Grace Berkley, Executrix of the Vernon Dean Berkley estate;

Debra L Bolt, Administratrix of the Fred W Bolt estate;

Carolyn Browning, Executrix of the Gail Wilkinson Ball estate;

Aretha Perry, Administratrix of the Lovelle David Harris estate;

Paul W Vance, Executor of the Melissa Keene Vance estate.

Land Transfers

Glenna M Carpenter to Jennifer Haffman and Brook S Carpenter and Bryer Tanner Carpenter, 1.00 acre more or less, Fort Springs District;

Mary Susan Wylie to Anthony Tyler Wylie, 104,000 square feet more or less, Williamsburg District;

Markus Koepfel to Bobby Joe Tincher and Byrda F Fogus Tincher, 1.15 acre, Falling Spring District;

William Allen Dean to Kala Dunbar and Derek Kashola and Elizabeth Kashola, 0.129 acre more or less, Meadow Bluff District;

Richard M Turshman Jr. to Madison Raine McClintic, Multiple Lots, White Sulphur District;

Loreta Belcher to David Kincaid and Regina Kincaid, Lot 4, Meadow Bluff District;

Ashley Rapp Parker to J David Rapp, 28.06 acres, Lewisburg Corp District;

Brandy M Rapp to J David Rapp, 74.203 acres, Frankford District;

Brandy M Rapp to J David Rapp, 36.37 acres and 144.50 acres and .25 acres, Lewisburg District;

Marsha W Fogus to Martin Lopez Aguirre and Maria Angel Munoz, Lot 57, 58 Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur Corp District;

Richard D Tiller Jr. to Richard D Tiller Jr. and Charles Wayne Tiller, Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 block 19, Rupert Corp District;

Richard A Vanburen and Audrey Vanburen to Richard A Vanburen Family Revocable Trust, 3.65 acres, White Sulphur District;

Michael S Walton and Drew A Walton to Alexander Kalif, Lot Number 2, Ronceverte Corp District;

Mary R Ames Revocable Trust by Successor Trustee to Robert A Rombola Revocable Trust, Lot 356 Creekside Phase II, White Sulphur District;

Randall Lynn Auvil and Christopher Owen Auvil, 0.933 acre more or less, Blue Sulphur District;

Aaron M Graham to Mckimmon Graham and Darlene C Graham, 10 acres more or less, Anthony Creek District;

Baker Investment Group Inc to Donna Jordan and John Jordan, three parcels, Lewisburg District;

Edward L Robinson to Susan Claire Touma Trust by Trustee, Lot 12 Howards Creek, White Sulphur District;

Stephen P King Jr. and Angela J King to Edward Robinson, Lots 29 & 28 Tanglewood Estates, 50 acres & 0.60 acre more or less, Lewisburg District;

Stephen P King Jr. and Angela J King to April Davis, 21.053 acres & 3.163 acres, Lewisburg District;

Gloria Ann Beverage and Jamie Larry Jones Curtis to Kurt William Ramsey, Lots 1 & 3 Sullivan Subdivision #3, Fort Springs District;

Robert D Ridgeway and Cynthia G Ridgeway to April L Holmes, 1.41 acres & 0.76 acre, Fort Springs District;

Stephanie Sims to Brittany Grace Masters, Lot 12 Longview Estates, Frankford District;

Wanda R Wykle to Savannah Rose Wykle, Lots 34 & 35 Edgewood Addition, White Sulphur Corp District;

Mohammad Umar to Mohammad Umar and Kellie Leigh Crawford, 1.655 acres more or less Lot 9 Sunset Ridge of White Rock Mountain Retreat, Irish Corner District;

Michael Kessinger and Brian Helton to Mid-State Properties LLC, 343 acres more or less, White Sulphur District;

2 Franks LLC to MRV Beverage LLC, 2.47 acres more or less, Meadow Bluff District;

Lowrie Piercy and Carson M Piercy to George Piercy, 3 Parcels, Fort Springs District;

Andrew S Monti and Amanda D Reed to Gail I Reed, Lots 64 & 65 Riverside Addition; Meadow Bluff District;

James Brian Duffield and Brandi L Sandy-Duffield, 2.00 acre, Lot 25 Valley Ridge Estates, Frankford District;

Kylla Darlene Stewart to William Todd Longanacre and Mabel Sabrina Longanacre, 39.70 acres more or less, Blue Sulphur District;

Charles K Miller and Evelyn M Eary and Eva Pearl Miller and Charles Eary to George Ambler and Vicky Ambler, 72 acres more or less, Irish Corner District;

Harry Lee Vance Irrevocable Living Trust by Trustee and Rose Marie Vance Irrevocable Living Trust by Trustee to Brandon M Hunt, 0.104 acre more or less, Irish Corner District.

