

WVDN AUG 09, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

Steve **MACKY** Music Man

Justice Pivots: 'Rise And Get Vaccinated'

Steve Mackey: Bass Player Of A Generation

Day Of Hope Returns To Beckley, Volunteers Needed

Senators Misleading Leader Stephen Rabbitt Is Facing A Tough Decision: Should He Serve, Or Should He Go?

Area Obituaries



Steve Mackey, 70, of Beckley, is a bass player of a generation. He has played with some of the most famous bands in the world, including The Allman Brothers Band, The Grateful Dead, and The Dead & Company. Mackey has been playing bass since he was 15 years old and has been a professional musician for over 40 years. He has recorded with some of the most famous producers in the world, including Tom Dowd, and has toured with some of the most famous bands in the world. Mackey is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is considered one of the greatest bass players of all time.

Stephen Rabbitt, 70, of Beckley, is a senator who is facing a tough decision. He is being asked to serve in the Senate, but he is not sure if he should. Rabbitt has a long history of public service and has been a senator for many years. He is a member of the Senate and is currently serving as the chair of the Senate's Education and Labor Committee. Rabbitt is a member of the West Virginia State Police and is a member of the West Virginia State Bar. He is a member of the West Virginia State Teachers Association and is a member of the West Virginia State Education Association. Rabbitt is a member of the West Virginia State Bar and is a member of the West Virginia State Teachers Association. He is a member of the West Virginia State Education Association and is a member of the West Virginia State Bar. Rabbitt is a member of the West Virginia State Teachers Association and is a member of the West Virginia State Education Association. He is a member of the West Virginia State Bar and is a member of the West Virginia State Teachers Association.

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WV Senate Minority Leader Stephen Baldwin Is Facing A Tough Decision, Should He Serve, Or Should He Go?

By by autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



Stephen Baldwin is at a crossroads. He has been in public service for 10 years. First, as a member of the Greenbrier County Board of Education, then as a delegate for District 42, and now as West Virginia State Senate Minority Leader serving District 10. During his service, the political landscape has changed. It has become increasingly common for politicians to throw insults, dismiss the needs of those on the other side and believe there is only one answer to every question. However, Baldwin has remained true to his Democratic voice. Now, he faces a personal challenge. He must decide whether he should stay in politics, or leave.

It will not be an easy decision for Baldwin to make.

“I haven’t officially announced anything,” Baldwin stated in a telephone interview on Thursday, Aug. 5. “That’s a decision I will have to make some time in late summer or early fall. I haven’t announced anything because I haven’t decided on anything.”

When asked if he was hesitant to run again, he said “hesitant” wasn’t the right word. But he did admit that the

process of running for a seat is tiring.

"It wears on you," Baldwin said. "These are very difficult times. I think tensions have been very high, but I do get a lot of positive feedback. People tell me 'this is why we need you — you are a reasonable person in unreasonable times. You are a civil person in times that don't feel very civil,' but it's just awfully difficult."

"For me, it's always been about a sense of call," he continued. "I do ministry and I do public service because I think it's a form of ministry, and that's what I have always felt my call was. The issue now is just that I need to take time to check in about my call and see if this is where I still need to be and if this is what I am supposed to be doing."

Baldwin, who also serves as pastor of the Ronceverte Presbyterian Church, added that his natural tendency to be a peacekeeper isn't working in the legislature.

"There aren't a lot of people who are interested in peace or who are interested in working together. There are clearly divided partisan lines and you are either with me or you're against me, end of story," Baldwin said. "That's not the way I see the world. It does make it difficult to try and bring people together in a context like that."

He said that every decision he makes in the course of a legislative session comes out of his belief to do the right thing.

"I have made several votes that have been unpopular and people say 'why in the world would you ever do that? Don't you know that's a bad idea?' But I would do it again because my process isn't just about voting for what's popular."

As for those who are announcing their intent to run for seats statewide, Baldwin said that it's "interesting because nobody knows what the districts will look like yet."

Due to a delay in gathering census data, the redistricting process is starting later than usual. The final census data should be in by the end of August, but that is not a guarantee, according to Baldwin. A special legislative session must be called to officially approve new district maps, with boundaries most likely moving north and east.

"Ideally you want that to happen a year before the election so that people have time to decide what district they are in," Baldwin said. "It's all unknown right now because that census data has been delayed."

Additionally, he noted that some former Democrats have changed their political affiliation to hold down their office, but that is not something he would do.

"To me, it doesn't matter if a person is a Democrat or a Republican. I pastor a church that is full of Democrats, Republicans, Independents and people who are completely apolitical. They are all members of my congregation, and I love them all. I view the world and the community that way. We need people of all perspectives, but I don't think it is particularly helpful if you are constantly switching. Just pick a party, stand up for what you believe in and move forward."

Baldwin is one of 11 Democratic senators out of 34 West Virginia state senators, and he expects Democratic representation to dwindle in the coming election.

"We are in the super minority now and I suspect we will be smaller if not significantly smaller after the 2022 election. I think that's problematic . . . from a what's good for the state of West Virginia perspective. There is no balance. There is no reason to work together when you can run over the other side."

Baldwin said that if he does decide to run again, it will not be because of who puts their name in the hat, but he will do so because the needs of West Virginians are so overwhelming.

“We need more people who are willing to help overcome those needs, as opposed to just flinging mud and doing that whole partisan divide thing which is so prevalent right now.”

He said it makes him angry to see people who have “retreated to tribal divisions because we are just shooting ourselves in the foot and unable to make progress because of perceptions in the past or invisible partisan lines today.”

He added that he also gets angry when he travels around his district and sees the opportunity that surrounds the area, but witnesses a continued inability to take advantage of it.

“I see people living in substandard conditions. We have the most beautiful state and the most caring people, but we have a lot of people who are just struggling to make it every day. Some people look at that and they get sad. I look at it and I get angry.”

Currently, Baldwin’s main priority is ensuring every person in his district has broadband access.

He has been working with Greenbrier County Schools Technology Director Vicky Cline to create the Greenbrier County Broadband Council.

Part of the mission of the broadband council is to have every family complete a survey stating whether or not they have internet service. The need for this arose out of outdated federal broadband maps which declare most Greenbrier Countians have internet access when they do not. These faulty maps, mostly created from information provided by internet service providers, prevent our area from receiving federal funding to create broadband infrastructure, Baldwin explained.

“The first thing we need to take care of is the mapping,” Baldwin stated. “If you look at federal and state maps, they are wrong. They are just flat-out wrong. If you look at the federal mapping you will see Rainelle blanketed with high-speed internet and that’s just not true. Similarly, you could look at the map for the Gap Mills area and it is blanketed with internet. They don’t even have cell phone service, let alone internet.”

Part of the American Rescue Plan Act funding will be cut out of this area if those maps continue to stay the same.

“The fix is to get census-style workers going door to door and get accurate information to update those maps in the next couple of months before these funds start to come down,” Baldwin said. Only Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties are doing a push like this, he continued. “I don’t think people realize what’s going to happen. They are going to get left out. They are not going to know why, but this is the reason.”

He further said that a volunteer-driven program like this needs to be statewide. Once the maps are redone and federal money can start filtering its way into southern West Virginia, county commissions and private companies can start investing in infrastructure and find ways to make internet access affordable to all, Baldwin said.

In addition to working on broadband, Baldwin said that each of the four counties he represents has its own issues that he wants to see fixed.

For example, flood recovery has been the number one issue throughout his district, especially in Greenbrier County. However, Fayette, Monroe and Summers were also significantly affected by the 2016 floods.

"It has been five years since the flood, but we are still dealing with that every single day," Baldwin said. "To transform a region, you need to have a three-tiered approach. Number one: you have to have initial recovery and whether we want to admit it or not, five years later, we are still in initial recovery. Number two: You have to have infrastructure so that when it happens again, the effects aren't as severe. Number three: Economic development. Once people have a place to live and they have a reliable infrastructure system then you can get to economic development."

"After that, we have roads that need to be fixed and Monroe County needs a courthouse," he continued. "There have been multiple efforts to try and find a way to do that, but none have been successful, yet."

