

WVDN AUG 16, 2021



Table of Contents

- Carl Keith LaRue 1**
- Ms. Zelda Maria “Ze Ze” Harris 2**
- Lewisburg City Council To Hold Meeting 3**
- Greenbrier County Board Of Zoning Appeals To Hold Meeting 3**
- Lewisburg Proposed Ordinance 295 4**
- Dear Abby: Monday, August 16 4**
- What's The Deal With Friday The 13th? 5**
- CHS Receives Donation 7**
- Suddenlink Customers Encouraged To Attend Upcoming PSC Hearing 8**
- W.Va. Leads Nation In Population Drop As Redistricting Looms 10**
- At Least 304 Dead, 1,800 Hurt As Powerful Quake Slams Haiti 11**
- Alderson Approves FEMA Funds For Budget Shortfall 13**

Carl Keith LaRue

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 16, 2021



LARUE

Carl Keith LaRue, 73, of Lewisburg, WV passed away Thursday, August 12, 2021, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born April 15, 1948, in Ronceverte, WV, he was the son of the late Paul Edgar LaRue and Mary Virginia Adwell Wingler.

Carl was a US Army Korean War Veteran. He was a Master Electrician and had worked for Mulligan Lumber and Total Plant Maintenance. He was all around very talented in music, writing, drawing, painting, and glass etching.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Cindy Hanna, and a sister, Martha Sue LaRue.

Survivors include his loving wife of fifty-two years, Beverly Dawson LaRue; daughter, Angie Huffman (Greg) of Lewisburg, WV; brothers, Edgar Lee LaRue (Linda) of Lewisburg, WV, Gary LaRue (Gary) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; sisters, Donna Eames (Brad) of Warrenton, VA and Bonnie Ramsey (Kirby) of Lewisburg, WV; grandchildren, Nicole Bumgarner, Justin and Jason Huffman, all of Lewisburg, WV and Ashley Hanna of Frankford, WV; great-grandchildren, Tanner Dowdy, Payton and Tristan Hughes, Laci and Wyatt Huffman; as well as three nephews.

It was Carl's wish to be cremated. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, August 21, 2021, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Frank Jones and Pastor Jim Johnson officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service, Saturday at the funeral home.

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

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Ms. Zelda Maria “Ze Ze” Harris

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 16, 2021



HARRIS

Ms. Zelda Maria “Ze Ze” Harris, 72, of White Sulphur Springs, went home to be with the Lord on August 11, 2021 at her home.

She was born on January 4, 1949 in Terceira, Portugal, the daughter of the late Frank and Madelena Silva.

She was a dedicated U.S. Air Force wife for the first 20 years in this country, until her husband retired.

She had a selfless heart and loved children; was a day care provider in her White Sulphur Springs home the last 27 years. She was a woman with high integrity, respect, and dignity. She was widely known for her giving nature with preparing special foods and gifts for those she cared for. She believed that she could show her love to others by making sure they were fed with food prepared with love and appreciation.

She was nurturing, sassy, giving, dedicated, and comical. Her family and the children she helped raise in this

community were her life.

Zelda was preceded in death by both parents in Portugal; her sister, Eva; her brother, Frank; and her husband of 23 years, Carl Harris, Sr.

She is survived by her son, JR Harris (41) and his wife, Rebecca, daughter, Christina F. Harris (29), and two grandchildren, Lylah and Nehemiah Harris; two sisters, Lucy Hayes and Ana Silva; beloved nieces and nephews; very loving, selfless, and honorable family friends, Ms. Sandra Copenhaver, Donna Harris and family, as well as, Tara Spence and family.

Memorial services will be held 2 p.m., Saturday, August 21, 2021 at The First Baptist Church on Church Street in White Sulphur Springs, with Rev. Greg Scott officiating, and JR Harris co-officiating.

The family will have a warm visitation at 1 p.m. at the church before the official start of the memorial service. Per her last wishes, Ze Ze will be cremated and ashes spread back at her home in Portugal.

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

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is coordinating arrangements.