Dear Abby: Thursday, July 29

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

New Living Arrangements Includes A Proposition

Dear Abby: Six months into the pandemic I was furloughed, then laid off a few months later. Because of the loss of income, I could no longer afford my rent and was forced to move. It was tough finding anything affordable in the area. A good friend from college ("Josie") and her husband own a big home with a detached guest house, and offered me the opportunity to rent for next to nothing until I found a new job. I was super happy about it because we are very close friends from college. Josie, her husband and I often BBQ together and hang out watching movies. One night recently, Josie had to work late, and her husband and I had dinner and wine. We got pretty drunk, and I decided to turn in early. Before I went to bed, Josie's husband asked me to have a threesome. He said Josie was going to ask me, but she was nervous about it, so she chickened out. I think my jaw must have hit the ground. I didn't know what to say, so I told him I'd "think about it." A week has passed and Josie hasn't mentioned anything about the threesome, but I'm scared to bring it up. I don't know if her husband was telling the truth. They MAY want a threesome, but I'm not into it. If I say "no" it might make things weird between us. What should I do? Should I ask Josie about it, or move out back home with my parents till I find a new job? — **Not What I Bargained For**

Dear Not: The husband's drunken proposition has already made things weird, but let it go — for now. I doubt this is something Josie is "too chicken" to ask you. IF he raises the subject again, make it plain that you are not into threesomes and not to ask again. If he presses further, inform your old college chum, pack your bags and go to your parents'.

Dear Abby: My husband's daughter "Crystal" is married to "Jeremy," who is a racist. I know this because of comments he has made over the past five years. At our only granddaughter's first birthday celebration, my husband and Jeremy got into a heated argument (a little politics, a little racism). Since we live out of state, we were supposed to stay with them, but we had to leave. Jeremy started screaming at my husband, calling him a pedophile and some other awful names. Crystal is demanding an apology from us and refuses to communicate or send photos of the baby until he does. My husband feels that Crystal's mind is made up and she will defend her husband no matter what, so there's no point. I hate that we're at an impasse. She has cut me off as well. Do you have any suggestions? — **Cut Off in the South**

DEAR CUT OFF: Crystal, whose views on race seem to coincide with her husband's, has you sidelined already. When your husband craves contact with his daughter and his grandchild, he will hold his nose, reach out and offer to mend fences. Until that happens, listen to what he is telling you and stay out of this mess.

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.

Dear Recycle Lady: Thursday, July 29

By Recycle Lady | WVDN JUL 29, 2021



Dear Recycle Lady,

While cleaning out my garage I found several chains of various lengths. Can these chains be recycled? Also, I found several partial boxes of unused nails. Can they be recycled? Cleaner-Upper

Dear Cleaner-Upper,

If the chains are metal, and not plastic, they can be recycled with metal. The nails would be too small for the Recycling Center to recycle but Restore takes them, as well as other construction items, but not shingles. If you have tools that you no longer need, Restore accepts those, also. All sales benefit Habitat for Humanity. It's

a win-win – a cleaner garage that helps Habitat for Humanity “help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.” Restore is located on North Jefferson Street in Lewisburg, across the road from Greenbrier Ford.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I received a lovely plant as a gift that had what appears to be an aluminum foil wrap on the pot. It crumples like aluminum and a magnet does not stick to it. Can this wrap be recycled? Loves Potted Plants

Dear Loves Potted Plants,

If the wrap on your plant crumples like aluminum, it can be recycled with aluminum foil. Be sure it is clean and dry before placing it in the recycling bin.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Please encourage your readers to save recyclables until they have a fair number of items to take to the Recycling Center. They are not helping the environment if gasoline is used in excess by visiting the bins often with only small amounts of recyclables. Environmentalist

Dear Environmentalist,

You are absolutely correct. Recycling is a balancing act between what to use and what to save. If several trips can be combined into one, less gas is used, thus less carbon omissions go into the air. Better yet, form a neighborhood collection where drivers switch off taking everyone’s recyclables in one trip.