Of all the work that Baldwin has completed while in office, he said that he is most proud of a funding measure to build a Veteran's Nursing Home for southern West Virginia.

"We just never had the money, but we finally have it now," Baldwin said. "It's a huge need right now for veterans. We have an aging population of veterans and unfortunately, they are having to travel long distances and be away from home to get the care they need."

The nursing home will be located near the Jackie Withrow Hospital along Eisenhower Drive in Beckley.

These moments are what make being a state senator fulfilling, according to Baldwin.

"I spend a lot of time frustrated, but when you can finally break through and get to the final step of the process and help somebody — that's what makes it worth it," Baldwin said.

He added that one of his greatest joys has been helping a young man with a rare form of cancer in Fayette County get an early Covid vaccine.

"He was not eligible according to state standards to get a vaccine, but I couldn't think of anyone who needed a vaccine more than he did. It was a struggle because of the bureaucracy, but we got him a vaccine comparatively early and he was able to resume a somewhat normal life. His mom was just totally overcome with joy and gratitude and she was crying."

Baldwin also personally facilitated 4,000 cases where people needed to get their unemployment after losing their jobs because of Coronavirus.

"It is being able to help people that brings me joy," he said.

He said that if he had a billion dollars, he would like to set up a micro-loan program for small businesses.

"Micro-lending programs have been successful in third world countries and in many ways, whether we like it or not, West Virginia is like a third world county," Baldwin said. "You give people who have a skill set and an interest in meeting a need in their community, but they don't really have the capital or the know-how to start a business. You give them a little capital and some coaching and they start a business. Before you know it, they can take care of their family."

At the end of the day, Baldwin said that the future of West Virginia does not belong to a big corporation coming in to save us, but to those who start small businesses.

Additionally, he said if he could wave a magic wand and eliminate an issue in West Virginia, he would eradicate the drug crisis.

"It's the most overlooked and the one that no one wants to talk about, because there's so much pain

associated with it. Every family has been touched and we don't know what to do about it. Oftentimes, because we don't know what to do about it, we don't do anything and it just tears people and their families apart. It has taken away a lot of hope."

Of all the things that Baldwin has been thanked for, he said that people most often approach him regarding his transparency and his willingness to keep West Virginians informed through social media and his newspaper column "The Back Pew."

He looks forward to seeing West Virginia continue to diversify its economy from coal and energy to tourism.

"We have shifted to tourism. We have shifted to outdoor recreation and destination spots featuring restaurants and the arts. We have a lot of untapped potentials, but I think that is something we are doing right."

With everything that Baldwin is working toward to make his district, and the state of West Virginia, a better place, he admitted that it can be a struggle to balance his time between his jobs and his family.

"I only have so much time, so I just have to schedule everything down to 15 minute blocks," Baldwin said. "I have to schedule to an obsessive degree and I have learned to say no, which is something I don't enjoy doing. I have a lot of good help from my staff in Charleston and my friends and volunteers who help me with projects here. I couldn't do it without them. We all make a good team."

For those who want to make a change in their community, when help from legislators can seem so far away, Baldwin stated that it is important to build a good team and have a specific purpose.

"When people are prepared with these two things, a change can happen."

Although Baldwin is usually a person who gives advice, he noted that he is also willing to receive it.

Personally, he said the best advice he ever received came in 2007 when he finally became ordained after spending years in college working toward his Masters of Divinity at Vanderbilt University. His childhood pastor was there to give him the charge.

"She told me the bible story of when Jesus and his disciples were out on the water in a storm. They had a moment where they were stuck between being afraid or having faith. They had every good reason in the world to be afraid, but they had Jesus there reaching out his hand saying 'Trust me. Have faith in me. Don't choose fear. Choose faith.' That was her charge to me," Baldwin remembered. "She said you are gonna be in situations where you are stuck between faith and fear all the time and I want you to remember that decision that the disciples made out on the stormy sea that day. They had every reason to choose fear, but instead, they chose to be faithful."

One can only imagine that as Baldwin makes his choice of whether or not to lead his district again, it will be a decision made of faith and not of fear.

"It's a great honor to get to serve and not many people have the opportunity," Baldwin stated. "I don't know if I will ever do it again. I may do it again and I may not do it again, but it's been a tremendous opportunity to serve the people over the course of this term and I will always remember that."

Civil Lawsuit Filed Against Greenbrier County Delegate

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

A civil lawsuit dealing with millions of dollars has been filed against one of Greenbrier County's delegates.

Filed against District 42 Delegate and local attorney Barry Bruce and his brother Robert Bruce by Jewell K. Whittaker Bruce, the suit requests damages from the attorney due to his alleged mishandling of over a million dollars in lottery winnings, several property transfers, the creation of an LLC, and more. In a response, Barry Bruce denied any improper handling of Jewell's property, finances, or financial trust.

The complaint, filed on April 13, specifies that Jewell Bruce lived as a homemaker, having not "directly participated in investment activities, financial planning, accounting or other business ventures." This does not mean Jewell Bruce was without resources however — she hired Barry to finalize her divorce.

"[Jewell Bruce] was at one time married to Jack Whittaker who ... was the winner of one of the largest Powerball payouts in the State of West Virginia. [Then Jewell Whittaker] became divorced from the said Jack Whittaker. ... At the conclusion of the divorce proceedings against Jack Whittaker, [Jewell Whittaker] had a net worth significantly in excess of \$10,000,000.00. After the conclusion of the representation of Jewell for her divorce, [Barry Bruce] continued to provide legal services for Jewell, through July of 2020. [Barry Bruce], ... in the course of his legal representation and financial consulting, exercised undue influence and took advantage of the relative lack of sophistication regarding all financial and legal matters of the Plaintiff, Jewell, and effectively took control of all financial affairs of the Plaintiff, Jewell, commencing during or prior to 2013."

The complaint continues on to explain how Robert Bruce was brought into the picture following the divorce.

"[Barry Bruce] introduced his brother, Robert D. Bruce, to [Jewell Whittaker] and encouraged the development of a personal relationship as between his brother, Robert D. Bruce, and the Plaintiff, Jewell. Upon information and belief, when Robert D. Bruce moved to Greenbrier County, West Virginia, he had little or no assets. He had income in the form of Social Security benefits in the amount of approximately \$27,000.00 per year or less. Upon information and belief, in 2013 Robert D. Bruce was also receiving funds from a pension."

The primary complaint from Jewell Bruce deals with lack of clarity and uncertainty about how funds were used — much of the lawsuit's complaint details information she discovered after firing Barry Bruce as her attorney in 2020 through allegedly incomplete documents and financial disclosures.

According to the complaint, Barry Bruce set up the "Robert D. Bruce and Jewell K. Bruce Family Irrevocable Living Trust" and Jewell Bruce signed off, depositing funds into the account. However, she asserts that the trust has come into complications that Barry Bruce denies.

"Jewell executed the Trust on the legal and financial advice of [Barry Bruce], that doing so was in her best interests. ... [Barry Bruce] at no time obtained a federal tax number for the Trust nor did [Barry Bruce] as Trustee ever file a tax return for the Trust. ... The "Irrevocable Trust" was set up by Barry Bruce such that the Grantors received income and benefits of the Trust. ... [By] failing to obtain a Federal Identification Number and file tax returns for the Trust, [Barry Bruce] effectively legally eliminated any insulation or protection of the assets held by the Trust. ... Upon information and belief for Federal and State income tax purposes, the Trust was at all times a disregarded entity, ... in no manner provided any tax benefit to the Plaintiff, Jewell, ... and

provided no legal benefit to the Plaintiff, Jewell, nor served any legitimate purpose. ... Jewell was the sole party contributing any assets to the Trust despite the representations on the first paragraph that both she and her spouse, Robert D. Bruce, were Grantors.”

The 19-page complaint references actions around this trust, three sets of property, and the formation of an LLC.