Lewisburg City Council To Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

The next meeting of the Lewisburg City Council will be held on Tuesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda:

- Call to order
- Visitors report
- Approval of minutes: regular session July 20
- Ordinance: Ordinance 293, Updating the Codified Ordinances, 2nd reading & public hearing, Ordinance 294, DNA Holdings, I1 to PUD rezoning, 2nd reading & public hearing, Ordinance 295, Park rental fees, 1st reading
- Resolution: Resolution 486, Police vehicle lease, Resolution 487, Police lease of mobile data terminals
- Communications from the mayor, city manager, council members, boards and commissions, police department, fire department, council committees
- Report from public works director
- Adjournment

Greenbrier County Board Of Zoning Appeals To

Hold Meeting

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

A special meeting of the Greenbrier County Board of Zoning Appeals will be held on Tuesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the main floor courtroom.

Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Preliminary Business
- Recognition of Quorum
- New Business
- Consider request for Temporary Use Permit from Hawk Knob for and Arts & Crafts Festival at 2245 Blue Sulphur Pike, Lewisburg: date of August 21, 2021
- Adjournment

Lewisburg Proposed Ordinance 295

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

The following is the fee schedule for use of the City Parks:

- Lewisburg Parks Shelter Reservation \$50/day
- Lewisburg Parks Concession Stand Use \$10/day or \$100 per season
- Dorie Miller Ballfield Reservation \$10/day or \$100 per season
- Hollowell Ballfield Reservation \$10/day or \$100 per season
- (if passed) The Ordinance shall be effective January 1, 2022

First reading will take place during the regular session of the Lewisburg City Council scheduled for Tuesday, August 17.

Dear Abby: Monday, August 16

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

Bakery's Food-Safety Issues Have Former Worker Worried

DEAR ABBY: A year ago I was working at a small wholesale bakery with maybe 15 employees. While I was there, the place was overrun with food-safety issues, including mice, allergen cross-contact issues and poor employee hygiene practices. At the time, the owner was working on fixing some of the problems, but not fast enough for my taste. Although he was never my favorite person, he was clearly overwhelmed with running a

business and didn't have the resources to fix the problems. Now that I have been gone for some time, I'm on the fence about whether I should leave an online review or comment detailing some of the problems. I don't want to hurt a struggling business, and it's possible these problems have been fixed, but there is no way for me to know for sure because I am no longer there. Personally, I think customers should know about these issues before purchasing their products, but I don't want to stick my nose where it shouldn't go. Even if I leave a review anonymously, there is always a chance they will find out. Advice? — POSSIBLE WHISTLEBLOWER

DEAR WHISTLEBLOWER: I agree customers of that bakery should know there are possible problems. Rather than leave an anonymous review, contact the health department in your city and report the conditions you observed. It should trigger an inspection of the place. Your personal feelings about the owner have nothing to do with this. The cross-contamination you described could trigger a possibly fatal allergic reaction. And the vermin infestation and poor hygiene practices of the employees could cause someone to become seriously ill.

DEAR ABBY: My 53rd high school class reunion is coming up. Former classmates have been emailing me about participating. I do not want to go. I went to my 50th and that was enough catching up for me. I like hearing about the lives of my former classmates from our class correspondent, but 50 years ago I moved more than 1,000 miles away and began a new life. So did my parents and siblings. Today, my parents are gone, and my siblings and I are spread around the country. There's nothing left in my hometown for me other than the graves of my father's family, our old family home and memories. Is there something wrong with me because I'd rather spend time with my friends in my present city and travel to the remaining places on my bucket list? Should I be ashamed of my attitude, or am I "normal"? — FEELING GUILTY IN TEXAS

DEAR FEELING: It is normal and healthy to want to concentrate on the present rather than keep revisiting the past. I see nothing shameful about it and nothing to feel guilty for. You attended your 50th and touched base with your old classmates. It was a blessing to be able to do that. If, however, the trip down memory lane and the number of classmates no longer on this side of the sod depressed you, skip future reunions, concentrate on the future, and do it without beating yourself up.

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.

What's The Deal With Friday The 13th?

By by matthew young | WVDN AUG 16, 2021



The day is here again...Friday the 13th! And with it comes the inevitable bacchanalia of superstitious tomfoolery.

August is the only month we have a "Friday the 13th" this year, and that works out well. (I didn't care enough about it to pay any attention the last seven months, and I only wanted to write about it today because we're moving towards Halloween.) So here we go. Let's learn a little history about this weirdly spooky closet where we store our more off-color cultural heritage. Despite what we all saw in the movies, Friday the 13th is about more than boogeymen in hockey masks.

For starters, people seem to not like the number "13." Why is that, you ask? Well, I don't know. Some people just get freaked out by stuff. Probably doesn't really matter why. Why don't people like to walk under ladders? Why would breaking a mirror cause you seven years of bad luck? Who knows...that's just how it is.

