

WVDN AUG 04, 2021



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Jon Lindbergh

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

LINDBERGH

Jon Lindbergh, 88, died peacefully at home on July 29, 2021, of metastatic renal cancer. He was predeceased by his parents, Charles Augustus and Anne Morrow Lindbergh; as well as a brother, Charles Lindbergh Jr.; and sister, Anne Spencer Lindbergh.

To say Jon lived a full and varied life is an understatement. He attended Stanford University, where he lived in a tent in Los Trancos Woods and was an active member of the Alpine Club. As a student in 1953, he made a pioneering dive into the undersea Bower Cave in California. After graduating with a degree in Marine Biology, he trained as a frogman and joined the Navy's Underwater Demolition Team. He also had a short acting career as an extra in *Sea Hunt* and in several movies.

He continued as a commercial deep sea diver and participated in several experimental diving projects, including *Man in Sea*, in 1964. This involved staying in Edwin Link's "Submersible, Portable, Inflatable Dwelling" for 49 hours at a depth of 432 feet while breathing a helium-oxygen mixture. Jon sent telegrams – the first ever from an undersea habitat – to each of his children. He was also an integral part of the development and testing of the Navy's Alvin deep-ocean submersible, a descendant of which was used to locate the remains of the Titanic.

During the Palomares incident in 1966, Jon was part of a team sent to recover a missing hydrogen bomb which had been lost by the US off the coast of Spain. When a C-130 transport plane was shot down in the waters off Vietnam during the war, he was part of the salvage team.

The development of Seattle's regional water treatment system brought him to the Puget Sound area, where he worked on that installation in cold waters as deep as 600 feet. He told how once, during an inspection, he found the entire surface of a 7" pipe porthole covered by the single sucker of an enormous cephalopod.

Jon eventually began to farm salmon in Puget Sound and later in southern Chile, where he was also involved in cultivating cranberries. An Honorary Life Member of the World Aquaculture Society, he consulted on projects worldwide.

Jon was an avid outdoorsman. He regularly hiked, gardened, tended his bees, and cut and split wood. We will greatly miss his honey and maple syrup and his well-aged blackberry wine. His wonderful stories will echo through the generations.

Of all his achievements, he often said his greatest legacy was his children – with his first wife, Barbara Robbins: Kristina, Wendy, Lars, Leif, Erik, and Morgan; and with his present wife, Maura Lindbergh: Anne and Alena. He is also survived by his siblings, Land, Reeve, and Scott Lindbergh; his eight grandchildren, Anna Hodgdon, Margot Galbraith, Sasha Kleszy, Rose Lindbergh-McDonnell, Amelia Lindbergh, Kristen Lindbergh, Ryan Lindbergh, and August Lindbergh; and two great-grandchildren, Charley Alice Hodgdon and Henry Tucker Hodgdon; two more great-grandchildren are soon to arrive.

Jon was cremated according to his wishes. A memorial service will be planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center in Roanoke, VA would be appreciated.

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

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

Dear Abby: Wednesday, August 4

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

Wife Not Interested In Raising Husband's Love Child

Dear Abby: My husband of three years informed me that he'd had a brief affair and fathered a baby. We worked through it, and I decided to stay in the marriage. The mother of the child is in a new relationship. I am 10 years older than my husband and have grown kids. I am not interested in raising any more. I have friends, hobbies, outdoor sports and activities that I enjoy in my free time, and I'm not giving them up. (My husband enjoys these activities, too.) He told me he plans to have visitation with the baby in our home every other week. I have no objection. In fact, I see it as a perfect opportunity to go on some out-of-towners with my girlfriends. (We plan to yuk it up and enjoy some spa services.) Abby, my husband hasn't a clue what to do. He has never even changed a diaper. I told him he will have to learn quickly or adjust his visitation plans because I am not helping him with his baby. I worked hard while I raised my kids and made all the sacrifices necessary. We have close relationships as adults. We live nearby, and they sometimes accompany me on my adventures. When they have kids of their own, I plan to be an involved grandparent, but I would never expect my husband to give up his weekends to wipe their noses. (He would refuse, by the way. I know this because he has said so.) His stance on stepparenting is different now because it involves a baby. I'm wondering if I should stay in the marriage. — **Took Care of My Own**

Dear Took Care: That's a good question. It's one you might discuss with an attorney to determine what the result will be financially if you exit the marriage. Do nothing in haste. However, once you have done that, if you are unwilling to disrupt your plans and help your husband with a responsibility that should be solely his, tell him you don't plan to spend weekends babysitting the result of his careless, adulterous affair.