“On October 29, 2013, two weeks after the marriage of [Jewell Bruce] to Robert D. Bruce, at the recommendation and instruction of [Barry Bruce], [Jewell Bruce] purchased residential property in or near Caldwell, West Virginia for the sum of \$550,000.00 from [her] funds exclusively. [Barry Bruce] prepared the Deed of conveyance for the purchase of ... 41.30 acres on Stonehouse Road near Caldwell, West Virginia from the said Hazel Small. [Despite] the fact that the funds for the purchase of said property came exclusively from the accounts of [Jewell Bruce], [Barry Bruce] prepared the Deed for the conveyance to be made to the [Jewell Whittaker] and Robert D. Bruce, brother to [Barry Bruce] jointly with rights of survivorship. ... In September of 2016, [Barry Bruce] prepared a Deed and directed that [Jewell Whittaker] and [Robert Bruce] execute [the] same, conveying the 41.30 acre Stonehouse Road property to the Trust. ... On December 29, 2020, without consultation with the Plaintiff, Jewell, [Barry Bruce] prepared a Deed transferring all real property from the Trust to Robert D. Bruce and Jewell K. Bruce as tenants in common. Only after the Deed was recorded and the said Barry Bruce had ‘resigned as Trustee’ did [Barry Bruce] notify the [Jewell Bruce] of this transaction on January 18, 2021, by emailing a copy of the Deed as recorded, without explanation, to her attorney.”

“The Limited Liability Company JKB RDB, LLC was formed by [Barry Bruce] on November 10, 2014, and terminated by [Barry Bruce] on March 2, 2020. [Jewell Bruce] is unaware as to the purpose for [the LLC], what assets [Barry Bruce], transferred into it, what assets were transferred out of it or any other financial information regarding this entity which [Barry Bruce] caused to be formed identifying the Plaintiff, Jewell, as well as her husband, Robert D. Bruce, as members.”

“On January 20, 2015, [Barry Bruce], in his capacity as one of the Trustees of the Jean King Johnson and Robert A. Johnson Family Irrevocable Living Trust ... transferred to JKB RDB, LLC ... 85 acres and 158 poles of real estate and lot 28 and lots 30 – 46 of the Dixon Blue Heaven Subdivision all located near the Greenbrier County Airport. ... On September 25, 2019, without consultation ... [Barry Bruce] prepared a Deed and caused the valuable property near the Greenbrier County Airport to be transferred to the Trust. ... In April of 2020, without consent, approval or discussion with [Jewell Bruce], [Barry Bruce] prepared a Deed ... transferring the valuable property near the Greenbrier County Airport to Bruce Properties, LLC. ... On December 21, 2020, [Barry], prepared a Deed ... conveying the valuable property near the Greenbrier County Airport to the Trust. ... On December 29, 2020, [Barry Bruce] prepared ... a Deed conveying [the property] ... to Robert D. Bruce and Jewell Bruce as tenants in common. ... Upon information and belief, Bruce Properties, LLC is a West Virginia Limited Liability Company organized in November of 2004 and controlled by [Barry Bruce] and/or his spouse. This Limited Liability Company has never operated for the benefit of the Plaintiff, Jewell.”

“None of the real property transfers referenced ... were approved by the Plaintiff, Jewell, nor did the Defendant, Barry Bruce, make any effort to explain any of these property transfers to the Plaintiff, Jewell. The transfers described ... occurred without the knowledge of [Jewell Whittaker]. ... During the course of the operation of the Trust, [Barry Bruce], as Trustee effectively using personal funds of [Jewell] loaned monies to various entities without discussing these loans with [Jewell Bruce].”

Jewell Bruce referenced property she was unable to locate.

“The Plaintiff, Jewell, has no knowledge as to the current whereabouts or potential disposition of more than \$1,000,000.00 in precious metal, upon information and belief, in the custody of [Barry Bruce]. ... On advice of [Barry Bruce, Jewell Bruce] invested in precious metals which said property was represented by [Barry Bruce]

to be in his custody for the benefit of [Jewell Bruce].”

The complaint also noted that Jewell Bruce requested both a prenuptial and postnuptial be prepared by Barry Bruce, but this was not done due to how “quickly” the marriage took place.

The lawsuit asks the court to compel Barry Bruce to “account for all financial activities of the trust from the inception ... in October of 2013 through at least December 31, 2020,” to account for all her property and legal fees charged to her, a Guardian Ad Litem for Robert D. Bruce, and potential damages.

In his response, filed on June 15, Barry Bruce both admitted to some uncontested facts, such as his working as her attorney during the divorce, but much of the response consists of the phrase “Barry Bruce denies the allegations contained” in a specific paragraph, going through them one at a time.

Barry Bruce denied the allegations of not acting in Jewell Bruce’s best interest, also admitting to creation of the deeds and LLC.

“Barry Bruce acted in good faith and without malice or intent to cause harm to Jewell Bruce. ... Barry Bruce met or exceeded all duties, if any, owed to Jewell Bruce and did not breach any such duties, and, as a result, the Complaint should be dismissed as a matter of law. ... To the extent that Jewell Bruce has suffered any damage or loss, which is denied, such damage or loss was the result of, or caused by, Jewell Bruce’s own conduct or omissions.”

A response was also filed by Robert Bruce on June 15, “through his guardian and conservator, Erica Shearing,” counterclaiming damages. According to the response, Robert Bruce himself would not be able to testify to the factuality of any of the statements.

“Defendant Robert D. Bruce suffers from advanced Alzheimer’s Disease and is currently and indefinitely incapable of providing testimony. Therefore, the answers provided herein are the answers of his guardian and conservator on his behalf, who has little to no knowledge of what her father’s testimony would have been regarding most of the allegations. ... Defendant admits that Defendant Robert D. Bruce is the spouse of the Plaintiff and currently resides in the State of Texas under the care of Erica Shearing, his guardian and conservator.”

Despite this, the counterclaim takes issue with Jewell Bruce’s handling of Robert Bruce’s medical care.

“Following the revocation of the 2018 power of attorney and execution of the October 26, 2020 power of attorney, Robert Bruce no longer received the necessary care, support and attention that he needed. Jewell Whittaker Bruce placed her husband in a nonskilled residential facility located in rural Mercer County, West Virginia, without informing any of Mr. Bruce’s family members ... At the facility into which Robert was placed, he was greatly damaged and injured by the lack of treatment he received. He was purposely kept away from his treating medical providers, including Ohio State University and his cardiologist, Dr. Von Dohlen. He was isolated in this rural assisted living facility and expressly forbidden to have access to his siblings and children, including Erica Shearing. Nor did Jewell Whittaker Bruce visit her husband a single time after placing him into the said facility. Robert Bruce suffered severe physical and emotional damage, trauma, distress, abandonment and isolation due to the actions of Jewell Whittaker Bruce.

The counterclaim also asserts that Jewell Bruce improperly handled the finances of Robert Bruce’s treatment.

“Making matters worse, despite desperately needing advanced medical care and treatment, Robert Bruce was left financially destitute by Jewell Whittaker Bruce. After making herself the AIF for her husband, Defendant Jewell Whittaker Bruce emptied Robert’s bank account into which his social security income had been continuously deposited during the marriage. Nor did Robert Bruce possess the means to care for himself.

Robert Bruce's family has now been forced to bear the financial burden of Robert Bruce's substantial medical treatment and care expenses, which continue to incur daily. Had Jewell Whittaker Bruce not emptied Mr. Bruce's social security savings from his bank account, funds would be available to help pay for all or some of Mr. Bruce's necessary treatment and care expenses. ... She sought to enrich herself and/or to minimize the economic impact of Robert's necessary medical care and treatment by depriving Robert of his necessary medical care and treatment and isolating him from his family. Moreover, she emptied Robert's bank account and access to finances so that he was left destitute and unable to care for himself - nor to pay for necessary treatment. She abandoned him with none of his personal effects - not even shoes on his feet."

In the counterclaim, Shearing requested the initial suit be dismissed, "the return of all items of personal property and personal effects wrongfully being withheld from" Robert Bruce, and "that the Court award punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury."

In a response filed on June 24, Jewell Bruce denied the averments, or allegations, listed in the counterclaim, including any failure to provide proper care for Robert Bruce.

"The doctrine that any injury alleged to have been incurred by the Defendant, Robert D. Bruce, occurred as the result of the conduct of others. All other matters as may be ascertained to constitute an avoidance or affirmative defense to the Counterclaim based upon discovery anticipated to be undertaken in this action."