However, the fear of the number "13" has become such a phenomenon that there is actually a psychological term for it...triskaidekaphobia. (Try saying that 13 times fast!)

According to history.com, the number "13" takes on a whole other level of badly badness when the date happens to fall on a Friday.

"According to biblical tradition, 13 guests attended the Last Supper, held on Maundy Thursday, including Jesus and his 12 apostles (one of whom, Judas, betrayed him). The next day, of course, was Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion."

That is a thickly-layered onion to peel...

So, are the bad omens associated with Friday the 13th nothing more than silly, ancient superstition, or biblical foreshadowing? Again, who really knows? But what I can tell you is that pretty unpleasant things have happened throughout the years on Friday the 13th...

On Friday, September 13 in 1940, German air-raids nearly destroyed Buckingham Palace. On Friday, March 13 in 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was murdered in Queens. On Friday, November 13 in 1970, a deadly cyclone touched down in Bangladesh, killing more than 300,000 people. A Chilean Air Force plane vanished in the Andes on Friday, October 13 in 1972. In 1996, Tupac Shakur was killed on Friday, September 13. And the cruise ship "Costa Concordia" brought some 30 people with it to the bottom of the sea when it crashed off the coast of Italy on Friday, January 13 in 2012.

Even though the aforementioned movie series is not the basis for the myth, no conversation about Friday the 13th is complete without making mention of the walking incarnation of one of the most uncreative Halloween costumes ever thought up...the boogeyman in the hockey mask. (I know Michael Myers is referred to as "the boogeyman" in the Halloween movies and I am therefore referencing the wrong horror film, but I'm writing this, so just go with it.)

The "Friday the 13th" movies, all 12 of them, have absolutely nothing to do with the legends and myths behind the day's origins. In fact, I'm pretty sure the date was only ever used maybe once as just a disposal line of dialogue to lengthen the obligatory expository scene in the second movie.

Although heavily criticized upon their release for their graphic depictions of violence and naked people, the movies were all financially successful. (Probably why they made so many.) But the movies really haven't aged well. By the standards of today's cinematic special effects, they are bad to the point of being almost comical. And frankly, the scariest thing about them may just be the horrible television show they tried to make using the name. But that's just me. I'm sure there are some people who thought the show was great.

So yeah, there you go, that's about all I've got for you. Some stuff about Friday the 13th. Not exactly news, just a bit of mostly useless knowledge to impress your friends.

Anyway...happy Friday the 13th, everybody! Maybe have a cupcake or something to celebrate.

CHS Receives Donation

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 16, 2021



The Children's Home Society of WV just put a little more money in the bank thanks to help from Little General stores and Arby's.

A check in the amount of \$81,900 was presented to Children's Home Society of WV (CHS) officials on Thursday, Aug. 12, at the Little General/Arby's location in MacArthur.

Little General was able to provide the funds from donations received through their Mother's Day program, where paper flowers were sold throughout West Virginia stores, and individual contributions. Arby's provided \$6,900.

According to Marilyn Pearce, CHS regional director, all of the money raised will stay in this region and help provide numerous support services for those who need it most.

"With our permanency office here in Raleigh County, it's going to service Raleigh County and the surrounding area," Pearce said.

CHS was founded in 1896. According to Pearce, there are over 7,000 children in the state who are in foster care. CHS works with the children and families to provide them with a safe, loving home and provide help in times of crisis.

Suddenlink Customers Encouraged To Attend Upcoming PSC Hearing

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

Those who are frustrated with the service provided by Suddenlink will get the chance to air their grievances before the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) on Monday, Aug. 23, in Beckley.

This hearing comes after months of working with both Suddenlink, and its customers, to achieve positive results regarding allegations of poor customer service. Back in May, PSC Chair Charlotte Lane met with Suddenlink representatives regarding the more than 1,900 recent complaints they had received from West Virginians who are upset about the lack of quality service.

Customer complaints include everything from billing issues, to slow internet speeds, frequent outages and more. The following are just some of the examples of complaints received by the PSC:

- "I must say Suddenlink is the most frustrating company to do business with," wrote a woman from Charleston. "I have no idea where their call centers are, but it is near impossible to speak with a live person who speaks and understands English well enough to rectify a service problem."