Dear Abby: My family will be expecting me to attend the funeral of a relative who, as few of them know, was an abusive monster. I want to support the people I love, especially the abuser's niece, who is very close to me. However, I don't want to be a hypocrite. I can't imagine sitting through the service, listening to speeches about what a "wonderful" man he was and accepting condolences. My absence will undoubtedly generate comments and questions. I have spent many years dealing with the after-effects of his abuse. How should I handle this? — **Survivor in Pennsylvania**

Dear Survivor: A funeral service may be a way to honor the deceased, but it is also intended to comfort and support the grieving relatives. A way to manage this would be to sit in the back of the room, quietly get up to "visit the bathroom" for most of the eulogizing and return as they are wheeling the "dearly departed" out so you can support the grieving niece by showing her you were there.

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.

Ronceverte Seeks New Councilmember

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

Ronceverte City Council is looking to fill seats on committees and on council itself.

During the Monday, Aug. 2, meeting, new appointments, new committees, and new park improvements were all considered by council. This includes an appointment that resulted in the empty council seat.

In the July meeting, several new councilmembers were sworn in and Councilmember Kathy King was appointed to serve as temporary recorder. After more consideration this month, King moved and council approved Councilmember Leah Smith to serve as recorder permanently, with a round of applause.

This appointment, however, now leaves another council seat open in the city just months after the recent elections.

“Since I resigned my position as city recorder to take office as Mayor and Leah has taken the position as recorder, we have an open council position,” explained Mayor Deena Pack. “We will be accepting letters of interest between now and September 6. We will interview interested applicants prior to the next council meeting in September and the goal will be to have council make a decision on that position and have a new council member sworn in at the September meeting. If you know anyone [that lives within] city limits that’s interested in being considered for the open position, please let them know.”

This is not the only opening, however. Since taking office, Pack and city staff have began combing through the city’s laws and found where Ronceverte needs to get in compliance.

“We’ve also been reviewing our city code and ordinances,” Pack said. “We are learning that some of the committee members have expired terms, so we will be advertising for those positions and accepting letters of interest. I’m speaking about the Parks and Recreation committee, but we will also be reviewing other committees, we have [finance, zoning, cemetery,] we will be reviewing all of those.”

If people need to resubmit interest to the position or be reappointed to the position, then they can do so, or we will be appointing new people to those positions. But old committees were not the only consideration made for more community involvement.

“In the same vein, I would like to discuss the creation of a new committee under the Parks and Recreation committee for Ronceverte,” Pack said. “It would make sense to have a subcommittee ... that would focus solely on events and entertainment, both at Island Park and downtown. What I would like to see is a five member subcommittee, with three new appointees, one member from Parks and Recreation, and one member of City Council to sit on this.”

“I think it’s a wonderful idea and is much needed. I think we need to get stuff going at the island ASAP,” said Councilmember Tanya Hazelwood.

“I agree, I think we need to take advantage of what we have and get some events down there,” Smith said.

The subcommittee was preliminarily created by a united vote of council, with a formal ordinance expected for the next meeting.

Anyone wishing to get involved, either in City Council, one of the older committees, or the new events

subcommittee, should reach out in the next few weeks, before the next meeting of City Council in early September.

“There are a lot of high expectations for the new council and for myself and [City Administrator Pam Mentz],” Pack said. “I just want everyone to know that there are many things you can’t know because they’re happening behind the scenes, but we are trying to make sure that everything that needs to be in place will be so we can keep moving forward. I like that we’re seeing more people in council meetings and more people are interested in becoming involved. ... We will take all letters of interest very seriously and will do what we think is best for Ronceverte.”

