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# Customer Appreciation Day Winner

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021



Lisa Morgan, of Lewisburg, won five box seats to the Dailey & Vincent and Jimmy Fortune performance on August 18 at the State Fair of West Virginia.

## Beckley Officials Eye Site On New River Drive For Possible Purchase, Discuss City Issues

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

The Beckley Sanitary Board has outlived its current location on Heber Street. As a result, the city of Beckley is considering purchasing acreage along New River Drive to house a new facility.

At the Tuesday, July 27, common council meeting, Councilmember Tom Sopher asked for an update regarding plans to purchase the New River Drive property.

Mayor Rob Rappold responded that environmental studies are being conducted on the property and they have been in negotiations with the bank regarding remediation efforts. However, a private real estate developer has now also expressed interest in the property to possibly build a housing project.

"If that's true . . . we would far want to see private investment," Rappold said.

In response to concerns that the city is purchasing buildings instead of helping citizens, Rappold said that the city only purchased the property on Prince Street and the Black Knight Country Club after investors had backed out of the purchase of both. He added that the city stepped in to purchase the Zen's building after it had sat vacant for four years.

"We are not on a tear to become a landowner or property owner, but we are on a tear to try to improve this city and we have the finances now to do it without affecting one penny of stormwater control in the Hartley, Hager, Hunter Avenue areas. That's a totally different subject that we have been working on for five years," Rappold said.

Residents of Hartley Avenue, Hager and Hunter Street have been asking the city to fix a stormwater drainage issue in that area for years, but haven't had any success.

In a later interview with Rappold, he noted that the New River Drive property, located adjacent to the Beckley Moose Lodge, is currently owned by Pendleton Community Bank. The site contains just over 6 acres and once housed a concrete company.

He stated that the current sanitary board on Heber Street was purchased about 25 years ago.

"It was a former car dealership and the second floor was added for administrative offices," Rappold noted. "It is overcrowded, some of the offices are doubled up and that is not the best situation."

If the private developer does purchase the New River Drive property, Rappold said that the city will step up its efforts to purchase another property for the sanitary board. If this happens, the council will be notified and a special workshop meeting will be held.

In other council business,

- Councilmember Robert Dunlap stated that he has been approached by citizens and business owners who are concerned about speeding on Prince Street by the former Beckley Police Department.

"It's a drag racing 300-yard dash," Dunlap said of the downhill slope on Prince Street to the hump at the red light.

He said that maybe a flashing speed sign would help slow people down in that area and asked council if they could address the situation.

Councilmember Tom Sopher said he had made the suggestion to make the street two lanes instead of three at a prior meeting.

Beckley Police Chief Lonnie Christian stated that people pick up speed on the downhill slope.

No action was taken;

- In response to a question regarding a proposed meeting for the residents of Hartley, Hager, Hunter Streets who want to know what the city is doing for flood mitigation in their area, Rappold responded that the

tentative date will be set in late August. They will keep the public informed on this meeting;

- Council and mayor received a box of books titled "Thirteen Ways To Kill Your Community" by Doug Griffiths.

"It's an interesting read," said Rappold. He encouraged everyone to read it;

- Danielle Stewart stated that she has been interested in purchasing Publicity for about two months. She said she is trying to do what she can but has not been able to receive help from Beckley Code Enforcement or the New River Gorge Development Authority.

"I want to put skin in the game," Stewart said. "We talk about what the city needs for economic development. We need someone at the city who is solely dedicated to helping businesses start. What is happening now, isn't working."

She said Publicity is being leased out as a food distribution point for the poor and that is part of the loitering problem on Neville Street.

"No matter what you do with Zen's, that's still there. It's not going away." she continued. "I am still interested in buying Publicity and now that I know the city is interested in partnerships, I will come back with a plan for how to help that."

The Beckley Common Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. The meetings are open to the public.