- A Beckley customer wrote that she had been trying to cancel service. "I called 1-866-659-2861 to disconnect my service. I explained to the lady that our income has changed and I would no longer be able to afford cable and internet. She went threw [sic] every scenario possible to not disconnect my service." After being placed on hold, the customer wrote "I held on the line for 32 minutes, she never came back on." The customer was billed in July 2021 for \$773.38. "I have been asking Suddenlink to cancel my services, shut my services down, the end, since February 2021. I am not paying for services I didn't want."

- A customer in Elkins wrote about frequent internet outages. "It is extremely frustrating, let alone knowing that you're paying for it. We pay almost \$130.00 a month. We just want the speed to be exceptional. That's what we're paying for - high speed internet."

- One 89 year old man wrote "They keep raising my bill, and I just can't keep paying a higher one. Last time, they jump it \$20 more. I'm paying \$129.58 and I'm on a fix [sic] income."

- A Scott Depot customer wrote "It is time that Suddenlink (Altice) steps-up and invests the resources necessary to insure [sic] that the service they provide meets acceptable standards."

Following the May meeting with Suddenlink representatives, Lane directed Suddenlink to provide a correction plan within 30 days.

According to information provided in a press release on July 1, "Suddenlink sent a letter to Chairman Lane on June 7, 2021, that contained neither a correction plan nor details of the steps that Suddenlink has taken to improve cable television service."

Now, the PSC has asked Suddenlink to provide a detailed report on what the company is doing to address concerns. Suddenlink is being required to provide information on completed and projected improvement projects to its cable television service; specific outage information; the processes used to issue and track trouble tickets; customer complaint call logs; a copy of all Suddenlink's current franchises for cable television service in the state; metrics regarding training, personnel, office locations and hours of operation. Suddenlink

must also show cause as to why they should not be required to take specific remedial steps regarding its cable television service and why the commission should not impose penalties as authorized by state law. As part of this report, the PSC wants to hear from concerned customers through several in-person hearings.

The first hearing will take place on Aug. 23 in the second floor ceremonial courtroom (Courtroom B) at the Beckley-Raleigh County Courthouse located at 215 Main Street in Beckley. The hearing will begin at 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, the PSC will conduct two additional hearings in Charleston at the PSC Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at 201 Brooks Street. The first hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the second hearing will start at 6 p.m.

For those who cannot attend the in-person hearings, the PSC welcomes letters and comments.

Anyone desiring to file a written comment should do so as soon as possible. All written comments should state the case name and number and be addressed to Connie Graley, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Written comments also may be filed electronically via the "Submit a Comment" link on the Commission website at wvirw.psc.state.wv.us.

Suddenlink offers cable television service to more than 300,000 households and small businesses and has over 133,000 cable television customers in West Virginia. The Company provides service over a hybrid fiber optic-coaxial network with more than 8,500 plant miles and eight headends across the state.

W.Va. Leads Nation In Population Drop As Redistricting Looms

By by john raby ap | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia's population declined 3.2% over the past decade, the most of any state, according to U.S. Census figures released Thursday, as lawmakers grapple with reshaping the state's legislative and congressional districts.

The numbers show that West Virginia lost a higher percentage of its residents than any other U.S. state and was one of seven states to lose a congressional seat after the 2020 census. The population fell by 59,278 from 2010 to 2020, to 1.8 million.

The figures show 47 of the state's 55 counties lost population. Exceptions were in the Eastern Panhandle and two northern counties associated with West Virginia University.

According to the latest data, the biggest jump in population occurred in Berkeley County, which gained 17,907 residents — a 17.2% increase. It is now the state's second-largest county, with 122,706 people. Nearby Jefferson County's population jumped 7.9%. The Eastern Panhandle has seen steady population growth this century due to an influx of commuters to Washington, D.C.

The state's largest county, Kanawha, which includes the capital of Charleston, remains the most populous, despite a 6.4% drop to 180,745 residents.

Monongalia County, which includes WVU's Morgantown campus, saw a 10% increase and overtook Cabell as the state's third-most populous county, with 105,822 residents. Preston County, east of Monongalia, saw a 2.1% increase, to 34,216 residents.

Putnam County, between Huntington and Charleston, saw the only other significant increase of 3.5%. The county now has 57,440 residents.