In other business:

- During the update for water business, council noted that neither Lynch Construction nor Pro Contracting, two of the contractors working on the ongoing water improvements, would be working during the Star Fair of West Virginia. Lynch is also bringing in another crew to increase the amount of work on the infrastructure project.

- Council approved the Shade Tree Car Club “Adopt a Cop Car Show” to take place in Island Park on Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome with a \$15 registration. The event is free to the public and funds will go to support the nonprofit Greenbrier County Adopt A Cop, which organizes gifts and events for local law enforcement.

- A new mural was preliminarily approved by council, with Hazelwood expected to take the lead. The mural looks to read “Ronceverte” with the letters each symbolizing a part of the city. Hazelwood explained she was “floating one day and we were getting off at the Island and it hit me that it would be really cool for people. The river floating is a really big deal in West Virginia, a lot of people really come from out of town and they don’t know where they’re at when they’re [floating] down through [Ronceverte].”

- Pack noted the nonverbal communication boards for Island Park had been completed. Stephen Baldwin and his mission group at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church will assist with materials to get the four foot by eight foot boards in place.

Raleigh County Commissioners Discuss Grandview Sewer Project, Revisit TIF District For Justice Owned Properties

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

So far, 60% of Grandview residents are interested in public sewer access, but it is going to take an 80% resident approval rate before the project is implemented.

This announcement was made during the Raleigh County Commission meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Myron Amick, engineer with L.A. Gates Company, and Commission President Dave Tolliver provided clarification on some of the most discussed issues following the July 21 meeting about the Grandview sewer project.

"The project cost is \$28 million dollars," Amick began. "\$4 million of that is for the treatment plant at Little Beaver State Park property."

"A lot of people wasn't aware that you had to build a new plant down on 4-H Lake below the dam there," Tolliver added. "I wasn't. I never was told that and there are two phases to this and I wasn't aware of it either."

The new sewer plant construction would be for the extra capacity needed by adding Grandview residents to the treatment plant, County Administrator Jay Quesenberry stated in an interview following the meeting.

In response to a question from a person in attendance, commissioner Tolliver continued that if the project is approved, every home will have an underground grinder pumping system tank placed in their yard. It will go between the homeowner's septic tank and the sewer line.

The tank holds 80 gallons and the grinder sits on top of the tank, he said. It will take 220 volts of electricity to run the system, Tolliver explained. The only financial responsibility a homeowner will have is furnishing electricity to the pump.

Each system comes with a two-year warranty, Tolliver said. Should anything happen to the unit after the warranty expires, members of the Shady Spring Public Service District will come out to fix the issue.

"That's what they are doing in west Raleigh down Route One and all the way to Eunice," Tolliver said regarding other county projects. "They are putting grinders in and doing away with septic tanks."

Homes in the Flat Top Lake area have also received these types of pumps, it was noted.

If Grandview residents approve the system, each homeowner, regardless of whether or not they hook up to the system, will be responsible for paying the minimum monthly Public Service District rate. Currently, that amount is \$22.97 per month.

Grandview residents have until Sept. 1 to turn their questionnaires into the Raleigh County Commission or the Shady Spring Public Service District.

In other commission business,

- All full-time Raleigh County employees received a 3% raise;
- Commissioners approved a request from the Raleigh County Commission on Aging to give \$4,000 to the Glen Daniel area and \$3,500 in the Coal City area to fund meals and other services for seniors;
- Commissioners approved a preliminary tax-increment financing (TIF) resolution for the old Hulett C. Smith property along Harper Road and the old Brierpatch golf course from the Bellwood Corporation for \$19.25 million.

The creation of a TIF district was last discussed in April. At that time, commissioners denied a motion to move forward with the proposal that would finance the 31-acre multipurpose development.

This preliminary resolution will be sent to the economic development office in Charleston and back to Raleigh County before construction may begin.

"This is just a resolution. It doesn't mean we have approved anything," Tolliver stated.

The next Raleigh County Commission meeting will be held on Aug. 17 at 10 a.m.