Since the initial filings, an order denying a guardian ad litem, or a guardian appointed by the court for the duration of the case, for Robert Bruce, was issued by Greenbrier County Circuit Court Judge Robert Richardson.

The case is expected to continue forward, with multiple parties asking for a jury trial to determine damages. Richardson recently approved a scheduling order on July 30, keeping the case moving.

Communities In Schools Receives Donated School Supplies

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County (CISGC) presented its dropout prevention program to the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) on Friday, Aug. 6. The FDCC is a national membership organization that hosts annual and semi-annual conferences in locations across the United States and chooses a community project in each conference district. "We were honored to be chosen for the FDCC's community project in Greenbrier County", CISGC's Executive Director, Brittany Masters said.

Members from across the U.S. came to Greenbrier County and participated in donating school supplies to local youth in need. "It was heartwarming to showcase what our program is doing in Greenbrier County to attorneys from all over the nation," said Masters. CISGC received 77 backpacks filled with school supplies along with additional boxes of supplies and monetary contributions. Masters said, "It was in perfect alignment with our annual Stuff the Bus campaign in which we collect donated school supplies for children in every public school in the county."

"Stuff the Bus" is continuing now through August 16th. Those interested in donating can do so at Kroger in Rainelle, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's Student Center, Love Child, and Factory

Connection. A registry has been set up at Walmart.com, called "CISGC's Stuff the Bus" and monetary donations can be made at www.cisgc.org/donate or PO Box 1188 Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County is a 501©3 and relies on the generosity and support of foundations and community members. CISGC could not carry out our mission "to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life" without partnerships such as this.

For more information about CISGC, please call (304) 661-1018, email director@cisgc.org or visit www.cisgc.org. You can also stay up-to-date through our Facebook page.

Carnegie Hall Concludes Successful 'Kids College'

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



The 28th annual Kids' College hosted children from California, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia as they enrolled in up to five different arts and science classes each day. From July 12-July 30 more than 139 children in grades 2-8 attended the day camp. Every room and studio in Carnegie Hall, including the auditorium and kitchen, was filled with children learning, creating, and

discovering new things.

Kids' College is a summer day camp where children expand their artistic horizons in a safe and nurturing environment. 19 teaching artists assisted by 23 volunteers taught classes in archaeology, basket weaving, cooking, fashion design, fiber arts, ki aikido, music, origami, painting, pottery, tie-dye, and more!

Several new teaching artists joined the Kids' College staff this summer including Sarah Shepherd and Harmony Flora who taught the morning Kids in the Kitchen classes, Thomas Ruggiero who taught Fabrics to Fashion, Lynn Creamer who taught Fiber Arts, and Susan Adkins who taught Harp.

Carnegie Hall would like to thank the United Way of Greenbrier Valley and several generous individual donors who gave money so that we could provide scholarships to 19 children from five different counties in West Virginia.

We also want to thank Uncle Larry's Fund for their support, the Greenbrier County Commission for sponsoring the Kids' College t-shirts, IGA for the large paper bags, and the Greenbrier County Schools for providing drinks, snacks, and fresh fruit during recess times.

Next year's Kids' College will be held on July 11-15 and July 18-22, 2022. Registration begins in April 2022.

If you are interested in teaching a class at the next Kids' College, teaching proposals are due in November 2021.

We also need adult and young volunteers to help with the classes. Contact Harmony Flora, Education Associate, or Leah Trent, Education Director, for more information at 304-645-7917.

Bonner Scholars Offer Summer Volunteer Opportunities

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

While summer provides an opportunity for vacations and being away from school, the season proved to be a good time for Concord University Bonner Scholars to assist campus and community through volunteer service.

A total of 27 Concord Bonner Scholars served in a variety of settings this summer. Among these many locations are Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, W.Va.; CU Upward Bound Program, Athens, W.Va.; Planet Extreme Teen Center, Princeton, W.Va.; Big Creek People in Action, War, W.Va.; McDowell Commission on Aging, Welch, W.Va.; Hinton Area Foundation, Hinton, W.Va.; City of Oceana Youth Programs, Oceana, W.Va.; and, Bluefield Community Center, Bluefield, W.Va.

Students selected to participate in the Bonner Scholars Program not only have opportunities for community service and leadership development, they also enjoy the benefits of financial aid that helps them pay for their education.

"The summer service component of our Bonner program is unique; there are few scholarships that provide aid or funding for students outside of the traditional academic year," stated Kathy Ball, director of Concord's Bonner Scholars Program.

“Serving in the summer months allows students to have an in-depth experience working with an agency while also earning funds for the next school year,” she said. “Often, we find these summer placements to be some of the most meaningful experiences for our students during their tenure as a Bonner scholar.”

Such is the case for Austin Taylor, a junior Biology major from Wharncliffe, W.Va. Austin interned with WV-INBRE (West Virginia IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence).

“My summer placement was one that I will always remember because it was a time of learning and growth for me,” Austin said. “By doing research I was able to learn and accomplish so much. From being trained to work the dishwasher to learning how to split cells in media, there were many things I learned how to do.”

In 1991 the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, based in Princeton, N.J., recognized Concord’s commitment to community outreach and endowed the University with funds to support a Bonner Scholars Program. The Foundation had launched the exciting initiative the previous year.

Each year, the Bonner Scholars Program provides up to 80 students with financial scholarships to support academic endeavors at Concord. The students then provide support to their communities through service work, in addition to participating in leadership and personal development activities. It is the goal of the program to develop experienced, knowledgeable and committed individuals who recognize the needs of society and each person’s responsibility to serve throughout his or her lifetime.

“Bonner Scholars are uniquely positioned to help in our communities right now,” states Robert (Bobby) Hackett, president of the Bonner Foundation.

“Over the 30 years of the program’s history in Athens, they have built up trusting relationships with local partners and demonstrated their genuine interest in serving,” he says. “In this process, they have developed their skills and abilities to make a real impact for individuals, programs, and communities.”

Peyton Brown, a 2020 Bonner alum, explains the impact the program has had upon her. Peyton is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Concord and is a graduate assistant working on campus in the Bonner House.

“Being a Bonner Scholar changed my life by giving me the ability to see the world from perspectives that aren’t just my own,” Peyton says. “I learned how to satisfy needs in my community and the world at large through listening, planning, and serving. Bonner taught me to be resilient in all that I do, and showed me to never give up on myself or others.

“The lasting, meaningful connections I formed with the amazing members of the campus community, Bonner Foundation, and other Bonner Scholars all give me hope for a better world. The Bonner Program is real-life proof that the desire to serve can be found in each of our hearts if we just dig deep enough,” she says.

To learn more about the Bonner Foundation and the Bonner Program, please visit <https://www.bonner.org/the-bonner-program>.

Additional information about Concord’s Bonner Scholars Program is available at <https://www.concord.edu/Financial-Aid/Scholarships/Bonner-Scholars-Program.aspx> or by contacting Kathy Ball at bonner@concord.edu or 304-384-6009.

'Day Of Service' Sees Large Student Turnout

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

Students at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) discovered the rewards of giving back to their community during a volunteer event.

Known as the Day of Service, the outing was organized by the school's Office of Student Affairs. Each year at the close of orientation week, first- and second-year students participate in community service projects at various locations in and near Lewisburg.

This year, 204 students gathered at 18 sites in Lewisburg, Fairlea, Ronceverte, Frankford, Maxwelton and White Sulphur Springs to help with tasks involving physical labor. Students painted, cleaned, swept, hung banners and performed landscaping and gardening work, among other assignments. Eleven WVSOM faculty and staff members participated as well.

Anosh Akbar, a first-year WVSOM student, was one of about 10 volunteers who picked up garbage at Dorie Miller Park in Lewisburg. She said she values the school's dedication to producing future physicians who care about their communities.

"Community service is at the heart of being a medical student, and a commitment to helping others will make us better doctors one day," Akbar said. "It was nice to talk with peers as we worked together, and it gave us the opportunity to meet people from the area we hope to serve."

First-year student Wyatt Grimm, who helped sweep out barns and wipe down bleachers on the grounds of the State Fair of West Virginia, in Fairlea, said he was pleased to contribute to the cleanup effort.