Besides people leaving the state, West Virginia's population has seen changing demographics, with deaths outpacing births for the past two decades, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Population losses were especially hard in counties where coal mines closed, including in the southern coalfields. McDowell County lost 13.6% of its residents in the past decade, dropping to a population of below 20,000 for the first time since 1900. After U.S. Steel sold the last of its mining operations in McDowell County in 2003, 23% of the population left because there was no other industry to rely on for jobs. Pendleton County lost the highest percentage of its residents, 20.2%, followed by Ritchie County at 19.2% and Calhoun County at 18.3%. They now have populations of 6,143, 8,444 and 6,229, respectively. Lawmakers must pare three U.S. House districts down to two — all three have sitting Republicans — as well as map out districts for 34 state Senate and 100 House of Delegates seats. Next year, the entire House will be elected from single-member districts for the first time under a law passed in 2018. Currently, more than half of the House is elected from multiple-member districts. Public hearings are being held around the state through mid-September, including one in Morgantown on Thursday. A special session is expected to convene later in the year. Morgan County Republican Charles Trump is leading the Senate committee and Mineral County Republican Gary Howell chairs the House committee. The GOP holds a supermajority in both chambers. Republicans have a wide advantage in both committees.

At Least 304 Dead, 1,800 Hurt As Powerful Quake Slams Haiti

By by e. sanon and t. webber ap | WVDN AUG 16, 2021

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A powerful magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck southwestern Haiti on Saturday, killing at least 304 people and injuring at least 1,800 others as buildings tumbled into rubble. Prime Minister Ariel Henry said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed with incoming patients.

The epicenter of the quake was about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said, and widespread damage was reported in the hemisphere's poorest nations as a tropical storm also bore down.

Haiti's civil protection agency said on Twitter that the death toll stood at 304, most in the country's south. Rescue workers and bystanders were able to pull many people to safety from the rubble. The agency said injured people were still being delivered to hospitals.

Henry declared a one-month state of emergency for the whole country and said he would not ask for international help until the extent of the damages was known. He said some towns were almost completely razed and the government had people in the coastal town of Les Cayes to help plan and coordinate the response.

"The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble," said Henry. "We have learned that the local hospitals, in particular that of Les Cayes, are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people."

He said the International Red Cross and hospitals in unaffected areas were helping to care for the injured, and appealed to Haitians for unity.

"The needs are enormous. We must take care of the injured and fractured, but also provide food, aid, temporary shelter and psychological support," he said.

Later, as he boarded a plane bound for Les Cayes, Henry said he wanted "structured solidarity" to ensure the

response was coordinated to avoid the confusion that followed the devastating 2010 earthquake, when aid was slow to reach residents after as many as 300,000 were killed.

U.S. President Joe Biden authorized an immediate response and named USAID Administrator Samantha Power as the senior official coordinating the U.S effort to help Haiti. USAID will help to assess damage and assist in rebuilding, said Biden, who called the United States a “close and enduring friend to the people of Haiti.”

A growing number of countries offered help, including Argentina and Chile, which said it was preparing to send humanitarian aid. “Once again, Haiti has been hit by adversity,” Chilean President Sebastian Piñera said.

Among those killed in the earthquake was Gabriel Fortuné, a longtime lawmaker and former mayor of Les Cayes. He died along with several others when his hotel, Le Manguier, collapsed, the Haitian newspaper Le Nouvelliste reported.

Philippe Boutin, 37, who lives in Puerto Rico but visits his family annually in Les Cayes, said his mother was saying morning prayers when the shaking began, but was able to leave the house.

The earthquake, he said, coincided with the festivities to celebrate the town’s patron saint, adding that the hotel likely was full and the small town had more people than usual.

“We still don’t know how many people are under the rubble,” he said.

On the tiny island of Ile-a-Vache, about 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometers) from Les Cayes, the quake damaged a seaside resort popular with Haitian officials, business leaders, diplomats and humanitarian workers. Fernand Sajous, owner of the Abaka Bay Resort, said by telephone that nine of the hotel’s 30 rooms collapsed, but he said they were vacant at the time and no one was injured.

“They disappeared — just like that,” Sajous said.

People in Les Cayes tried to pull guests from the rubble of a collapsed hotel, but as the sun set, they had only been able to recover the body of a 7-year-old girl whose home was behind the facility.

“I have eight kids, and I was looking for the last one,” Jean-Claude Daniel said through tears. “I will never see her again alive. The earthquake destroyed my life. It took a child away from me.”