Closing Argument Continues Strategy To Expand Accountability In Opioid Crisis

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 04, 2021



West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey issued the following statement as closing arguments concluded in the landmark opioid trial involving Cabell County and the City of Huntington.

“We commend Cabell County and the City of Huntington on this week’s strong closing arguments. Their work continues our combined efforts to hold opioid companies responsible with a strategy to expand accountability that began with our success in carving counties and municipalities out from earlier agreements to preserve additional claims and lay the groundwork for this year’s trial and the many others to follow.

“Our structuring of this strategy – by having carved out the cities and counties, and through briefs we’ve filed in their support — is positioning our state and her local governments to fare very well with an aggregate total that maximizes recovery based upon severity of the harm imposed on West Virginians as opposed to national, population-based models that shortchange our state.”

Attorney General Morrissey announced last week that West Virginia would resoundingly reject a national settlement with three distributors and manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, instead choosing to litigate and negotiate outside that framework to the benefit of the state and her local governments.

He argues the national proposal favored the nation’s largest states by distributing settlement proceeds largely based upon population as opposed to the intensity of the opioid crisis.

The Attorney General holds a similar position in continued negotiations involving the bankruptcy of opioid maker Purdue Pharma. He will argue in opposition to Purdue’s bankruptcy plan next month in New York.

The Attorney General’s active lawsuits against Purdue Pharma and Johnson & Johnson are among three others against opioid makers, as well as cases filed against four national chain distributors.

Charleston Approves Ordinance Banning Conversion Therapy

By The Associated Press | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

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

Charleston became the first city in West Virginia to enact such an ordinance Monday night. The ban had been introduced by Councilwoman Caitlin Cook, a council liaison to the city’s LGBTQ Working Group.

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.

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

“We are hopeful that this victory will help catalyze the passage of state-wide protections in the Mountain State, ensuring that no young person in West Virginia is subjected to this fraud at the hands of mental health providers,” said Troy Stevenson, a senior advocacy campaign manager for the Trevor Project, the world’s largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for youth in the LGBTQ community.

West Virginia's Quick Thinking On Telehealth Saved Lives During The Pandemic — And The Best Is Yet To Come

By by jason huffman and gaylene miller | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an immense challenge for West Virginia. Of the state’s 55 counties, 54 are classified as, at least in part, health care shortage areas.

Lawmakers were tasked with figuring out how to deliver health care to nearly 1.8 million West Virginians separated by long distances and difficult terrain.

But officials had to contend with another obstacle: Our outdated health care regulations — among them, tight restrictions on the delivery of telehealth.

Telehealth allows patients to see their doctors and other providers remotely using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. It’s difficult to overstate the difference this technology has made in the lives of West Virginia patients during the pandemic.

Elected officials understood this when, early last year, Governor Jim Justice suspended regulations that prevented medical professionals in other states from delivering telehealth to West Virginians.

That allowed the country’s health care providers to remotely diagnose, treat, and monitor patients here in West Virginia, something particularly beneficial for those living in rural areas and with limited ability to travel.

What’s more, telehealth allowed doctors and other providers to diagnose patients with COVID-19 remotely,

encouraging those with severe cases to seek in-person care, while allowing those with low-risk cases to recover at home. States that followed the same strategy were able to save countless hospital beds for those in need.

The plan was such a success that, in April, lawmakers passed a bill, HB 2024, that codified the governor's telehealth reform into law. Our organizations, Americans for Prosperity and AARP, leveraged our unique partnership to work alongside principled lawmakers to support the passage of this bill at every step along the way.

The benefits of removing barriers between patients and doctors are well-documented, so lawmakers weren't flying blind.

Telehealth has been shown to reduce the health care costs of both patients and providers. One study found that, for claims of acute, non-urgent care, telehealth saved an average of 6% in costs by providing more targeted care to patients who would have otherwise gone to the emergency room.

Telehealth also helps reduce travel time for patients when seeking care. UC Davis Health's study found that, between 1996 and 2013, remote care saved their patients nine years of travel time, five million miles, and \$3 million in costs.

Rural patients benefitted from this service, in particular. And for patients without high-speed internet, West Virginia's bill allows patients to use "audio-only" telehealth services over the phone.

Those who use telehealth tend to like the service. A survey of 2,000 U.S. adults found last May that 42% had used the remote service since the pandemic began. Sixty-five percent said they appreciated the convenience of speaking to their doctors remotely, rather than in person. Sixty-three percent said they liked not having to worry about being exposed to other sick patients.

These data, and West Virginia's own experience with telehealth during the pandemic, have proven that these policy changes work and that our lawmakers have an important role to play in furthering that success.

West Virginia still has laws on the books that stand in the way of providers and the patients they serve, of course. Americans for Prosperity and AARP will continue working together, and with lawmakers, to ensure that more West Virginians are able to receive the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Together, our organizations and activists from across the state are uniting to drive innovations that will benefit every Mountaineer.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many of the weaknesses of our health care system. We applied those lessons to great effect. Imagine what else our elected officials can accomplish simply by removing additional barriers to quality health care.

Jason Huffman is state director of Americans for Prosperity-West Virginia. Gaylene Miller is state director of AARP West Virginia.

CDC Issues Recommendations On Kanawha HIV

Outbreak

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health, along with the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today presented final recommendations from the CDC regarding the HIV outbreak in Kanawha County.

As part of the ongoing response to this outbreak, the CDC has been in Charleston conducting an Epi-Aid investigation to further examine access and barriers to services; assess behaviors, attitudes and beliefs of people who inject drugs and other community stakeholders; and review and analyze HIV contact tracing procedures and other data to help identify potential opportunities for public health intervention.

Recommendations were informed by qualitative interview findings that provided further insights into healthcare and services gaps and barriers experienced by people who inject drugs in Kanawha County, and analyses of public health data that describe the outbreak and experiences of people who inject drugs and are diagnosed with HIV infection in Kanawha County.

CDC's primary recommendations for addressing the ongoing HIV outbreak focused on addressing gaps in prevention and care services for people who inject drugs. CDC emphasized that given the evidence of ongoing rapid HIV transmission, response activities should be approached with urgency. Recommendations include:

—Expanding and improving access to sterile syringes, testing, and treatment by:

- Meeting people who inject drugs where they are by reducing barriers to participation in harm reduction programs and bringing services to them through mobile and street outreach and one-stop-shop models of harm reduction services.
- Making HIV/hepatitis C testing routine with opt-out screening in healthcare and other settings where people who inject drugs may engage in care.
- Co-locating services for people who inject drugs to facilitate a seamless transition to needed support, care, and treatment for HIV, hepatitis C, substance use, and mental health services.

—Involving the community in efforts to address the outbreak through increased engagement and dissemination of information, particularly including facilitating community discussion with key stakeholders and engaging people who inject drugs in the design and delivery of programs and services.

- Conducting additional data analysis to understand the extent of injection drug use in Kanawha County and to prioritize outreach to other West Virginia counties to improve HIV testing, prevention, and care services in communities at highest risk for HIV or hepatitis C outbreaks among people who inject drugs.

CDC also provided additional recommendations, including expanding and improving harm reduction across multiple settings and care coordination, as well as outlining specific actions that could be taken by various entities including stakeholders in health departments, clinical settings, correctional settings, social services, and public safety.

Complete findings and recommendations can be accessed [here](#). To view a slide deck of CDC's Preliminary Findings and Recommendations, click [here](#).

“The Bureau for Public Health is committed to assisting the community in keeping infection rates as low as possible,” said Dr. Ayne Amjad, State Health Officer and Commissioner of DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health. “The state will continue to work with its partners to implement innovative approaches to delivery of prevention and care for people who inject drugs. Once again, we express our gratitude to the CDC Epi Aid team, the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and many others for their work, especially throughout the last month.”

DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health and partners have continued to respond to the HIV outbreak, including efforts such as forming the Kanawha Valley HIV Testing Outreach Group, providing virtual HIV counseling and testing training to non-traditional partners such as community Quick Response Team members and social service providers, and working with behavioral health providers and state opioid response grantees to integrate HIV testing and prevention into provided services.

“Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, with its partners, is aggressively pursuing HIV testing and referral,” said Dr. Sherri Young, Associate Chief Medical Officer at Charleston Area Medical Center for the West Virginia Health Network and former Kanawha-Charleston Health Department Health Officer and CEO. “We appreciate the CDC recognizing our efforts and providing these recommendations.”

Morrisey Warns Of Grant New Scam

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey is warning consumers to be on guard against impostors calling with the promise of government grants.

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division has heard of calls from scammers claiming to represent the Department of Health and Human Resources. The impostors instructed consumers to wire money in order for their government grant application to be processed and the grant received.

In some instances, the impostor had the consumer’s full Social Security number and other personal information.

“A state agency will never call a consumer and ask them to wire money in order to receive a government grant,” Morrisey said. “Hang up. This is a scam. This just shows how very important it is to protect your personal, identifiable information and confirm the legitimacy of anyone asking for your money.”

To avoid becoming a victim of a potential scam, do not give out personal information via phone, mail or internet unless you can verify the identity of the recipient. In addition, be wary of anyone who uses bullying tactics or asks for payment via purchase of a prepaid card.

Anyone with consumer protection questions or potential complaints should contact the Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808 or visit the office online at www.wvago.gov.

It's in and it's big: Senate unveils \$1T infrastructure bill

By by kevin freking and lisa mascaro associated press | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — After much delay, senators unveiled a nearly \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package, wrapping up days of painstaking work on the inches-thick bill and launching what is certain to be a lengthy debate over President Joe Biden's big priority.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act clocked in at some 2,700 pages, and senators could begin amending it soon. Despite the hurry-up-and-wait during a rare weekend session, emotions bubbled over once the bill was produced Sunday night. The final product was not intended to stray from the broad outline senators had negotiated for weeks with the White House.

"We haven't done a large, bipartisan bill of this nature in a long time," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. He said a final vote could be held "in a matter of days."

A key part of Biden's agenda, the bipartisan bill is the first phase of the president's infrastructure plan. It calls for \$550 billion in new spending over five years above projected federal levels, what could be one of the more substantial expenditures on the nation's roads, bridges, waterworks, broadband and electric grid in years. Senators and staff labored behind the scenes for days to write the massive bill. It was supposed to be ready Friday, but by Sunday, even more glitches were caught and changes made.

Late Sunday, most of the 10 senators involved in the bipartisan effort rose on the Senate floor to mark the moment.

"We know that this has been a long and sometimes difficult process, but we are proud this evening to announce this legislation," said Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., a lead negotiator. The bill showed "we can put aside our own political differences for the good of the country," she said.

Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, a Republican negotiator, said the final product will be "great for the American people."

Over the long weekend of starts and stops, Schumer repeatedly warned that he was prepared to keep lawmakers in Washington for as long as it took to complete votes on both the bipartisan infrastructure plan and a budget blueprint that would allow the Senate to begin work later this year on a massive, \$3.5 trillion social, health and environmental bill.

Among the major new investments, the bipartisan package is expected to provide \$110 billion for roads and bridges, \$39 billion for public transit and \$66 billion for rail. There's also set to be \$55 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure as well as billions for airports, ports, broadband internet and electric vehicle charging stations.

The spending is broadly popular among lawmakers, bringing long-delayed capital for big-ticket items that cities and states can rarely afford on their own.

Paying for the package has been a challenge after senators rejected ideas to raise revenue from a new gas tax or other streams. Instead, it is being financed from funding sources that might not pass muster with deficit hawks, including repurposing some \$205 billion in untapped COVID-19 relief aid, as well as unemployment assistance that was turned back by some states and relying on projected future economic growth.

"I've got real concerns with this bill," said Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah.

Bipartisan support from Republican and Democratic senators pushed the process along, and Schumer wanted the voting to be wrapped up before senators left for the August recess.

Last week, 17 GOP senators joined all Democrats in voting to start work on the bipartisan bill. That support largely held, with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., voting yes in another procedural vote to nudge the process along in the 50-50 Senate, where 60 votes are needed to overcome a filibuster and advance legislation.

Whether the number of Republican senators willing to pass the bill grows or shrinks in the days ahead will determine if the president's signature issue can make it across the finish line.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he expects Schumer to allow all senators to have a chance to shape the bipartisan bill and allow for amendments from members of both parties.

"I hope we can now pump the brakes a little bit and take the time and care to evaluate the benefits and the cost of this legislation," Cornyn said.

The bipartisan bill still faces a rough road in the House, where progressive lawmakers want a more robust package but may have to settle for this one to keep Biden's infrastructure plans on track.

The outcome with the bipartisan effort will set the stage for the next debate over Biden's much more ambitious \$3.5 trillion package, a strictly partisan pursuit of far-reaching programs and services including child care, tax breaks and health care that touch almost every corner of American life. Republicans strongly oppose that bill, which would require a simple majority for passage. Final votes on that measure are not expected until fall.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Brian Slodysko contributed to this report.

'This attack happened': Medals to honor Jan. 6 responders

By by mary clare jalonick associated press | WVDN AUG 04, 2021



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has voted to award Medals of Honor to the Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department for protecting Congress during the Jan. 6 insurrection, sending the legislation to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Under the bill, which passed by voice vote with no objections, there will be four medals – to be displayed at the Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution.

Hundreds of officers from the two police departments responded to the attack and dozens of them were beaten and injured as the mob of former President Donald Trump’s supporters pushed past them to break into the building and interrupt the certification of Biden’s victory. The police and National Guard troops eventually cleared the building and the count resumed.

The medals are “a recognition that will be on display for people to understand and remember what these officers did,” Senate Rules Committee Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn, said in an interview with The Associated Press shortly before she called up the bill for passage.

While introducing the legislation, Klobuchar said children of the future will be able to walk by and see the medals in the Smithsonian, and their parents will tell them: “This happened, this attack happened.”

Senate passage comes after 21 House Republicans voted against the measure in June, some of them objecting to the language in the bill that referred to a “mob of insurrectionists.” Trump, along with many Republicans still loyal to him, has downplayed the rioting and tried to rebrand it as a peaceful protest, even as law enforcement who responded that day have detailed the violence and made clear the toll it has taken on them. Four officers gave emotional testimony in Congress last week about their mental and physical injuries.

No Senate Republicans objected. The top Republican on the Senate Rules panel, Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt, said the medals recognize “the selflessness, the dedication, the willingness to stand in the way of danger.” Blunt said he hopes they will send “a clear message” of appreciation to the two departments.

At least nine people who were there died during and after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police as she tried to break into the House chamber and three other Trump supporters who suffered medical emergencies. Two police officers died by suicide in the days that immediately followed, and a third officer, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, collapsed and died after engaging with the protesters. A medical examiner determined he died of natural causes.

This week, the Metropolitan Police announced that two more of their officers who had responded to the insurrection had died by suicide. Officer Kyle DeFreytag was found dead on July 10 and Officer Gunther Hashida was found dead in his home Thursday.

“We are grieving as a department,” the police said in a statement.

While it is unclear what exactly led to their deaths, lawmakers praised them for their service on Jan. 6. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said ahead of the bill’s passage that her heart goes out to the families of the officers who took their own lives.

“I hope each and every one of us will take time today to thank these courageous men and women who are working so hard to keep us safe, many of whom still bear the physical injuries and the emotional trauma of that dark day in our nation’s history,” Collins said.

Klobuchar said she doesn’t know the reasons for the two officers’ deaths in July, but said that “at some point it’s not a coincidence.”

The suicides are “just one more sad and tragic story of people who were there protecting us who clearly suffered from that day,” she said. “It affected people.”

Associated Press writers Colleen Long and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

New Jersey Man Shot After Altercation With Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy

By wv daily news | WVDN AUG 04, 2021

A New Jersey man is being treated for gunshot wounds sustained during an incident with a Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy. The incident occurred after the man fled on foot from a stolen vehicle and engaged in an altercation with the Deputy.

The investigation into this incident is being conducted by the West Virginia State Police-Oak Hill Detachment.

The West Virginia Daily News will provide more information as it becomes available.