Congratulations, Recyclers! Collectively, you recycled 635 tons of various recyclables at the Recycling Center during the first half of 2021! That’s 200 tons more than this time last year.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com . Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

Church Of Nazarene To Host Spaghetti Dinner

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

The Compassionate Ministries outreach of Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene, Fairlea, is offering a free spaghetti dinner to the community this Sunday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m., or while supplies last, at the church fellowship hall. The church is located at 167 Dawkins Drive, just off Davis Stuart Rd. approximately one-half mile south of Greenbrier Valley Medical Center. Rev. Terry Simpkins is the pastor.

Lewisburg First Fridays

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

August First Fridays in Lewisburg is on August 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.! Join the fun with complimentary tastings, live music, giveaways, festive beverages and special offers throughout town — all free to the public. Everyone is welcome!

Enjoy live Appalachian Soul and Blues live music in the City Green Space by local favorite Black King Coal from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

Welcome the newest business to downtown Lewisburg: Sheena Pendley Photography Studio. Stop by at the Studio on Court Street Open House for a print sale, giveaways, snacks, and more! 846 South Court Street, 304-646-9452.

Cooper Gallery will be featuring West Virginia modern artist George Snyder's new work for the month of August. Come meet George. His colorful, happy sculptures and paintings bring smiles. Refreshments will be served. Please join them for an interesting evening. 1067 Washington Street East, 304-661-1752.

Hill & Holler will have Dave Buhrman and Susan Sanders on the outdoor stage from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 970 North Jefferson Street, 304-647-4429.

Edith's store will be offering samples of their new to the store Talenti gelato. Talenti gelato is a delicious type of gelato made from scratch with quality ingredients from around the world and uses an old-world process that involves slow cooking their ingredients and making gelato in smaller batches than most other ice creams in the U.S. Edith's will also offer buy-one-get-one-free pints for the whole month of August. It's their way of saying a sweet goodbye to Summer. 1035 Washington Street East, 304-645-7998.

Wolf Creek's first 10 customers during First Friday hours who spend \$50 or more will receive a "happy bag" with a bandeau headband. Wolf Creek will also be doing a raffle drawing for a pair of Edgy Petal Earrings. Customers will be entered to win with each purchase. 967 Washington Street West, 304-645-5270.

Bella will celebrate summer with bubbly & popcorn! On the tasting table will be tasty bubbles and locally grown popcorn, plus a few surprises from the cheese case, too. 1017 Washington Street East, 304-520-4921, @bellagourmetwv for details.

Author Brenda Barnes Clark will be signing copies of her new book "The Runaways" at The New Chapter. "The Runaways" is about an 11-year-old girl from West Virginia who develops a special bond with a horse. 922 Washington Street West, 681-318-3501.

On First Friday Little Black Box Bra Boutique is offering professional bra fittings and 20% off select bras. 818 South Jefferson Street, 304-645-6646.

The Washington Street Pub will feature the Smooth Ambler Old Fashioned! 1030 Washington Street East, 304-645-7386.

The Greenbrier Valley Visitors Center welcomes all to stop in for an evening of unique art and an eclectic mix of music. August's "Art in the Valley" series features award-winning West Virginia photographer Deb Sorensen with her show "Focusing on West Virginia and Beyond." Come in to meet Deb and chat with her about her

exhibit of scenic photographs.

In the Art Alcove, Nan Morgan will display a collection of viewing stones. Nan will also be on hand to talk about her exhibit titled "Sticks and Stones", which includes several pieces that hint at imaginary hidden creatures. Enjoy an entire evening of musical entertainment with G.R.O.U.P. (Greenbrier River Optimistic Ukulele Players) strumming from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., followed by The Rust Brothers (George, Bob and Jim) from 6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Local harpist Leah Trent will close out the evening with a performance from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. 905 Washington Street West, 304-645-1000.

Spend \$25 at Harmony Ridge and receive a free gift! And enjoy the ever-popular wine and bubbly First Friday special at \$4 a glass. 886 Washington Street West, 304-645-4333.