"Community service gives us opportunities to have an impact on the place we live," he said. "While volunteering at the fairground, I met new people and worked with them to make our environment better. Community service can help build a rapport that makes patient care better for both parties."

Students who take part in the Day of Service earn hours through the WVSOM Student Government Association's Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (T.O.U.C.H.) program, which recognizes those who reach a predetermined number of volunteer hours in a given academic year. During the 2020-21 academic year, students completed a combined total of more than 6,000 T.O.U.C.H. hours.

Belinda Evans, WVSOM's director of student life, said the event serves as a bridge between local residents and the osteopathic medical school.

"It's an opportunity for the community to connect with our students," Evans said. "The people in Lewisburg and the surrounding areas play an important role in supporting our aspiring physicians, and the Day of Service is one of the ways we're able to return the favor. It's a chance for WVSOM to show it truly cares about those who give our students a wonderful place to live."

Beckley Common Council To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

The next meeting of the Beckley Common Council will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda:

- Call meeting to order via live WebEx Event.
- Reading and approval of minutes from regular Council meeting dated July 27 and minutes from the July 29 Public Hearing regarding the American Rescue Funds Act.
- Council's approval of FY 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan.
- Old Business.
- New Business.
- Public Comments.
- Adjournment.

The regular meeting of Council will be held via a WebEx Event and is open for public attendance in Council Chambers. The public may join the meeting from their computer or phone using the web link or phone number provided on the City's webpage or Facebook page the day of the Council meeting. Again, the meeting is open to the public for attendance in person in Council Chambers.

Ronceverte Planning Commission To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

The next meeting of the City of Ronceverte Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

Agenda:

- Call to order and roll call
- Approval of minutes
- Review future land use map's consistency with proposed zoning map - consider amendment of future land use map

The meeting of the Planning Commission will be available via Zoom teleconferencing. Please call City Hall for Zoom information at 304-647-5455.

God Bless America "We Remember" Rally

Coming To Beckley

By wv daily news | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

The God Bless America “We Remember” Rally is taking place Sept. 10-12 in Beckley.

This God and Country event will honor first responders, members of the military, educators and pastors.

The event will take place each evening at 7 p.m. at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.

In preparation for this rally, business leaders are invited to a brief planning session and free meal at Golden Corral on Wednesday, August 11, at 11:30 a.m.

To RSVP, email info@GodandCountry.me

Please include your name and number of guests.

For more information visit, GodBlessAmericaRally.com

It Happened This Week: White Sulphur Springs Edition

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

The following information is taken from the pages of The Sentinel, the precursor of The White Sulphur Springs Star, for the month of August 1952.

Leon Whited, aviation machinist mate, received his honorable discharge from service and has accepted a position with the Bowling Hardware Co. in White Sulphur Springs.

The Town of White Sulphur Springs Council announces that the project of installing a new sewer line in the Fist Hatchery Addition is now under construction at a cost of between \$4,500 and \$5,000.

The White Sulphur Springs Volunteer Fire Department held a jubilant celebration July 31 when the long awaited fire truck arrived from Roanoke, Virginia.

The new fire truck will be on display on Main Street for the benefit of local citizens.

Charles M. Burr of White Sulphur Springs was among the 49 students of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics of West Virginia University to make the dean's list.

The Dollhouse was moved Tuesday from the C&O Railway property across Main Street to the park lot adjoining the Alvon Hotel, almost the identical spot where it was originally located when started by two girls just out of college, Lita and Pat Shinn.

Two 17-year-old golfers from White Sulphur Springs won berths in the National Caddie Tournament in

Charleston Tuesday, Harold Lee Byers and Lorna William Wickline.

The board of managers of the Greenbrier Youth Camp have completed the general plans for the erection of the first building on the camp site near Anthony Station. This building is to be a one-story structure to be used for an assembly room, dining room, and kitchen.

On July 29, 1952, Sergeant First Class John C. Clifford of White Sulphur Springs was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

The White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club recently recognized Dr. C.B. Collins and Harry Gillespie for 25 years of membership and perfect attendance during the club's regular luncheon meeting in the community house on August 21.

Prize winner in the New York Herald Tribune, Paris Edition, photo contest for service personnel was Edsell D. McGrady, aviation chief photographer's mate, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. McGrady of White Sulphur Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. White of White Sulphur Springs received word that their son, A-sc Bobby G. White, has received his corporal stripe. He is stationed at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

Nearly 18,000 recreationists sought relief from the hot weather during July by visiting national forest recreation area Blue Bend. Visitors from all over the country and from Canada were reported.

The White Sulphur Sentinel office will be closed next week, August 24-30, in order to give its employees a week's vacation.

Some of the features this month at the Plaza Theatre include James Stewart, Arthur Kennedy, and Julia Adams in "Bend of the River;" Helen Hayes and Van Heflin in "My Son, John;" and "Singin' in the Rain starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds.

Cpl. Jackson E. Troxell, son of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Troxell of White Sulphur Springs, recently graduated from XVI Corps Leaders' School at Camp Matushima, Japan.

Boy Scout Troop No. 51 of White Sulphur Springs, spent two weeks at Camp Clifton McClintic and was made a member of the Honor Troop for the two week there.

Dear Abby: Monday, August 9

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

Woman Won't Marry Boyfriend Because Of His Mom

Dear Abby: My boyfriend and I have been together for 19 years. He wants to get married, but I keep putting it off. I was married before; he's never been married. I haven't done it because I can't get over something his mom did to me more than 10 years ago. I was close with her. Her daughter-in-law and I knew each other from when we were younger, but we never got along. Well, she convinced my boyfriend's mom that I was sleeping with a friend of theirs, which was a lie. Instead of coming to me asking me about it, she and her DIL came to my house, screaming at me and ordered me to let my boyfriend go so he could be happy and find someone

else, since I was messing around. I was so stunned I just said, “Fine!” and told them to leave. My boyfriend was furious. He called his mom and yelled at her. When she realized it wasn’t true, she apologized. My issue is, I was more hurt than mad because of how it was handled. Am I being selfish and stubborn? — **Still Hurt in Florida**

Dear Still Hurt: You are neither selfish nor stubborn. You are foolish. If you think you are punishing your boyfriend’s mother by refusing to marry her son (for 19 years!), you are mistaken. It hasn’t affected her at all. I do think you are overdue in finding a way to bury the hatchet with the woman whose mistake was in believing everything she was told.

Dear Abby: Before my husband and I married, we were regaled with stories about the antiques that would come to him because he is the eldest son. We spent many long weekends across the country taking care of the in-laws’ “honey-do” lists, and my mother-in-law often told us this-and-that item would be ours someday. Well, guess what? They turned around and gave every single one to my brother-in-law. Yes, I realize it’s their privilege to dispose of their property as they wish. But how do we reconcile feeling used? Am I out of bounds because I expected their promise to be honored and remembered? I no longer care to be around them or hear their empty promises. I feel they defrauded my husband by promising tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of silver and furniture, and then handed it all to his brother. Any advice? — **Slighted in Louisiana**

Dear Slighted: Ask your in-laws politely why they promised the heirlooms to you and your husband and then gave them to his brother. If they planned to follow through, it should have been put in writing in case something unexpected happened. Unless there is something you didn’t include in your letter, what your in-laws did was terrible. In the future, it would be understandable if you were less at their beck and call when their “honey-do” list needs attending to.

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.

Kyle Petty's Ride Across America Comes To New River

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



This fall, Kyle Petty will host the “Charity Ride Revival (CRR),” a one-time-only, miniature version of his annual Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America. The CRR was created in response to postponing the larger Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America until Spring 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Differing from the annual Ride, the CRR will be half the time, half the size and based at one single hotel – The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. It will also only include previous participants of the Ride. These are precautions put in place by the Ride to protect the safety of participating riders and team members. From Sept. 21 – 23 the CRR will travel a different route each day to a unique point of interest for riders to explore and enjoy before returning to the hotel. The CRR will act as a reunion for past riders to gather again for riding and fellowship after being apart for more than two years due to the coronavirus.