## **Dear Abby: Tuesday, August 3**

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN AUG 03, 2021



### **Diabetic's Monitor Is More Than An Office Annoyance**

**Dear Abby:** "Disturbed in Texas" (June 5) was annoyed by the sound of a diabetic co-worker's "beeper" going off frequently. "Disturbed" may not fully understand this situation. The "beeper" is a continuous glucose monitor (CGM), which alerts insulin-dependent diabetics to any blood sugar levels that are out of range. Swift action may be required to correct these blood sugars, and it's vital that the diabetic receive these alerts. Yes, if possible, the CGM should be put on vibrate in public settings so as not to disturb others. But in some situations, it's not possible or wise. Neuropathy can dull sensations, and an active environment may make the vibrations undetectable. I wonder about the frequency of these beeps as well. In my experience, alarms go off an average of two to five times in a 24-hour period — just a few short beeps that can be canceled when the diabetic is made aware of the need to treat their glucose. In my opinion, this is no more annoying than many office interruptions — watercooler gossip, phones ringing in the next cubicle, someone next door with an active cold, etc. Insulin-dependent diabetes is an unrelenting disease. There are no breaks. (I know this firsthand. I care for a Type 1 diabetic child who is not yet old enough to appropriately respond to alarms.) One should not use their diabetes as an excuse to annoy others but, on the other hand, people with diabetes — and other chronic diseases — need a little understanding, too. Life can get very hard. Sometimes the best way to achieve understanding is to educate, which I'm hoping to do with this submission. Thanks, Abby. —

### **Sensitive in South Dakota**

**Dear Sensitive:** No, dear reader, thank YOU for taking the time to explain this to me and my readers. I now have a better understanding about how complicated a process managing diabetes can be. And I agree that sometimes it's important to cut a little slack for others.

**Dear Abby:** Every year I have a garage sale. I have a good friend who without fail not only doesn't help but expects to place her stuff in the sale. I am then responsible for keeping track of her items and paying her at the end. Sometimes she has put big-ticket items, like a boat, in the sale and I have to call her whenever there's a lower offer. How do I tell her to have her own garage sale without causing hurt feelings? —  
**Unloading in Michigan**

**Dear Unloading:** Your friend has a lot of nerve. Tell her that unless she's willing to help you with the yard sale and keep track of her own items, she should hold one of her own. Alternatively, suggest you will take a percentage of the money her items bring in — to compensate you for your work, which is significant. Do not worry about hurting her feelings. She has a thick hide.

*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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## Lewisburg Was Aflame 124 Years Ago Today

By Theresa Flerx | WVDN AUG 03, 2021



NASA claims that "On Earth, something is always burning. Wildfires are started by lightning or accidentally by people, and people use controlled fires to manage farmland and pasture, and clear natural vegetation for farmland."



"Nine new large fires were reported," by the National Interagency Fire Center as of the morning of Saturday, July 31, and "87 large fires have burned 1,771,933 acres in [the] U.S."

But the cause of the conflagration that destroyed large sections of downtown Lewisburg 124 years ago today has never been determined, or at least not widely reported.

Lewisburg residents were aroused by a fire warning during the early morning hours of August 3, 1897.

Leah Tuckwiller combed through the archives of The Greenbrier Independent to write the following article for the Friday, August 3, 2018, edition of The West Virginia Daily News:

*"Fire! Fire! Fire!" So said the headline of the top local story of The Greenbrier Independent on Thursday, August 5, 1897. "At ten minutes to five o'clock Tuesday morning, the 3rd [of August], the alarming cry of 'FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!' rang out upon the still morning air, and soon well nigh the entire population of the town, men and women, had gathered on Main Street to fight the most disastrous fire known in the history of our dear town," read the opening lines. In Lewisburg, a town of 117 years old and with a Civil War battle already behind it, that was no small thing.*