Performing at The Asylum: Victor Della Torre — or Vic D.T. as he is also known — is a drummer singer of four decades. Able to play any genre of music, he mixes his Roland electronic drums to blend with tracks sans drums and vocals, and plays and sings in an effortless and very entertaining way. Young and old, classic rockers to country fans, all get a taste of what they like to hear. 399 Randolph Street East, 681-318-3515.

Aggie's and Vest will be serving refreshments and celebrating the notion that summer does not end until late September. 979 Washington Street West, 645-4063.

Stop by the North House Museum to enjoy live folk music by Rural Felicity and refreshments in The Star Tavern Room. All exhibits and displays will be open for casual viewing. 814 Washington Street West, 304-645-3398.

Pop in to Patina to enjoy live Celtic music by Patrick O'Flaherty and complimentary beverages and Girl Scout cookies. 1046 Washington Street East, 304-520-4960.

First Fridays is sponsored by City National Bank and the Shops and Restaurants of Downtown Lewisburg. For more information go to visitlewisburgwv.com or to FaceBook or call 304-645-4333.

Rainelle Receives ARP Funding, Council Discusses Ongoing Issues

By by autumn shelton | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

The town of Rainelle has received its first allocation of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. According to Mayor Robin Williams, the town received \$395,414.79.

"We are waiting for a list of what this money can be used for," Williams stated. "I'm told it could be roads, sidewalks. We are not really sure what all, but we will find out. It's there for us to use for the town."

She said that as soon as the list is received, the town will figure out how to spend the money.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, was signed into law by President Joe Biden in March. Through the act, federal grant funding is being provided to state and local governments to improve infrastructure and to help recover from the Coronavirus pandemic.

In other business,

- Barbara Gwinn, Rainelle resident, was in attendance to once again discuss the trailer park on Ohio Avenue. She said that she is tired of watching residents use the bathroom outside, tired of dealing with the continuing trash problem, concerned about the ongoing drug activity and so much more.

"The town should be doing something," Gwinn stated. "You all hold the key to put a stop to that. Something needs to be done."

Councilmember Rick McCall told her to call 911 every time she witnesses something take place.

Gwinn responded that she has a long list of calls that she and others have made to 911 that she could provide to the council at any time.

Williams added that the owner of the park has not been paying business and occupation taxes and that she is going to work with town attorney Mike Anderson to solve the problem and possibly have the owner's license to operate the park revoked. In response to a question about getting a Rainelle Police force together to put a stop to this type of activity, Williams said that former Greenbrier County Sheriff's Deputy Doris Vandall will soon be a full-time town police officer. This was met with a round of applause from audience members.

"It's a problem trying to get officers that will work," Williams said. "She will be on board soon." She noted that she is working on getting other officers;

- Council received one estimate for street paving projects from Southern WV Paving for \$96,950. Council decided to reach out to other companies to see if they could get a lower estimate;

- Councilmember Jimmy Matheney asked council if they would be willing to change the locks on the doors at town hall from keyed entry locks to code-enabled locks. According to Matheney, the locks would cost about \$300 each. Council decided to research this further before making a decision;

- Council recognized former mayor Andrea Pendleton for her work in getting "Hometown Heroes" banners placed throughout the town;

- Council broke into an executive session to discuss employee matters.

The Rainelle Town Council meetings are open to the public. They take place on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Rainelle Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

COVID Task Force Summary, July 27

By Sen. Stephen Baldwin | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

The Greater Greenbrier COVID-19 Task Force met this morning via conference call and reports the following information.

Greenbrier County Schools — Tomorrow, county superintendents will be meeting with the WVDE to talk about plans for the fall and the Delta variant's presence in WV. We continue meeting with health officials and state officials to make an informed decision for the start of school. As soon as we arrive at a conclusion, we will communicate it widely.

WVSOM — Students are back on campus now. We continue to take COVID precautions such as distancing, requiring masks for unvaccinated students, and encouraging masks for all students.

Robert C Byrd Clinic — COVID testing continues daily from 9 a.m. - noon in the mobile clinic unit (parking lot of the east entrance). You can also call to make an appointment anytime. You do not need to be a regular patient to receive a vaccine. Masks are required within the clinic per CDC guidelines.