Kyle Petty’s 2021 Charity Ride Revival Schedule:

Day 1, Tuesday, Sept. 21 – National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia

Day 2, Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Seneca Rocks in Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

Day 3, Thursday, Sept. 23 – New River Gorge National Park and Preserve in West Virginia

“With the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and restrictions being lifted, we wanted to do something to get our riders back together again in a safe way; thus, the Charity Ride Revival was created as a way to do just that,” said Kyle Petty, former NASCAR driver, current NBC Sports racing analyst and founder of the Ride. “The word ‘revival’ means to bring something back to life, and in our case, it means to reactivate after being dormant for more than two years. And I, for one, am more than ready to get back out there, riding motorcycles with friends in a beautiful setting all for a great cause!”

The CRR will continue the Ride's mission of raising funds and awareness for Victory Junction — a camp dedicated to providing life-changing camping experiences for children with chronic and serious medical illnesses. Victory Junction has served as the Ride's primary beneficiary since its establishment by Petty and his family in 2004 in honor of his late son, Adam. To date, the Ride has raised more than \$19 million for Victory Junction and other children's charities.

For more information, please visit www.kylepettycharityride.com.

You can also stay up to date with Petty and the Ride on social media at the following accounts:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kpcharityride and www.facebook.com/kylepetty45

Instagram: www.instagram.com/kpcharityride and www.instagram.com/kylepetty

Twitter: www.twitter.com/kpcharityride and www.twitter.com/kylepetty

About Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America

Led by former NASCAR driver and racing analyst Kyle Petty, the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America is an annual cross-country motorcycle trek that raises funds and awareness for Victory Junction. The Ride is one of the most successful and popular charity events in the country. Since 1995, more than 8,650 riders have logged 12.4 million cumulative motorcycle miles and raised more than \$19 million for Victory Junction and other children's charities.

Beckley Day Of Hope Returning, Volunteers Needed

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

The Beckley Day of Hope is returning to the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center on Saturday, Aug. 14. To make the event possible, 800 volunteers are needed.

According to event coordinator and Calvary Assembly of God Pastor John Jordan, about 2,500 guests of honor attend the Beckley Day of Hope each year.

"That's how many people we get the privilege to serve," Jordan stated. "The first year we had it, we had about 3,100 people."

The day is dedicated to helping the less fortunate in southern West Virginia by offering a free lunch, groceries, medical screenings (including vision), and family portraits. Everyone from children to adults throughout southern West Virginia can attend the event.

Two services that are uniquely available to kids are free haircuts and free shoes, Jordan said. But, other than those services, everything else is provided to anyone who needs help.

Gates are open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. There is no pre-registration and no questions are asked. However, some of the medical screenings and programs do require photo identification.

"You just show up," Jordan said for those who wish to attend the Beckley Day of Hope.

In order to serve this many guests, Jordan is asking for volunteers. For anyone who wishes to volunteer during the Saturday event, be at the Calvary Assembly of God at 319 Sunset Drive in Beckley at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 13.

“We will gather once again on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Raleigh County Convention center where we will assign people different locations to serve on that day,” Jordan said.

The Beckley Day of Hope started as a direct result of an organization called Convoy of Hope, Jordan explained.

That organization, out of Springfield, Missouri, offers humanitarian services around the world. About 20 years ago, Jordan said he became aware of the organization and how they go into communities and create a blueprint for churches on how to help the needy.

“Ten years ago, we were able to partner with them and have our first Beckley Day of Hope,” Jordan said. “It gives us an opportunity to truly, in a tangible way, provide hope and the love of Christ. We are called to share with people, not only through our words but through our actions, the love of Jesus. It is our hope and desire that we continue to do this, so that on this one day people who are struggling with things in their life may, for a few hours, not feel the pressures of whatever they are dealing with. They won’t have to be concerned about where their next meal is coming from.”

“It’s a judgment free zone,” Jordan continued. “Come out, have fun, get lunch, take home some groceries and get connected with an agency that can provide assistance. All this is done with the desire to show people the love of God and know that there is hope.”

For more information, visit beckleydayofhope.org.

Steve Mackey: Bass Player Of A Generation

By by matthew young | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



Back in March, the West Virginia Daily News reported that Greenbrier East High School alumnus Steve Mackey had been nominated for “Bass Player of the Year” by the Academy of Country Music (ACM).

The ACM Awards are the industry’s way of “honoring the biggest names in country music.” The requirements to be nominated in this category “include, but are not limited to, a commercially released single or album embodying the player’s performance, which achieves Top 20 or better on Billboard’s Hot Country Songs, Billboard’s Top Country Albums or Mediabase Country charts.”

This year’s list of nominees included Mackey, Glenn Worf, Mark Hill, J.T. Cure and Tony Lucido. These five individuals are not only amongst “the biggest names in country music,” but also must be included in any legitimate list of the 20 most talented artists in the world.

According to Jeff Bryant, Mackey’s extraordinary musical ability “became evident almost immediately.”

Bryant, now superintendent of Greenbrier County Schools, served as GEHS band director during Mackey’s high school years.

“It became apparent during Steve’s tenure in high school that he was destined for a great musical career,” Bryant said, shortly after the ACM Award nominations were announced.

Early in April, Mackey took time to speak with the West Virginia Daily News by telephone from his home in Nashville. During that conversation, Mackey spoke as highly of Bryant as Bryant did of him.

“He was the coolest...he was the coolest,” Mackey said. “I will always be indebted to him because he saw

immediately that there was nothing else that I was gonna do.”

After graduating high school in 1984, Mackey earned his degree from Boston’s prestigious Berklee College of Music, Bryant’s alma mater.

“But I love Jeff,” Mackey said in April. “He was really important to me and is really important to me now.”

Since his time at Greenbrier East, and then Berklee, Mackey has gone on to play with such artists as Dolly Parton, Tom Bukovac and Luke Combs. In doing so, he has established himself as one of most versatile musicians in the industry. However, Mackey remains both humble and perpetually excited by how he makes his living. When Mackey spoke with WVDN in April, he shared with us how playing with Peter Frampton in 2018 was the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

“The first album I ever bought with my own money, my parents drove me to Lewisburg...drove me to Fairlea, and I went into Hecks to buy ‘Frampton Comes Alive!’ Mackey said. “I was 10-years-old, and I will never forget coming home and putting it on, and hearing it right when the needle dropped on the record.”

As Mackey explained, Frampton had a short-notice need for a bassist to join his band for a New Year’s Eve show.

“So anyway, I get this phone call. And I thought, ‘there is no way I can turn this down.’ But it wasn’t only cool in that respect. It was cool because it was one of the most musical gigs I’ve ever been on. He (Frampton) was a pleasure to be around. Also, everybody else in his band had been there for 10 or 15 years. They’d all heard his stories, and I hadn’t heard any of them. So, when they all rolled their eyes and went back to their bunks, I stayed up ‘til two in the morning with him. And he’d go, ‘oh Steve, you haven’t heard this one!’

“He had the coolest stories ... like 60’s rock stories, especially. He was basically a rock star since he was 15-years-old when he got kind of discovered by Bill Wyman. So he grew up around the Stones and all those people, and he looked at them the way we do, but they were just a little bit older. So he was right in the middle of it. And to hear stories about Bill Wyman calling his (Frampton’s) mom to ask permission for him to come pick him up to take him to see Hendrix at a club in London, it was incredible.”

“The Peter Frampton thing, that, literally, was a dream come true. And so is the good relationship that I still have with him.”

When the door closed on the 2021 ACM Awards, it was Tony Lucido who was named “Bass Player of the Year.”

On Saturday, August 7, Mackey once again took the time to speak with WVDN.

“He’s really a great friend of mine,” Mackey said of Lucido. “You know, all of those guys – there were more bass players who were on the list to be nominated. Your name kinda gets thrown into a pile according to who plays on number one songs that year. Obviously, some guys play on more number ones than others. But that’s what throws your name into the pile, and then the board votes on the nominees.”

But Lucido is by no means Mackey’s only friend. Once again, Jeff Bryant offered his support and his appreciation.

“Even though Steve Mackey — musician extraordinaire — didn’t win the ACM Award, we are every bit as proud of him as we ever were,” Bryant told WVDN. “Steve is a major force within the country music family and a major player in the very exclusive world of studio musicians.”