*Thirteen buildings were destroyed in the fire, which spread through the town unchecked in the early August morning exactly 121 years ago today [August 3, 2018]. Beginning with the Greenbrier Clothing House on Washington (then Main) Street, the fire spread to D.R. Thomas' grocery store and J.W.A Ford's stone storehouse east on Washington Street and the Bank of Greenbrier to the west, before rounding the corner onto Court Street and engulfing the Bank of Lewisburg, John N. Arbuckle's law office, and the law offices of John W. Harris and James C. McPherson on Court Street.*

*The heat eventually also set fire to buildings across Washington Street, engulfing the Lewisburg Hotel, a storehouse occupied by a drugstore and the office of Drs. Beard and Beard, a building housing a saddlery and young men's reading room, William Grow's shoe store, and a storehouse occupied by businessman R.P. Rittenhouse. The damage and spectacle of the fire were so great that people came to Lewisburg that afternoon "from far and near to view the devastation the flames wrought."*

*In the Independent's original story, no mention is made of how the fire started, but the paper did mention how "strange to relate the flames did not get beyond the hotel on the south side of Main Street, though nothing but a twelve-foot alley separated them" from the building next door, which contained much valuable property belonging to one resident of the town and which was "saved by much hard labor and many buckets of water from neighboring wells and cisterns." The commentary goes on to note that it was "equally strange" that the Greenbrier Hotel, on the north side of Ford's store, was also spared by only a single alley.*

*In the August 12, 1897, edition of The Greenbrier Independent, the following notice was placed: "\$250 Reward.*

*Whereas many people are of the belief that the fire of Tuesday morning, the 3rd inst., was the work of an incendiary, the Town Council of Lewisburg offers a reward of \$250 to any person who will furnish evidence that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party.*

*B.F. Harlow,*

*Mayor of Lewisburg"*

*In the following three weeks, however, no other mention of any apparent arson was placed amid the notices of relocated businesses, requests for debts previously owed to be paid fire victims, and advertisements for Farmer's Home Fire Insurance.*

*"Unfortunately for the town," the Independent lamented, "we have no fire fighting apparatus and no fire organization, so in this terrible emergency we had to depend on the efforts of boys and men with buckets, wet blankets, etc." A request for aid was sent to Ronceverte's fire company, but "owing to some misunderstanding" and a delay in getting the force together and up to Lewisburg, the fire had already demolished the hotel and was spreading by the time the engine arrived.*

*In 1898, the town established a fire department, which was originally staffed by approximately eight members with limited equipment, according to the "Fire Department" page of the city of Lewisburg's website. In October 1897, the city voted on and passed an ordinance to issue \$13,500 in bonds "for the purpose of procuring a water plant and machinery to supply water to the inhabitants of the Town of Lewisburg and to prevent the destruction of property in said Town by fire." With such measures in place, a fire department*



quickly followed.

*In 2018, the town has moved past its great fire and into a great future, but in a section of the original Independent article "Echoes From The Great Fire," much is made of neighbors who came to the rescue: "Rev. Wm. Mc. White is a wheel horse in a fire. In woolen shirt and with sleeves rolled up the elbows, he was observed of all observers, and many words were spoken on his praise... Mr. Telford and Mr. Martin were also in line doing very effective work - the former handling water buckets like an expert while the latter manipulated a pump with tremendous energy."*

*"Aroused from her peaceful slumber by the awful cry, 'Fire! Fire! Fire!' a lady living on Jefferson Street sprang for her bed and, forgetful of all else, rushed across the street barefooted and in robe de nuit to give alarm at a neighboring house."*

*Remnants of the fire are now increasingly rare; buildings have been rebuilt, expanded and even added into the open spaces as Lewisburg has grown... but this spirit shown by locals endures through fire, flood and time. Now around 123 years old, the Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department "serves an area of 67 square miles with a population of 8,400 individuals. The department operates out of two stations and provides fire suppression, high angle rescue, water rescue, hazardous material decontamination and response assistance for traumatic life-threatening emergency medical services to a primarily residential area."*

Growing from the initial eight-member team, LVFD is now comprised of 26 volunteer firefighters, eight career firefighters, and eight volunteer support members.