Rainelle Medical Center — We are doing free COVID testing daily from 10 a.m. - noon. Vaccines continue to be offered every Thursday by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are doing free sports physicals every day from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. at our site (behind Eastern Greenbrier & Greenbrier East). Please call to make an appointment at 304-645-1052. On August 25 from noon - 2 p.m. we are hosting an open house at our school-based site for the community.

Committee on Aging — Both of our centers are open for activities and meals (Fairlea and Rupert). We are also continuing to provide all regular services.

High Rocks — We continue to offer meals four days per week. That will continue over the summer. If you'd like to order a meal, please call 304-647-4994. The cafe is also open weekdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Celebration — Mark your calendars for July 28 when we will recognize all those in the community who volunteered to protect public health during the course of the pandemic. It runs from 5-7 p.m. at the Clingman Center by Hill & Holler. Light refreshments will be served by several restaurants that provided meals during the pandemic. (Setup is at 10 a.m. that morning for those who would like to help.) If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Mason at Jennifer.Mason@dinsmore.com.

WV Senate — Statewide, active cases are up 50% just over the past seven days. Several of our surrounding counties (Nicholas and Webster) are in the gold and orange. This is not over yet. Nationwide, we are entering a fourth wave that is by and large affecting the unvaccinated.

Submitted by Senator Stephen Baldwin, chair of the Task Force.

Customer Appreciation Day

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021



In March of 2020, after more than a century and a half in print, The West Virginia Daily News shut its doors. The paper's closing was deemed yet another casualty of the collateral damage left behind in the wake of COVID-19, and the Greenbrier Valley moved on...albeit slightly less informed.

Then something happened that changed the fate of the temporarily defunct newspaper; Dr. Scot Refsland read the March 27, 1890 edition of the Greenbrier Independent and stumbled across a passage that would breathe new life into the paper...

"Nothing shall be indifferent to us which advances the cause to truth and morality, or which concerns the welfare of the community in which we live."

"I couldn't be indifferent in letting an iconic legend like the Daily News die," Refsland said.

On Friday, August 21, 2020, The West Virginia Daily News released its first issue in nearly six months, announcing a return to a full publication schedule. And when readers picked up their paper that day, they were greeted with two simple words: "We're Back!"

That issue told readers "The West Virginia Daily News has been a part of the Greenbrier County community in various forms since 1866. That kind of legacy is one we aim to continue in our newest form, as we push the newspaper into modern times. We don't just want to present you with the latest news and updates from around the area, we want this newspaper to belong to you."

Since then, WVDN has released 147 daily editions and will be celebrating our milestone 150th edition on Tuesday, August 3. (In commemoration of that milestone, we will be unveiling our new logo and masthead.)

In honor of our loyal readers, we will be hosting a "Customer Appreciation Day" at our Lewisburg offices on Friday, July 30. The community is invited to join us here from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. So come join us for some hot dogs and popcorn, let your little ones jump in the bounce house and pet the baby lambs, meet Greenbrier County's K0 Officer Thelma, enter for a chance to win State Fair tickets, and check out our subscription specials. We hope to see you and your families.

Carnegie Hall To Reopen Galleries

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

Carnegie Hall's August/September Exhibits open Friday, August 6. There will be a reception for three of the shows at 5 p.m. in conjunction with Lewisburg's First Fridays after 5. Carnegie Hall features four galleries, which display the works of regional artists for two-month shows. This month's exhibits feature works by Margy Green, Deborah Diane Lester, Suzanne Wiseman, and the Fiber Arts Network.

"The Apple and the Tree" exhibit by Deborah Diane Lester from Shady Springs, West Virginia, is featured in the Old Stone Room Gallery. Fine artist since 1983, Lester is self-taught but has taken workshops with Seay Earhart, Frankie Wheeler, Pat Lusk, Fred Graff, Joe Miller, and Alvaro Castagnet. She is the past president of Beckley Art Center and West Virginia Watercolor Society and a juried member of Tamarack since 1996.

The Lobby Gallery features art by Suzanne Wiseman, an artist and illustrator from Beckley, WV. She designs character sketches and paints them with watercolors. Her inspiration comes from faces from the past, present, and her imagination. This is her first solo exhibit.