The reports of overwhelmed hospitals come as Haiti struggles with the pandemic and a lack of resources to deal with it. Just last month, the country of 11 million people received its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines, via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

Richard Hervé Fourcand, a former Haitian senator, rented a private plane to move injured people from Les Cayes to Port-au-Prince for medical assistance. He told The Associated Press that Les Cayes’ hospital was at capacity.

The earthquake also struck just over a month after President Jovenel Moïse was killed, sending the country into political chaos. His widow, Martine Moïse, posted a message on Twitter calling for unity among Haitians: “Let’s put our shoulders together to bring solidarity.”

Rescue efforts were hampered by a landslide triggered by the quake that blocked a major road connecting the hard-hit towns of Jeremie and Les Cayes, according to Haiti’s civil protection agency.

Agency director Jerry Chandler told reporters that a partial count of structural damage included at least 860 destroyed homes and more than 700 damaged. Hospitals, schools, offices and churches were also affected.

The National Hurricane Center has forecast that Tropical Storm Grace will reach Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday.

“This is likely to make matters worse since the country is on the verge of suffering the effects of two disasters in quick succession, a magnitude 7 earthquake and a looming storm,” Chandler said.

Humanitarian workers said gang activity in the seaside district of Martissant, just west of the Haitian capital, also was complicating relief efforts.

“Nobody can travel through the area,” Ndiaga Seck, a UNICEF spokesman in Port-au-Prince, said by phone.

“We can only fly over or take another route.”

Seck said information about deaths and damage was slow coming to Port-au-Prince because of spotty internet service, but UNICEF planned to send medical supplies to two hospitals in the south, in Les Cayes and Jeremie. People in Port-au-Prince felt the tremor and many rushed into the streets in fear, although there did not appear to be damage there.

Naomi Verneus, a 34-year-old resident of Port-au-Prince, said she was jolted awake by the earthquake and

that her bed was shaking.

"I woke up and didn't have time to put my shoes on. We lived the 2010 earthquake and all I could do was run. I later remembered my two kids and my mother were still inside. My neighbor went in and told them to get out. We ran to the street," Verneus said.

Paul Caruso, a geophysicist with the USGS, said aftershocks likely would continue for weeks or months, with the largest so far registering magnitude 5.2.

The impoverished country, where many live in tenuous circumstances, is vulnerable to earthquakes and hurricanes. It was struck by a magnitude 5.9 earthquake in 2018 that killed more than a dozen people, and a vastly larger magnitude 7.1 quake that damaged much of the capital in 2010 and killed an estimated 300,000 people.

By Saturday night, the island had experienced four aftershocks stronger than 5.0 and nine above 4.0.

Claude Prepetit, a Haitian civil engineer and geologist, warned of the danger from cracked structures.

"More or less intensive aftershocks are to be expected for a month," he said, cautioning that some buildings, "badly damaged during the earthquake, can collapse during aftershocks.."

Associated Press writer Tammy Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan. AP writers Josh Boak in Washington, Trenton Daniel in New York and Regina Garcia Cano in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Alderson Approves FEMA Funds For Budget Shortfall

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 16, 2021



A budget deficit has Alderson Mayor Travis Copenhaver asking Town Council for something he's "not comfortable asking for."

During the flood of 2016, the Federal Emergency Management Agency distributed funds to the town to assist in repairs and hazard mitigation. As of 2021, the town still has approximately \$200,000 worth of these funds in the bank.

"We've been trying to give it back," Copenhaver explained. "There's been about seven personnel that are no longer in their positions [at FEMA]. We're waiting on a close out from FEMA themselves. It's closing out the project. We've had audit issues over this money. The FDIC only insures about \$100,000, there's double that in the bank that's not insured."

In order to combat the \$110,000 budget deficit created by "unexpected" employee changes, changes to taxing powers by the West Virginia Legislature, and a number of repairs to town systems, Copenhaver asked Town Council to authorize the transfer of \$70,000 of these funds to get the town through the shortfall.

"We have not asked to tap these funds but I'm asking you to tap these funds now because of the situation we're at. You'll remember that we stopped employee contributions to their retirement, there is absolutely no spending. ... We've been sitting on accounts payable for two months - we've only paid for chemicals for the water plant. This is no secret to you all. ... To get us through that I'm asking you to transfer \$70,000, that we will pay back. ... It is relative to the black hole that I've discussed now since April. Right now we are at a deficit. We have been sitting on funds we've been trying to give back. ... I'm asking for it in the form of a resolution to give me authorization to take that from funds that are due to be paid back from the 2016 flood.