Bryant went on to say: “Personally, I am honored to know Steve as a former student, music colleague, and

most importantly, as a treasured friend.”

Despite not having been selected for the award himself, Mackey’s humility and excitement remained unphased, and the joy he expressed over his friend being honored was unmistakable.

“But Tony, man...” Mackey continued, unable to hide the happiness in his voice. “If you turn on the radio — with anybody on that list — if you turn on the radio, you’re gonna hear them, and you’ll probably hear Tony the most. So this is really well-deserved for him.”

Regardless of the 2021 ACM Awards, Steve Mackey truly is our “Bass Player of the Year.” Despite the success, the fame, and the bright lights of Music City, in his heart, Mackey will always be a Greenbrier kid.

“It is an honor to be recognized for achievements and milestones in your career,” Mackey said. “But that pales in comparison to the feeling of friends, family, and people you don’t even know, genuinely wishing you well. Of course this is my home. I grew up feeling that.”

Author’s note: *I wrote a more extensive article about Steve Mackey for the May issue of The DayTripper. For this article, I reused parts of the conversation I had with Steve back in April (including the Peter Frampton story). After speaking with Steve today, I find myself feeling very much the same now as I did after our first conversation four months ago. So, I can think of no better way to end this article than the way I ended that one...*

As it appeared in the May 2021 edition of The DayTripper Magazine: “What I promise you that Steve Mackey doesn’t get, is that someday I’ll be telling somebody all about the time I got to have a late-night rap with Steve Mackey. And when I do, I’ll be talking to that somebody about Steve Mackey the same way that Steve Mackey was talking to me about Peter Frampton. And I’m pretty sure that somebody will feel like I do...”

Treasurer's Office To Hold 'Unclaimed Property' Auctions

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

State Treasury Riley Moore today announced his office will host two in-person Unclaimed Property Auctions during the 2021 State Fair of West Virginia.

The auctions will take place Saturday, Aug. 14, and Saturday, Aug. 21, beginning at 5 p.m. on both days.

Items up for bid include rare coins, currency, jewelry, and other collectibles that have been turned over to the Office’s Unclaimed Property Division by banks or law enforcement. The items will be on display at the State Treasurer’s Office booth, located in the West Virginia Building, throughout the fair.

Items auctioned often come from safe deposit boxes or law enforcement evidence rooms. When companies or officials are unable to locate the lawful owners, the items are turned over to the Treasurer’s Office as unclaimed property. While the items are auctioned off, the proceeds from the sale remain in an individual’s name for claim in the future.

“These items are often forgotten about or left abandoned,” Treasurer Moore said. “These auctions help

convert these collectibles into the highest cash value possible for someone to claim in the future. They're also a treasure trove for collectors. I encourage everyone to check out our auctions and learn more about the Unclaimed Property program."

In addition to conducting the auctions, State Treasurer's office staff will be available throughout the fair to conduct unclaimed property searches for anyone who takes time to visit the office's booth in the West Virginia Building.

For more information about the program, or to search to see if you have unclaimed property, visit www.wvtreasury.com and click the search button on the "Are We Holding Your Money?" graphic.

Justice Pleads: 'Run And Get Vaccinated'

By by matthew young | WVDN AUG 09, 2021

With the recent uptick of COVID-19, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources reports that there are now nearly 3,400 confirmed cases throughout the state. This is a significant increase from the less than 1,000 confirmed cases reported just three weeks ago. And as families all across West Virginia are preparing to send their children back to school, the Mountain State still struggles to elevate the vaccination rate above 50% of its residents.

During his Friday, Aug. 6 coronavirus response media briefing, Gov. Jim Justice once again stressed the need for West Virginians to get vaccinated, saying: "With all the risks that are out there, you need to move today. We all know how to stop it. All we've got to do is get vaccinated."

Earlier in the week, The WVBOE and the WVDOE released their "back-to-school guidance for the 2021-2022 school year" in an effort to "provide county school systems with strategies to facilitate the safe return to school and the continued operation of schools without interruption."

The document begins with a message from State Superintendent of Schools Clayton Burch.

"As we head into another school year, it is incredible to look back to this time last year and realize how far we have come," Burch stated in his message. "Our resilience is reflected in the response our administrators, educators, school personnel, students, and family have shown even as the pandemic continues to create challenges. We are all working together to determine the best path forward for our school communities because we all understand the importance of having our children in the classroom in-person and engaged with our teachers."

The full document is available to view by visiting the W.Va. Department of Education's website.

The DHHR further reports that West Virginia now has 129 confirmed cases of the Delta variant of COVID-19. This reflects a 29% increase in reported cases of the Delta variant in the past seven days. With 24, Berkeley County has the most reported cases of the Delta variant, followed by Monongalia County with 17. Greenbrier County has reported five confirmed cases of the Delta variant. Fayette, Mercer, Raleigh and Summers counties have each reported one case. As of Sunday, August 8, 23 counties have identified no cases of the Delta variant.

"We're starting to see a more rapid increase," Justice further said on Friday. "There needs to be more and

more concern about getting yourself vaccinated because we're running out of time."

There has also been a recent surge in hospitalizations. At present, 210 West Virginians are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, with 68 being cared for in area intensive-care units and 27 being treated with ventilators.

"It will only get worse if we don't really aggressively run and get vaccinated today," Justice concluded.

Conference builds bridges of respect, offers new connections

By by eric cravey times west virginian | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP) — Renée Verbanic often thinks about water and the power it carries.

Just as the drop that splashes atop a rock may not make an impact the first time, but given years of drops, water will leave a visible impression on the rock. She often quotes a song about water.

"Can we be like drops of water falling on the stone," Verbanic said. "The water is seemingly weak, but given time, the rock will wear away and that's what Communities of Shalom is all about."

Verbanic, in her role as director of Marion County Communities of Shalom Inc., said her hope is that the two-day Building Bridges of Respect conference that wrapped up last Sunday at LIFE United Methodist Church will act like water and ripple through the community. She said nonprofits networked together to discuss such issues as addiction, the LGBTQ community, different religions and races.

She often relies on the power of word of mouth, and neighbor talking to neighbor to spread the word about what Communities of Shalom does.

The event was not about raising money because it was underwritten by grants the organization obtained through its role as a branch of West Virginia Prevention Solutions where it receives federal funding to promote alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention.

Verbanic said vendors asked prior to signing up if they would be charged a fee for attending. Again, she turned to the metaphor about water and instead told them to bring bottled water.

“Again, it’s that symbol of that ripple effect out in the community and we know, slow and steady, the rock will wear away. And the rock, of course, being intolerance, being hate-filled comments, this idea that we have all the answers — that’s the rock and being open to other ideas, to other concepts, other ways of life.”

Ryan Glaspell, of Fairmont, said he did not attend last Saturday’s events for the Building Bridges of Respect conference because of a prior engagement but was drawn to the Sunday portion after reading about the conference’s goals and mission on social media.

“I think there are so many different local things to choose from but just having an event that explicitly was about bringing people together and quite literally building bridges with other people was something that made me really want to bring my four-year-old to come and just have some of those values seen firsthand through different events and activities,” Glaspell said.

On Sunday, Verbanic taught conference guests how to make their own Shalom Flag, which were patterned after Tibetan Prayer Flags. The flags symbolize healthy community-building and show others that its owner stands up for inclusivity, representation and diversity.

“Shalom Flags are used to promote peace and compassion and health and strength and wisdom,” said Verbanic, who made one as an example in support of her mother’s upcoming 90th birthday.

Fairmont residents Cherish Davis, and her thirteen-year-old son Ezra Davis, made a Shalom Flag that called for prayers for children, unity, pastors, faith, love and understanding. Cherish said she believed everyone should attend.

“It is amazing. It’s good for children — everyone should have come out and supported it. Everyone needs to come together so it’s a great time for it,” Cherish Davis said. “It’s good to support every culture. Everyone comes from a different background and everyone needs to understand how it is for everyone.”

Verbanic said Communities of Shalom hasn’t measured success in terms of numbers of attendees in its 20 years as an organization. She strives for quality over quantity.

“What we heard from the two dozen or more organizations that we had — and they were all nonprofit, helping organizations that were there (Saturday) — almost every one of them stopped by and said, ‘This has been terrific. The networking has been so helpful’,” Verbanic said.

She said COVID-19 pandemic guidelines made it difficult to host resource fairs last year, so many guests mentioned how grateful they were to have been invited to the events at the Wave-Tek Pool on Saturday. She said while the conference organizers are still counting guests, she knows that 150 kids and adults attended Saturday.

“What we look for is — were connections being made, did we have the diversity that we were looking for, did we have young and old? Yes, we did. The oldest one there was probably 95 and the youngest was a babe in arms.

“Did we have gay and straight? You betcha. Did we have all faiths? For Marion County, we did. We had Jewish, we had Islamic, we had Buddhists, we had Atheists, we had Christians, so we look for the diversity, the representation. That was our goal, inclusivity, representation, diversity.”

In its role as the resource provider for drug and alcohol prevention education, Communities of Shalom is tasked with connecting human service agencies to each other and the community.

“We had, I think, two people say, ‘We’d like to make a donation to the Communities of Shalom. Where do we do that?’ and I pointed out our treasurer. No, this was not a fundraiser,” Verbanic said.

The event’s organizers have hoped from the beginning that the conference would help broaden guests’ horizons and to have conversations with others they’ve never had before.

“To add more tools to their toolbox regarding conflict resolution, regarding understanding the different gender

identities and understanding the different religions and understanding what different organizations have to offer regarding wellness and regarding stigma reduction and understanding what it takes for a person living with addiction what it takes to recover and what their recovering process looks like,” Verbanic said.

Jim Nolan, a board member of both the Fairmont Human Rights Commission and Communities of Shalom, said he received a lot of positive feedback during both days’ events. The HRC also helped sponsor the conference. “A lot of people tell me they’re so happy that we had this event. They feel like they’re included. They feel like there’s a group of people that are open to other ways of thinking, so it’s been good from that perspective,” Nolan said.

Nolan said there were a number of groups there representing the LGBTQ community and other groups that are often underrepresented, such as PFLAG and Fairness West Virginia.

“There’s lot of different types of groups in Fairmont, lots of different types of lifestyles and races, and ethnicities, so this is a celebration of all groups of people, so when people come they feel, ‘Oh, this is a good thing’,” Nolan said. “It’s been a really good experience for all of us.”

Margaret Victoria Hofer

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



HOFER

Margaret Victoria Hofer, 89, of Lewisburg, passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Greenbrier Health Care Center in Lewisburg.

She was born May 9, 1932 in White Sulphur Springs, a daughter of the late Lafayette Lee and Victoria Corron Kirk.

She was a homemaker and an art hobbyist and was advanced at crocheting quilts and clothing for others. She was a selfless person, and her children and grandchildren were her life.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband and father of her children, Maynard Howard Simmons, and a second husband, Kurt Hofer. She was preceded in death by two sons, Maynard Quain Simmons and Howard Franklin Simmons; and a step-daughter, Heidi A. Hofer; Margaret's siblings, Mary Kirk, Irene Kirk, Joseph Kirk and wife, Thelma, Jimmy James Kirk, Ernie Kirk, and Lafayette Kirk.

Those left to cherish her memory are daughters, Minthia "Mindi" Rockafellow (Jim) of Pennsylvania, Delsie A. Simmons and Billie Jane Simmons, both of Richmond, VA; a step-granddaughter, Leslie Johnson; a multitude of grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

As per her wishes, she will be cremated and no services are planned at this time.

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

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

Montie Dale Quinn

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



QUINN

Montie Dale Quinn, 71, of Ronceverte, passed away Thursday, August 5, 2021 at CAMC General Division in

Charleston.

Born December 9, 1949 at Ronceverte, he was a son of the late Jack W. and Thelma Burr Quinn.

Montie was a devout Christian and was a retired carpenter. He was a member of the V.F.W., D.A.V., and was a Marine Corp. veteran serving in Vietnam. Montie was best known for his musical talent as an excellent drummer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Diane Allender, and a brother, Melvin Quinn.

Survivors include three daughters, Angela M. Grimmitt, Victoria M. Quinn, and Kalene R. Quinn; two sons, Brian Dale Quinn and Jack T. Quinn; a cherished lifelong friend, Kathy Quinn Keen; grandchildren, Faith, Jordan, Colin, Brendan, Ethan, Owen, Izabel, Coltyne, Arya, and Sofie; three great-grandchildren, and one on the way. Also surviving is a dear friend, Carlita Blevins.

Funeral service was 2 p.m. Saturday, August 14, 2021 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with a Pastor officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

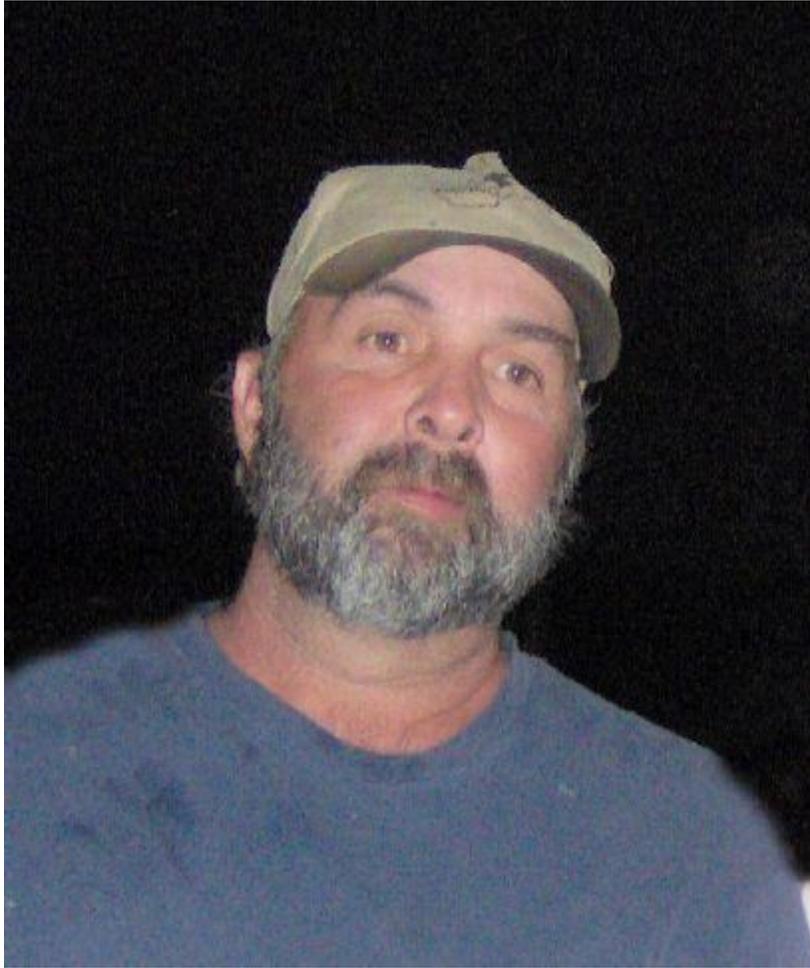
The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

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

Leonard Wayne

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 09, 2021



LEWIS

Leonard Wayne "Buck" Lewis, 61, of Frankford, WV, passed away Friday, August 6, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

Born March 21, 1960, in Spring Creek, WV, he was the son of the late Shelby and Minnie Grey Brown Lewis. Mr. Lewis was a plumber throughout his life.

Survivors include his loving companion of forty-two years, Nancy Joanne Hale; son, Leonard Wayne Hale (Nicole) of Maxwelton, WV; daughter, Ashley Nicole Hale (Matthew Wellman) of Frankford, WV; brothers, David Lewis (Alice) of Alexandria, VA, and Allen Lewis (Kim) of White Sulphur Springs, WV; sisters, Sharon Ellis (Donnie) of Renick, WV, Lessie Lewis of Frankford, WV, Linda Lewis of Alexandria, VA, and Judy Lewis (Scott) of Renick, WV; grandchildren, Parker and Tucker Hale and Wyatt, Kayden, and Kameron Wellman.

Visitation will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2021, at the Morgan Funeral Home - 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, WV. Funeral service will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in the Morningside Cemetery, Renick, WV.

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

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.