The Museum Gallery will hold an art exhibit for the first time since the relocation of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame and features Greenbrier County native Margy Green. Green creates scenes from worlds or realms inspired by her dreams, from her love and appreciation of nature, as nuanced by her myriad life experiences. While most works are acrylic on canvas, other areas of expertise and execution include pencil, charcoal and oil pastel drawings, as well as watercolors, gouache and oils. She strives to create a visual reference for the miracles of our physical world in a way that evokes a feeling of wonder and respect for the planet, and for the universe that manifests our very existence.

During time spent living on the West Coast in Long Beach and later, San Francisco, many local, cultural and international influences affected her life, hence her artwork, such as experimental and performance art, yoga and meditative practices.

Margy's work has been exhibited in Southern California galleries and is in many private collections and business. On a constant path to learn and grow creatively, she does commissioned work including custom paintings, illustrations, landscapes, portraits, property portraits, murals on canvas, and logos.

The Board Room Gallery exhibit features the Fiber Arts Network (FAN) exhibit. FAN is a group of fiber artists who meets monthly during the school year in the Carnegie Hall Weaving Studio. The exhibit features work from several FAN artists including Leah Haymaker (knitting) from Clifton Forge, Virginia; Leslie Skeat (weaving) from Athens, West Virginia; Marie Murtaugh (weaving) from Lewisburg, WV; Amy Bush (weaving and crocheting) from Mount Nebo, WV; and Chris Asmann (weaving, knitting, and bobbin lace) from Fort Spring, WV.

Carnegie Hall August/September exhibits are on display August 6 through September 24. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, please visit carnegiehallwv.org, call (304) 645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV.

Programs in the Carnegie Hall 2018 season are presented with financial assistance through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

Yamato's Steak House Opens In Fairlea

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 29, 2021



The Yamato Steak House of Japan is bringing sushi, steak, and much more to Fairlea.

Kevin Huang is the manager and owner of Yamato, though he noted he would not be staying in the manager role permanently. Huang explained that what is commonly known as the “old Pizza Hut building” was an ideal location for a new business.

“We have a few businesses already, I’ve been opening businesses for 20 years. I have a different Yamato store in Monongalia. I saw that there was a lot of population here and plus the State Fair is here. That’s why we set up.”

The steakhouse opened on July 16, and since then Huang said it has “been very busy.”

“People see it and think Japanese Steakhouse — they will waste a lot of time cooking. We try to do it fast, just five or 10 minutes. We do a number of things — we opened another business like this, so it’s familiar to us already. ... Customers can call in, put a carry-out order and get away fast with their food.”

The menu offers a variety of appetizers and entrees, as well as a wonderful sushi selection. Teriyaki, tempura, hibachi, nigiri, sashimi, yakisoba, fried rice, soups, and salads are all on the menu.

Of the selection, this writer recommends the spicy salmon, shrimp tempura, and California rolls, which were served at the perfect temperature of cool for enjoying sushi.



Huang hopes the business can get more established and looks forward to taking on big orders.

“We have curbside-ready, we have online ordering, we are mostly dining customers, but I think there are a lot of offices around this place that I hope that we can do more for than lunch.”

As the staff prepares for the business that comes with the State Fair of West Virginia, Huang noted the building was “comfortable” for the dining services they offer.

Yamato Steak House of Japan is located on Route 219, on the left when coming back to Lewisburg from Ronceverte. They are open for business Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Sunday noon to 9 p.m.

Author’s note - this article was not sponsored and no food or services were provided for free for coverage.



Yamato

Greenbrier County Commission To Hold Special Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

The Greenbrier County Commission will hold a special meeting on Monday, August 2 at 11:00 a.m. in room 132 of the Greenbrier County Courthouse.

Agenda:

Call to Order

- To consider for adoption a Supplemental Resolution relating to the proposed issuance by the Greenbrier County Building Commission of its Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 A (Courthouse Improvements) (the "Series 2021 A Bonds"), in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$15,000,000, including the approval of the final forms, terms and provisions of the Bond Indenture and Security

Agreement, the Lease Agreement, the Assignment of Leases, the Credit Line Deed of Trust, Fixture Filing and Security Agreement with respect to the Greenbrier County courthouse property, and the Bond Purchase Agreement, all relating to the Series 2021 A Bonds and to authorize leasing the Greenbrier County courthouse property from the Greenbrier County Building Commission.

- To consider and act upon any measures related to the foregoing.

Adjourn

Building Commission 11:30 a.m.

Agenda:

Call to Order/Roll Call

- Old Business: Approval of minutes of prior Building Commission meeting.
- New Business: A. To elect officers of the Greenbrier County Building Commission. B. To consider the adoption of a Supplemental Resolution of the Greenbrier County Building Commission relating to the proposed issuance of its Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 A (Courthouse Improvements) (the "Series 2021 A Bonds"), in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$15,000,000, including the approval of the final forms, terms and provisions of the Bond Indenture and Security Agreement, the Lease Agreement, the Assignment of Leases, the Credit Line Deed of Trust, Fixture Filing and Security Agreement with respect to the Greenbrier County courthouse property, and the Bond Purchase Agreement, all relating to the Series 2021 A Bonds. C. To consider and act upon any measures related to the foregoing.

Adjournment

Failure To Update Sex Offender Information Results In Plea

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

Failing to notify the authorities of email accounts and internet access could result in a sex offender being sentenced to three to 15 years of imprisonment.

Randy McClung II was indicted in February 2020 on three charges of felony failure to register or provide notice of registration changes.

Rather than plead guilty to the three counts as second or subsequent offenses, as charged, McClung instead plead guilty to a lesser offense.

"I'm pleading to three counts of failure to register, first offense, instead of pleading to failure to register, second offense or subsequent," said McClung.

Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Robert Richardson noted that even the lesser offense was still a felony and could result in one to five years imprisonment.

Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Blake explained the cause for McClung's registry to the sexual offender list.

"The state would intend to produce evidence that on or about June 16, 2020, [an officer with the state police] was conducting routine sex offender compliance checks and stopped at the residence of the defendant, Mr. McClung, within the municipal limits of Rainelle," said Blake. "... Mr. McClung is required to register upon the sex offender registry for the remainder of his life due to a conviction for the felony offense of sexual assault in the third degree, with a conviction date of ... January 17, 2013, in which he was convicted of a matter involving a minor child."

Officers with the state police were allegedly given permission to enter the home by McClung during one of these routine checkups, resulting in the discovery of email accounts and an unexpected internet connection.

"Upon entering the home, they observed an internet Wi-Fi box to be powered on," Blake said "There was no ISP service provider that had been provided by Mr. McClung in his most recent sex offender registration update. He was requested to turn the television on, he agreed to do so, and it was further observed that there was an Xbox gaming machine that was active upon the television screen. At that point, it was discovered that Mr. McClung had an account, which he was using to chat with other players. ... Both the internet service provider and the email addresses at issue were required disclosures to any sex offender registration update. Mr. McClung stated ... that he was aware these changes were supposed to be reported ... however he chose not to do so."

After the plea, he agreed with the state's summary of events. Defense Attorney Dewitt Daniell noted going to trial would not likely benefit McClung.

"We did file some interesting motions I thought but the likelihood of those motions changing the situation was relatively minimal," said Daniell.

Already in custody, McClung was ordered to remain there after Richardson found him guilty of the offense. A presentence investigation has already been conducted, done approximately one year ago, which could have allowed sentencing to take place today, but Daniell noted one officer involved in the arrest wished to make comment at a sentencing hearing.

Kathleen Hampton

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

HAMPTON

Kathleen Hampton, 92, of Abingdon, VA and formerly of Lewisburg, WV, died on July 25, 2021.

Katie was born in Webster Springs, WV to the late Arnett and Mary Elizabeth Ward. Katie and her late husband, Roy, were members of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church, where they served as volunteers for many years before moving to Abingdon, VA to live with family in May of 2015.

Katie enjoyed life and never complained about anything. She was very positive and always spoke words of love, encouragement, and inspiration to everyone. She had a special knack for spotting a four-leaf clover whenever she walked out into the yard. Our family was always amazed at how she did that! She also loved her family and provided us a home that was full of love and creativity.

Katie was awarded several Blue Ribbons for exhibits she entered in the West Virginia State Fair over the years. Exhibits included her much loved Cinnamon Rolls; a photograph of South Holston Lake; and a special photograph of her granddaughter, Courtney, enjoying a water fountain flower arrangement.