We don't have a line of credit, I can't go and get a loan, and I'm asking for your permission to transfer those funds until we can get through this financial crisis.

Councilmember Charlie Lobban inquired if Copenhaver has consulted with the town's legal counsel over the transfer.

Copenhaver responded "you and I both know that we have to put the money back, it's not a grant. ... About eight years ago there was FEMA money that was transferred from an account like this that was used to do upgrades and paving, some of the most paving we've ever done. That money was in different types of projects. I'll tell you now, I'm not comfortable asking for it, but we're at a point right now where I have no other options. Short of services that we provide not being provided, and things that we do that we could function without."

The request was unanimously approved by Town Council.

"I will promise you that as soon, and it will be percentages we pay back month," Copenhaver said. "I want it paid back as quickly as you all do. I appreciate it. I'm sorry that we're in this spot, but that's business."

In order to pay the funds back into the account, Copenhaver pointed to the Business and Occupation Tax previously passed by council. However, the council also took action on this tax.

"I hope that business owners in the group are happy but we're going to decrease the B&O tax from one percent to half a percent," Copenhaver said. "It will also take the wholesale tax down to 0.15 percent from where it's been. ... The amendment is effective as of [its passage]. It is decreasing revenue, so it only takes one read and you all think I'm nuts because I just told you how tight the revenue is but we have to decrease revenue."

The decrease comes as a result of the town's application for Homerule status, a program that would enable the passage of a sales tax rather than a B&O tax. The difference between the two comes down to a result from local business owners in a previous Town Council meeting - sales tax is paid by customers directly on sales, where a B&O tax is calculated on gross expenditures rather than profits alone.

Specifically, the application requests four authorities for the town:

- "on the spot" code enforcement citations
- the removal of party membership requirements from local parties for election boards
- disposition of equipment or property without public auction
- a 1 percent sales tax and corresponding B&O tax reduction

Copenhaver highlighted that if the town is "approved under Homerule status, there will be no tax on wholesale or retail through the B&O tax. It will be a one percent consumer sales tax. ... If the Homerule board does not grant our status, it will remain in effect."

Until the Homerule status is approved, the town cannot implement a sales tax - this is the primary reason the B&O tax remains in place. If the application is approved, the sales tax could be implemented as soon as July 1, 2022.

The first reading of an ordinance approving the town's application for Homerule status was approved unanimously by council, the first step towards implementing a sales tax rather than a B&O tax.

Copenhaver thanked the many volunteers who helped get the application in order, explaining that writing the application "has been a chore."

In other business:

- Angela McGill and Justin Palmer were approved to serve on the Alderson Planning Commission. McGill was also sworn in, with Copenhaver thanking her for her willingness to volunteer to help the town.



McGill is sworn in

- Council approved the purchase of new pumps for the town's sanitation system. Over the past few years, the system's pumps have been clogged by grease, wipes, needles, and more flushed down the toilet. Multiple repair and replacement projects have cost the town thousands - Copenhaver explained the town "spent enough to buy a couple of pumps" in repairs. The new pumps would be the equivalent "of a garbage disposal," allowing the system to better process the waste. Although the project is costly, totalling around \$54,000, to replace the four pumps, leftover funds from building the treatment plant that would have been returned to the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council were approved for the purchase.

- The July Alderson Police Department reported 12 written warnings, 12 charges from written warnings, 14 citations, 20 charges from citations, three property ordinance violation cases, 10 building checks, 22 arrests made, 35 misdemeanor charges, one felony charge, two DUI arrests, six drug arrests, 140 calls for service, four motor vehicle accidents, and eight highway safety program hours.

- Council tabled an action on care for the Little League park field. According to discussion, the Little League could take over mowing for the field in exchange for a fee waiver. However, action was tabled after questions

around other daily field duties, such as locking and unlocking the restrooms, were unclear. Council plans to take the issue up again at the next meeting, once an itemized list of duties for the Little League was clear.

- Action on 204 Monroe Street South was tabled pending the Homerule application. The building next to town hall, currently owned by the city, has not been cared for, resulting in a dilapidated structure council slated for destruction in 2020. However Joe Alderson expressed an interest in saving the building and has been working towards it throughout COVID-19. Should the council's application for Homerule be approved, Alderson could directly buy the building for fair market value. Council approved delaying any sale or demolition of the building until after the town was granted or denied Homerule status.

Alderson Town Council regularly meets on the second Thursday of each month in City Hall.