No longer dependent on bucket brigades, or at the mercy of another town's fire department (except through the support of mutual aid agreements), LVFD's current staffing provides four members in-station, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, allowing for the department to achieve the Insurance Standards Office (ISO) rating of 4/4.

As NASA and the National Interagency Fire Center keep abreast of blazes raging elsewhere, LVFD notes that in the 123 years since its formation, "the department consists of 42 members, three fire engines, one water tanker/engine, one 75-foot Quint, one command vehicle, one quick response vehicle, one all-purpose utility vehicle, one technical services trailer (high angle rescue), one de-con trailer (Haz-Mat), two water rescue boats, two fire stations and a training center (burn building, burn pit vehicle extrication pad, vehicle fire prop)" all to better serve Lewisburg and surrounding communities.

The plant and machinery, acquired by the 1897 ordinance, has grown to not only "supply water to the inhabitants of the Town of Lewisburg," but to other cities such as Fairlea, Maxwelton, Frankford, Renick, Caldwell and Ronceverte.

Proving that time heals all wounds, Lewisburg is now recognized for its diversity, annual festivals, celebratory parades, educational opportunities, and promoters of the arts. What a difference 124 years can make.

## Municipal Round Up August 2 - 9

By rebecca stalnaker | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

**Renick** — The Renick Community Center is holding Paint Night with Sandy on Friday, Aug. 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Participants will be painting the Droop Mountain Tower. The cost to participate is \$30 per person.

**Marlinton** — The Marlinton Town Council is holding a meeting on Monday, Aug. 2, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Municipal Building Auditorium and will also be available via Zoom.

**Rainelle** — The Western Greenbrier Farmers Market in Rainelle will take place on Friday, Aug. 6, from 3 - 6 p.m.

**Hinton** — During the week of Aug. 2 - 6, the State will begin the process of milling the pavement on both Temple and Summers Street in Hinton. After this process is complete, two new layers will be applied. The city estimates that, altogether, this **will be a three-week process.**

**Quinwood** — The Quinwood Community Library continues to hold Crafts & Snacks for kids between the ages of 4 and 11 on **Thursdays. Families can pick up the craft supplies and snacks between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

**Alderson** — The Alderson Farmers Market will take place on Tuesday, Aug.3, beginning at 3 p.m.

## **Fundraising Golf Tournament Planned**

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

A golf tournament is planned to raise funds toward the Monroe County Treasures for Children Toy Drive. The event is scheduled at the Fountain Springs Golf Course in Peterstown on Saturday, Aug.12, beginning at 9 a.m. Teams are captain's choice for \$240. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. All proceeds will help to provide a merry Christmas for children in Monroe County.

## **Backpacks To Be Given To Monroe County Students**

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

More than 300 backpacks will be given to Monroe County students on Aug.12, between 3-6 p.m., at the Lindsie Methodist Church Family Life Center. This event is the Monroe County Coalition for Children and Families' Back To School Agency Fair. For more information, call Michelle at 304-667-1313.

## **New River CTC Announces Graduates**

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021



New River Community and Technical College recognized 2021 practical nursing graduates on July 29, 2021, during a ceremony at the Nicholas County Campus in Summersville.

Students graduating with a Certificate of Applied Science in practical nursing for 2021 are Zach Barker, Beaver; Tiffany Black, Mount Hope; Rebecca Bockarie, Beckley; Emily Bostic, Clintonville; Maggie Bostic, Sink Grove; Joni Casteel, Cowen; Mackenzie Chambers, Nettie; Jason Dodd, Caldwell; Katrina Dodrill, Summersville; Jewel Gentry, Beaver; Bridgette Gray, Beckley; James Hoffer, Rainelle; Mallory Kelly, Craigsville; Samantha McBryde, Iaeger; Hollie McCoy, Pineville; Tamara Moore, Beckley; Brittany Murphy, Glen Daniel; Maggie Page, Lindsie; Thomas Pudder, Beckley; and Tammy White, Camden on Gauley.