Katie appreciated art. She was involved with Painting classes with friends in Lewisburg who enjoyed similar interests. Katie used her creativity to serve others. She often provided handmade centerpieces as table decorations in Wesley Hall, as well as other decorations around LUMC.

After losing her first grandchild, Josh, in 1991, Katie and Roy commissioned a special stained-glass window depicting their three grandchildren, Josh, Andrew, and Courtney. The window is on display close to the children's Sunday School Classes in the North wing of LUMC for all to enjoy for years to come!

When asked about her faith, Katie shared a story about growing up in Richwood, WV and going to Church on Easter Sunday with her family and especially her favorite "boy-cousin", Howard. During the invitation, both she and Howard went forward to pray the prayer of salvation and both were Baptized immediately following the Easter Service. We are so blessed that Katie remembered that experience as she was battling Alzheimer's disease.

Katie enjoyed travel with Roy, and they liked to camp and vacation with their life-long friends, Quincy and Mary Liz Richmond. They made lots of memories together all the way back to their High School days! Katie was always ready to go on a canoe trip down the Greenbrier River from Caldwell to Ronceverte on many, many Sunday afternoons!

For several years, Katie and Roy enjoyed long motorcycle trips with Flem and Barbara Browning. They rode their Honda Gold Wings together to Denver, Colorado, and Prince Edward Island in Canada, and lots of other places! How exciting!

Katie and Barbara raised their little ones as neighbors on Frazier Street, and they helped organize lots of activities for their husbands who were both in the U.S. Jaycees. Back in the day, they were Jayceettes (not p/c), and they traveled to the annual conventions in Louisville, KY and Oklahoma. Katie had lots of great memories about Jaycees.

Katie is survived by son, Mike (Vicki) Hampton of Jacksonville, FL and son, Bill (Darlene) Hampton of Abingdon, VA; grandchildren, Andrew (Sarah) Hampton, Courtney Hampton, Ginny (Walter) Lash, Jaime Pulling; and great-grandchildren, Brixton, Hendrix, Brooke, Bradley, Jarrod, Bryannah, Trey.

Funeral services to be held at Greenbrier Memorial Gardens Mausoleum, in Lewisburg on Sunday, August 1st, 2021. Friends are encouraged to attend. Visitation at 1:30 p.m. followed by funeral at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate gifts made to the Alzheimer's Foundation online or by sponsoring a local Alzheimer's event with a gift in memory of Katie Hampton.

McCraw Funeral Home in Lewisburg will oversee arrangements.

William Orville Smith

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021

SMITH

William Orville Smith, infant son of Jedediah Smith and Jennifer Sprouse of Crawley, WV, was born into the arms of angels on July 22, 2021 at Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley, WV.

Though he was never able to spend time on earth, he impacted a great many lives.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brothers, Atlas and Wilder Smith of Crawley; grandparents, Douglas Sprouse and Katrina Wykle of Ronceverte, Timothy and Teresa Smith of Rock Cave, and June Sprouse and Wesley Johnson of Lewisburg and Rainelle; great-grandparents, Joyce Morgan of Ronceverte and Gary and Sharon Johnson of Rainelle; as well as many special aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends of the family. He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Deborah Smith.

Private graveside services will be held on Friday, July, 30, 2021 at Wallace Memorial Cemetery in Clintonville, WV to honor his memory.

Information submitted by Wallace Memorial Cemetery, Inc. of Clintonville, WV.

Motorcycle Accident Results In Death Of NJ Man

By WV Daily News | WVDN JUL 29, 2021



On Thursday, July 29, 2021, at approximately 8:15 a.m., members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office responded to a motorcycle accident on I-64 near the 176-mile marker. The motorcycle was occupied by one individual and was eastbound on I-64 when the rider struck an object in the travel lane, resulting in a loss of

control of the motorcycle.

The motorcycle subsequently came to rest on the berm of the highway and the driver, identified as Joseph P. Russella, age 55 of Burlington, NJ, succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Members of the White Sulphur Springs Police Department, Ambulance Service and Fire Department provided on-scene assistance.

Sergeant B. W. Mitchell, Jr., of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, is the investigating officer.