During the ceremony, the class was recognized for their work administering over 1,000 COVID-19 vaccines. Samantha McBryde was named practical nursing academic student of the year for the highest grade point average (GPA) in the 2021 practical nursing class, and Jewel Gentry was recognized for the second-highest GPA in the class. Clinical students of the year were recognized by campus Emily Bostic, Greenbrier Valley Campus; Mallory Kelly, Nicholas County Campus; and Bridgette Gray, Raleigh County Campus.

New River CTC's practical nursing certificate program is offered at the college's campuses in Lewisburg, Summersville and Beaver and can be completed in 11 months. The program prepares students for career pathways allowing credits to transfer into more advanced nursing programs.

For information on practical nursing and other programs available at New River CTC, visit [www.newriver.edu](http://www.newriver.edu), email [admissions@newriver.edu](mailto:admissions@newriver.edu) or call 866-349-3739.

New River Community and Technical College serves nine counties in southeastern West Virginia from the

Greenbrier Valley Campus (Lewisburg), Mercer County Campus (Princeton), Nicholas County Campus (Summersville) and Raleigh County Campus (Beaver).

# Kids Frenzy Comes To Rainelle

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

Rainelle City Park will hopefully be packed with a “frenzy” of children on August 7.

Seneca Health Services is just one of several organizations involved with the Kids’ Frenzy, a free day of activities for local children.

“Seneca, God’s Way Home, and some community members got together and started wanting to do somethings around the community in Rainelle,” said Amanda Eltzroth, a recovery coach for Seneca. “We came up with the idea of having a kid fun day. We’re calling it the Meadow River Valley Kid’s Frenzy. It’s free. ... There will be food and drinks. There are a lot of organizations that are doing it, like Rainelle Medical Center, a couple of churches, stuff like that.”

This goal and day emerged thanks, in part, to an off-hand comment from a state police officer.

“There’s been a group of people meeting for a while trying to figure out ways to help people in Rainelle, we called it a focus group. It’s just people wanting to help people in active addiction and people in recovery and trying to bring people together. Trying to help the community stay safe in Rainelle. A state police officer mentioned we should do something for kids and we were like ‘we’ll do that one day.’ That was March or early April. We were going to do it back in June or early July and it didn’t work out. We set it for August 7 and it’s coming together.”

Eltzroth explained that a lack of events in the community bringing people together contributes to a community struggling with other issues, such as addiction.

“What moved us to do it is because a lot of kids don’t have a lot of things to do. Grandparents and aunts and uncles are taking care of kids now because of their parents being in active addiction. Me, as a recovery coach, feel an obligation to be there for everybody because I know how it is.”

Given the financial difficulties for many over the last year and a half, Eltzroth mentioned the event as being free on several occasions.

“Having things in the community to do with the kids, and having it be free because people struggle with money, especially during COVID, help with that, so we decided to do this in hope people would come and enjoy it. We hope to bring unity in the community – we all need to come together and fight our struggles.”

Giving the community more to do, both to entertain and as entertainers for children, is also a priority. In addition to those mentioned, more organizations are currently preparing to bring the fun, including Sacred Catholic Church, CYAC, Legal Aide, The Marvel Center, WV Inflatables, Greenbrier Avenue Church of God, Greenbrier County Probation & Home Confinement, and First Baptist Church of Rainelle.

“We know we probably can’t do everything but we want to try and make it as big and fun as possible and we need your help!” reads a form promoting the event. “Maybe you know something you can do that we didn’t

list, perfect, please include your idea. Whatever you choose you will be responsible for the supplies and hosting the activity at the event. We haven't got everything set in stone yet, and are open to ideas. We are looking at the participation we will have from the community so we can start setting things up. We are wanting to have it August 7, 2021, in Rainelle, WV at the City Park. The time of the event will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We are asking people to come set up between 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m."

To find more information about help, contact Eltzroth at aeltzroth@shsinc.org or call 304-661-3798, 304-497-0500 ext.115 or 304-661-3642 for any questions or concerns. Eltzroth also noted those interested in getting in touch with the group working for Rainelle could reach out through her.

"If people want to help, they can come down and help. We're looking for volunteers. If they want to get involved, they can get in touch with me."

## Guy Dennis Griffith

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021

### GRIFFITH

Mr. Guy Dennis Griffith, age 95, of Covington, VA, died Thursday, July 29, 2021, at Peyton Hospice House, Lewisburg, WV. He was the loving husband of the late Gladys Ryder Griffith to whom he was married forty-eight years.

Mr. Griffith was born June 16, 1926 at Earlhurst, the son of the late Dennis R. Griffith and Vergie Kincaid Griffith. He was a lifetime resident of this community. Guy served his country as a member of the United States Army. Mr. Griffith was employed as an electrician and journeyman with several contractors throughout his working career.

He was a member of Covington Baptist Church, as well as the Bob Bennett Sunday school class. Guy was a member of Covington Moose Lodge #610, Odd Fellows Lodge 23 I.O.O.F. and the American Legion Post 4. He was also a member of I.B.E.W. Local 637 in Roanoke, VA.

Mr. Griffith is survived by a son, Don Russell Griffith and wife, Barbie, of Richmond; a stepson, William "Bill" Fertig and wife, Linda, of Lewisburg, WV; two stepdaughters, Irene V. Drumheller and Annalee Markham; seven step grandchildren, Skipper, Frankie, Judy, Susan, Chuckie, Lisa, and Kevin; thirteen step great grandchildren, Adrianna, Mahaley, Rachel, Kenneth, Frankie, Shane, Candace, Timothy, Stacey, Tracey, Jessica, Megan, and Chase; two step great-great grandchildren, Kristen and Hunter; a sister, Regina Brown of Covington; a number of nieces and nephews; and a childhood friend whom he loved as a brother, Buddy Vass.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Griffith was preceded in death by his second wife, Maxine Fertig Griffith; a stepdaughter, Glenna Mahaney; three brothers, Fred Griffith, Don Russel Griffith, and Wade Griffith; and a sister, Pauline Carter.

A graveside service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at Cedar Hill Cemetery with Pastor Roger "Wahoo" McDaniel.

Those wishing to attend the service should assemble Tuesday by noon at Loving Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.lovingfuneralhome1913.com](http://www.lovingfuneralhome1913.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Loving Funeral Home of Covington, VA.

## Lucille Marie Kershner

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 03, 2021



### **KERSHNER**

Lucille Marie Kershner, 92, of White Sulphur Springs, WV, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at her residence.

She was born on December 15, 1928, in Ronceverte, WV, to the late George and Ethel Scott Adkison.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved son, Rhandall Bruce Kershner, and her husband of 35 years, Lacy Kershner, both whom passed in 1985.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon "Shay" Alvarez, and son-in-law, Octavio "Tavi" Alvarez, both of Maryland.

A member of First Presbyterian Church in White Sulphur Springs, she worked as a Livery Clerk in the Riding Office at the Greenbrier Hotel for 32 years, where she made many lifelong friends. During her retirement, her greatest joy was the many cruises and world travel she had with her daughter.

Her sweet caring personality will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Alleghany Memorial Park in Low Moor, VA, with Rev. Greg Scott officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions in Lucille's memory to the Greenbrier Humane Society at 151 Holiday Lane, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or by visiting [www.greenbrierhumane.org/donate](http://www.greenbrierhumane.org/donate).

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com).

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements.