

WVDN AUG 24, 2021

THE WEST VIRGINIA **DAILY NEWS** AUGUST 24, 2021

Dear Abby
Legally Speaking
Comics

PHD Adds Trickle-Down Hearing For Public Comment

Car Chase In Beckley Leads To An Arrest

BOE Rejects Governor For Head Coach Position

Freshwater Fish Festival Cancelled Due To COVID-19



PHD Adds Trickle-Down Hearing For Public Comment
The House of Delegates today announced it will hold a public hearing on the proposed trickle-down tax cuts. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m. in the House Chamber. The hearing is open to the public and will be broadcast on the House website.

Car Chase In Beckley Leads To An Arrest
A car chase in Beckley Monday night led to an arrest. The chase began when a police officer saw a vehicle weaving on the road. The vehicle was followed to the Beckley area, where it was stopped by officers. The driver was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated.

BOE Rejects Governor For Head Coach Position
The Board of Education today rejected a proposal to hire Governor R. L. Dewberry as head coach of the state's football team. The board said the proposal was "inappropriate and unbecoming" for a public school system.

Freshwater Fish Festival Cancelled Due To COVID-19
The annual Freshwater Fish Festival in Beckley has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival, which is held annually in August, was expected to draw thousands of people to the area.

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Table of Contents

- Dear Abby: Tuesday, August 24** 1
- Community Block Party** 2
- Car Chase In Beckley Leads To Arrest** 2
- BOE Reject's Governor For Head Coach Position** 3
- Freshwater Folk Festival Cancelled Due To COVID-19** 7
- WVSOM Collects Over 3,000 School Supplies** 8
- Family Enjoys Day At The State Fair of West Virginia** 9
- Ginseng Season Starts Sep. 1** 10
- WVHA Issues Statement In Support Of Vaccination** 11
- Justice Stresses The Need For Vaccinations** 12
- Pipeline Protestors Arrested Friday** 13

Dear Abby: Tuesday, August 24

By Abigail Van Buren | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

Birth Mother Reconnects With Biological Son

DEAR ABBY: When I was an unmarried 18-year-old, I had a child out of wedlock. Unsure that I could provide for him, I chose to place him for adoption so he would have a chance for a better life. This year, we connected through DNA. The reunion has been great, even though I choose to remain in the background because his mother is still living. Would it be appropriate this fall and winter to include him in my holiday festivities as long as it doesn't interfere with the time he should be spending with his family? And, after his mother passes away, what role should I play in his life? His father is deceased, and he and his adopted brother are estranged. — BIO MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR BIO MOM: Your son should have told his adoptive mother about the reunion, regardless of who initiated it. I think it would be better for everyone if she was included. A way to do that would be to thank her for taking such good care of your son and helping him to become the man he is today. I do not think secrecy is healthy. If it backfires, there will be deeply hurt feelings because of the subterfuge. At this point in your son's life it's too late for you to be his mommy. However, you CAN be a good friend, since his only family now is the woman who loved and raised him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for almost three years. He's retired; I'm still working. He refuses to stay with me during the week because I need to go to bed early. I see him only on the weekends. Am I wrong for wanting him to stay with me during the week? I feel like we really don't have a relationship. My previous boyfriends would stay with me every night. Am I doomed with this man? By the way, he's been married four times. — WANTS MORE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR WANTS MORE: Wake up. The man you have been dating isn't going to change. He has struck out at marriage four times and may have "plans" during the week that do not include staying with a "Sleeping Beauty." If you want more companionship than what you're getting, you are going to have to seek it elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is getting married. Her father and I never married, but legally he's listed as her father. For the past 40 years she has used my last name. Well, her wedding invitation arrived today and her father's name is on it. Mine isn't even mentioned! My parents and I raised her. Her dad was around but never an active father. I raised her, but he gets the glory and the privilege of walking her down the aisle? She says I'm being "a wacko." Must I accept this and let it go? I feel so hurt that I really don't want to go to the wedding. — LOVING, LEFT-OUT MOM

DEAR MOM: I understand your feelings. If you haven't asked your daughter why she chose to do this, you should. At the least, you deserve an explanation. Please understand that if you refuse to go to her wedding, it could create a permanent rift. There may be grandchildren and milestones you also could miss. Of course, the decision is yours to make, but since you asked me to weigh in, I'm suggesting you take the high road, attend and support your daughter on "her" day.

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.

Community Block Party

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

Race Matters has joined with local leaders in Greenbrier County to present a unique celebration of community – “The Block Party” on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at Dorie Miller Park. The park is located at 451 Feamster Road, Lewisburg. The fun begins at 11 AM and runs to 11 PM. The event will consist of a traditional selection of food, family entertainment, games, music and educational/medical booths.

A live auction will take place at 7 PM. Come dance with your community friends and neighbors to the music of Marshall Petty and other local musicians (TBA). Race Matters is a minority-led organization, and its membership includes Black Indigenous People of Color and non-BIPOC allies.

The organization’s focus is on amplifying the voices and leadership of BIPOC within our communities, aligning themselves with the moral imperative to dismantle white supremacy at its core, and committing to support and uplift BIPOC’s leadership. Through their ongoing work in solidarity with those oppressed, they hope to build a better future where minority needs and voices are represented by the majority in education, policy, government, and our collective world.

If one wishes to volunteer to assist on the day of the event, contact lorettayoung26@gmail.com or call (304) 610-6834. Funding (to date) has been provided by the Greenbrier County Health Alliance, Naomi and Harvey Cohen, Carli Mareneck, The Black Box, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Lauren Wadsworth and Jeff Kessler, Loretta Young, Factory Tire, Tractor Supply, Ferguson Rental Properties, Bob Foster and Mary Leb, Fathom Realty, Greenbrier Real Estate, Jim and Sarah Umberger, Magic’s Computer Repair, Nancy Bulla, Dr. Jeanne Wahl, and Barnwood Builders.

Additional sponsorships and contributions are welcome and appreciated. Contact: Larry Baxter (304) 646-0722.

Car Chase In Beckley Leads To Arrest

By autumn shelton | WVDN AUG 24, 2021



A brief car chase in Beckley led to the arrest of a Crab Orchard man.

According to the criminal complaint filed in Raleigh County, on Aug. 14, a Beckley police officer attempted to stop the driver of an orange Pontiac after witnessing him run the red light at the intersection of Robert C. Byrd Drive and Market Road. Instead of stopping, the driver allegedly accelerated, ran numerous red lights and made a series of turns throughout the city before ultimately wrecking the car on N. Sand Branch Road.

At this point, officers with the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department had joined in the pursuit.

After wrecking, the driver, later identified as Don Douglas Dicken, 41, exited the car "screaming and growling at officers," the complaint continues.

After Dicken's arrest, officers found him in possession of a "crystal-like substance." Additionally, the car was not registered or insured and Dicken had been driving revoked for a prior DUI.

Dicken is being charged with possession of a controlled substance, fleeing with reckless indifference, 11 counts of failure to obey traffic control devices, obstructing, improper registration, no insurance and driving revoked for DUI.

He is currently at Southern Regional Jail on a \$25,000 cash/surety bond.

BOE Reject's Governor For Head Coach Position

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 24, 2021



Gov. Jim Justice will not be Greenbrier East High School's next head boys' basketball coach.

Greenbrier County Board of Education met for a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 23, with only the personnel agenda listed as an item to consider.

After deliberating in executive session for approximately 10 minutes, the board returned, unanimously approving all of the other personnel decisions listed. However, a motion from Boardmember Hazel Reed pulled Justice out from the rest of the personnel decisions, while a motion from Boardmember Rick Parker had the vote on Justice taken by roll call.

Board President Jeanie Wyatt and Boardmember Mary Humpherys voted in favor.

Boardmembers Reed, Kay Smith, and Parker voted no.

As a result, Justice was not approved to serve as head boys' basketball coach.

Shortly before the vote, two guest speakers took the podium to make requests of the board in relation to the vote. The first was John "Goose" Gabbert, a member of the Greenbrier East High School Boys' Basketball team. He was joined by a number of his fellow players in the crowd.

"I'm just here to say that we deserve more of a full-time basketball coach, a coach that comes to all practices, not only games," Gabbert said. "We want someone that's going to care for us. We want someone who is going to put in as much hard work and dedication as we do every day."

New River Community and Technical College Campus Director and Community Outreach organizer Roger Griffith also spoke before the board with a request.

We're going to be facing teams that have organized since the season ended in May. What I would like to do is ask for a commitment from whoever you vote for as coach to have a full, organizing off-season. In the weightroom, playing ..., all those types of things. That's what these kids have worked all summer for, with the help of others. We have a team that can make a state run. ... The only way they can do that is if [the coach is] in the weight room and organized activities. ... We need that all season program and that commitment.



Roger Griffith speaks.

During Justice's COVID-19 press briefing shortly after the board decision, the governor expressed his disappointment.

"How do you feel? To be perfectly honest, anybody would feel some level of emptiness. I've coached there for 26 seasons and they've had success beyond belief. I've never cut a kid, I've never had a kid become academically ineligible because I really believe in the kids and I really, really, really stress the academics first and foremost. There's no question whatsoever, this is the worst of the worst from the standpoint of the kids. That's what this is all about in every way. The principal, the assistant principal, the athletic director, they have to make a recommendation to the board and the board absolutely has to listen to that recommendation. They can't do things from personal preference or political preference or whatever, that's what we have state laws for. ... We have many, many challenges in our state and I would always challenge you to find one thing that

I've really missed. ... I take this responsibility first and foremost in my life, period, other than my family. I will always do what is right there."

The Board of Education agenda also notes that after the board vote, the final decision maker for employment in Greenbrier County Schools, the position would also have to be approved by the State Department, pending "sufficient enrollment," "West Virginia Department of Education certification," and "all county requirements."

Justice also cited "the kids" as a reason he should have been approved.

"The way that it all came down, it came down with just that ugliness of personal preference or political preference. ... Frankly, the Board of Education in Greenbrier County that will ultimately not hurt not me but the kids. ... I truly will never apologize for wanting to spend a little bit of my time trying to help kids because I've done it and have done it and done it. I love those kids. Those kids mean an awful lot to me. Not just the kids at Greenbrier East High School but the kids anywhere and everywhere in this state. There's no way... that one ounce of my duties as your governor would ever be surked in any way. ... No possibility."

During his comments at the Board of Education, Gabbert highlighted what he wanted from a head coach.

"I want you to think about the repercussions on us, because we're the people that are going to be most impacted," Gabbert said. "We want a coach that's going to watch film, go out and scout the games, and help us with on and off the court issues. This team has put in a lot of work this off season and we want someone that's going to put an equal amount of work in coaching us, and helping us become better basketball players and people. ... It's not fair to us if we have a coach that will put in 50 percent of the effort. Regardless of the outcome of today's decision, I'm going to give 100 percent to this team and we're going to keep working toward our goal of winning a state championship this year."



The audience waits for the board during executive session.

Senate Minority Leader and Greenbrier County Representative Stephen Baldwin also posted about the decision shortly after, echoing Gabbert's comments.

"The board did the right thing. The students want & deserve a full time coach. It's my hope that this won't devolve into a legal situation but instead moves forward respectfully for the good of the community."

Griffith also pointed to last week's decision on COVID-19 precaution protocols, including a mask mandate for the first month of classes.

"I want to say thank you to you guys for everything you've done for the county. You're in a hard spot and it doesn't matter which way you turn out, not just this issue, but the issue last week."



The Greenbrier County Board of Education.

Freshwater Folk Festival Cancelled Due To COVID-19

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

"The Freshwater Folk Festival that was scheduled for Saturday, September 11th at the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, has been canceled due to the rising number of COVID cases," announced the festival's organizers on Thursday, August 19.

A tradition for over 10 years, COVID-19 case rates have impacted many high-profile events over the past year

and a half. This is not the first time the Freshwater Folk Festival was cancelled – the 2020 Freshwater Folk Festival was also cancelled due to COVID-19.

The case loads are beginning to spike once again, due to unvaccinated West Virginians and the Delta variant of COVID-19's increased transmission rate

“We now have no green counties in West Virginia” noted Governor Jim Justice in the Monday, August 23, COVID-19 press briefing.

The festival was originally planned for September 11, free for guests, featuring educational guests and live music by The Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys, Jim Snyder, and The Rust Brothers.

The most recent was the 15th annual Freshwater Folk Festival, held in 2019.

“The purpose of the event is two-fold; to give people an opportunity to have a good time together with entertainment and all kinds of fun activities and it's also an educational situation, where people can learn a whole lot more about the environment and aquatic biomes and wildlife and our habitat and so forth,” Larry Davis, one of the event's organizers, told The West Virginia Daily News in 2019. “All of these are done in a way that makes it really interesting, as opposed to reading a book about it or something.”

The primary function of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery when it opened was to provide fish for the American public. However, this has evolved and the mission of is now working with the community, as well as their partners, to “be good stewards of both the environment and historical significance of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery by providing recreational fishing opportunities, recovering fish, mussels and other wildlife and their habitats, and promoting awareness and appreciation of our cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all people.” This includes raising baby freshwater mussels for the purpose of improving wild populations and protecting them from the pollution that could lead to extinction.

According to the press release sent out by Cheryl Mansley, the organizers hope to bring everything back in 2022.

“It is hoped that next year we can all gather together and that the fest will be back bigger and better than ever! To keep abreast of upcoming happenings with the fest, follow our Freshwater Folk Festival page on Facebook and visit our website at www.freshwaterfolkfestival.org. Stay safe and healthy!”

The festival's social media also notes interested parties could call 304-646-0602 for more information.

WVSOM Collects Over 3,000 School Supplies

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 24, 2021



Staff from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) organized a campaign that gathered more than 3,000 items for the 2021 Stuff the Bus drive.

Stuff the Bus is sponsored by Communities in Schools of Greenbrier County and the Lewisburg-based Family Refuge Center. Through the annual event, local organizations donate school supplies from a list of requested items such as pencils, pens, markers, crayons, paper, folders, dividers, water bottles and backpacks.

WVSOM collected a total of 3,386 items this year, including 59 backpacks.

Scott Maxwell, WVSOM staff chair, said the school's participation in Stuff the Bus is one of many ways WVSOM works to give back to the community.

"The entire WVSOM family, from students and staff to faculty and administrators, took part in this," Maxwell said. "It's a great program and an excellent way for WVSOM to reach back out to support those who have supported us. We wouldn't be here if not for the surrounding area, which always does a good job of making our students feel at home."

Family Enjoys Day At The State Fair of West

Virginia

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 24, 2021



State fair photos

Ginseng Season Starts Sep. 1

By wv daily news | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

Ginseng harvest season opens Wednesday, Sept. 1, and continues through Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Observing the legal season and regulations helps preserve Appalachia's endangered wild ginseng.

Harvesting pulls up the ginseng root, ending the plant's ability to replace itself with new generations. To help the herb's last seeds grow, the hunter must by law plant them at the site where the root was taken.

Before the plant can be legally harvested, ginseng must be at least five years old and its seed-bearing berries bright red. The slow-growing plant needs to mature for at least five years to reproduce. The plant's age can be

determined by looking at the base of the plant stem, where bud scars occur. A five-year-old ginseng root will have at least four scars.

The diggers must have written permission to dig on private property.

No ginseng may be taken from West Virginia state forests, state parks or other state-owned land.

Ginseng diggers must have a current forest service permit to dig and collect from national forest lands. Hunters should contact the national forest office in their area regarding ginseng permits and regulations.

At present, national forests based in West Virginia still allow ginseng hunters who have purchased current permits to dig on designated national forest lands.

This year, other national forests have found their ginseng populations too depleted to allow sustainable harvesting. The U.S. Forest Service announced that in 2021, no ginseng permits will be issued for North Carolina's Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests and the Cherokee National Forest. The herb's decline is attributed to poaching, overharvesting, and harvesting without planting seeds to produce a new crop.

Diggers have until March 31, 2022, to sell their ginseng to a registered West Virginia ginseng dealer or to have roots weight-receipted at one of the West Virginia Division of Forestry weigh stations. Regulations prohibit possession of ginseng roots from April 1 through Aug. 31 without a weight-receipt from the Division of Forestry. A weight receipt is a record of the ginseng dug during the current year and the individual who wants to hold it over to the next digging/buying season.

The law requires all diggers to provide a government-issued photo identification to sell ginseng to a registered dealer. Fines range from \$500 up to \$1,000 for a first offense and \$1,000 up to \$2,000 for multiple offenses.

Details on ginseng are available on the Division of Forestry website, wvforestry.com/ginseng-program. The site includes how to identify mature ginseng plants, rules for harvesting and resources such as lists of West Virginia ginseng dealers and weigh stations.

WVHA Issues Statement In Support Of Vaccination

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

The West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) today issued the following statement regarding vaccination of health care personnel.

"West Virginia hospitals are committed to making the state's hospitals safer for every patient, visitor, and staff member. This commitment to the safety of patients and hospital staff is why hospitals have historically required vaccination against seasonal flu and other contagious diseases, and why some hospitals have recently announced COVID-19 requirements.

Accordingly, the West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) supports hospitals and health systems that require COVID-19 vaccination of their employees, with local factors and circumstances shaping how and when their policies are implemented.

West Virginia hospitals have seen first-hand the devastation COVID-19 has caused to the people of our state. They understand how deadly this disease can be. Physicians, nurses, and hospitals' clinical leaders are confident in both the science and the safety behind the vaccine, with the benefits strongly outweighing the minimal side effects.

Hospital employee and staff vaccination against COVID-19 will maintain the long-term ability of our health care system to respond to the pandemic, to safely care for patients by protecting them from infection, and to mitigate the impact of the virus within health care facilities and among patients, hospital personnel, and their families and friends.

It is important for hospitals and health systems to lead in the critical mission to increase vaccination rates; therefore, the West Virginia Hospital Association encourages all West Virginians to receive the COVID-19 vaccine."

Justice Stresses The Need For Vaccinations

By WV Daily News | WVDN AUG 24, 2021

All last week, Gov. Justice and other pandemic response leaders intensified their calls for West Virginians who have not yet received their first dose to reconsider getting vaccinated, as cases, hospitalizations, and the spread of the Delta variant all continue to rise. The Governor reported Friday that there are now more than 300 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant statewide. The current case total is also now more than six times higher than it was five weeks ago.

"It's plain to see this Delta variant is here," Gov. Justice said on Wednesday. "I urge and urge everyone to move and get vaccinated. The vaccines are tremendously effective against this variant."

On Monday, he said, "You need to put this as a number one priority in your life."

During Friday's briefing, Gov. Justice announced that West Virginia is ready to begin administering an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to certain immunocompromised people immediately following final CDC approval.

Shortly after the conclusion of the Governor's briefing, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously to recommend that certain patients with weakened immune systems receive an extra dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna vaccines. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky must now give final approval on the ACIP's recommendation. Once she gives the green light, qualified patients will immediately begin receiving the extra dose.

Additionally, last week Justice traveled the state to surprise the winners of the four biggest prizes given away in the 7th and final round of the "Do it or Babydog: Save a life, Change your life" Vaccination Sweepstakes.

Wally Board, who helps run his family's realty business in his hometown of Spencer in Roane County, received a life-changing visit from Gov. Justice and Babydog yesterday. The Governor announced that Board had won the sweepstakes' grand prize of \$1,588,000.

Kara Waldeck, a pharmacy worker from Charles Town who herself has administered doses of the COVID-19 vaccines, also experienced a life-changing surprise yesterday when the Governor and Babydog presented her

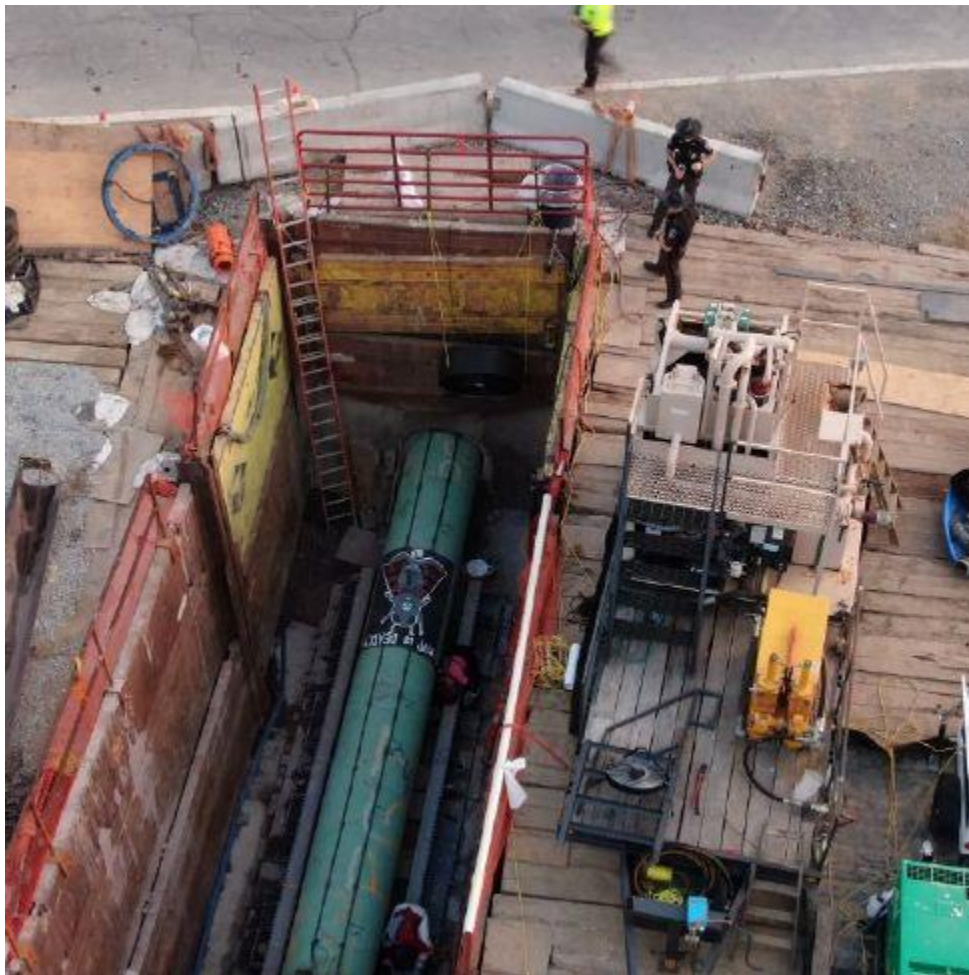
with the runner-up prize of \$588,000.

The Governor and Babydog also surprised Paul Swartz, a registered dietitian at Jackie Withrow Hospital in Beckley, and Megan Landsberg, an adjunct professor of music at Marietta College in Ohio who lives in Vienna, West Virginia, presenting each of them with a brand-new, custom-outfitted truck.

On Monday, Justice declared that the program has been a tremendous success. More than 385,000 West Virginians registered for the sweepstakes in total. Before Gov. Justice announced the “Do it for Babydog” sweepstakes, vaccination rates in West Virginia were slowing down, with just under 900,000 residents having received at least one dose. After the Governor announced the program, however, a steady increase in the number of vaccinated residents resumed.

Pipeline Protestors Arrested Friday

By by bobby bordelon | WVDN AUG 24, 2021



Protestors stopping the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline were arrested in Greenbrier County.

The two were arrested on Friday, Aug. 6, and identified as Anna Grace Woolly, 19, of Viles, NC, and Thomas George Tackett, 25, of Jackson, MO.

According to a press release from the Greenbrier County Sheriff Bruce Sloan “officers found two individuals had secured themselves to pipeline construction equipment using welded pipe and chains. Both individuals were located below the ground surface in a hole.”

“Repeated requests were made for the two people to remove themselves from the equipment and they refused to do so. Members of the Clintonville and Smoot Fire Departments were requested to respond to the scene to assist with the extraction. One of the individuals voluntarily climbed out of the hole once their attachments were removed. The second person refused to do so and was lifted out of the hole by members of the fire department utilizing a stokes basket.”

According to the social media page Appalachians Against Pipelines, the pair blocked construction of the pipeline, slated to pass under I-64, for two and a half hours. Woolly and Tackett gave a joint statement:

“In the expansive timeline of industrial extraction, halting work for a single day might feel molecular, but today’s action is anything but isolated. Today’s action stands in community with all that has transpired, all those that will continue to resist, painting a larger picture of the resiliency of grassroots organizing in Appalachia and the overwhelming value of direct action in rural spaces. ... As pipeline construction intrudes upon the ground under the pads of our feet, we are reminded of the long history of rural communities, of Appalachian flora and fauna reduced to a mere commodity for the sake of bolstering a capitalistic agenda. ... We have chosen resistance and we hope that you, whoever you may be, do too—there is truly no halting a people enraged.”

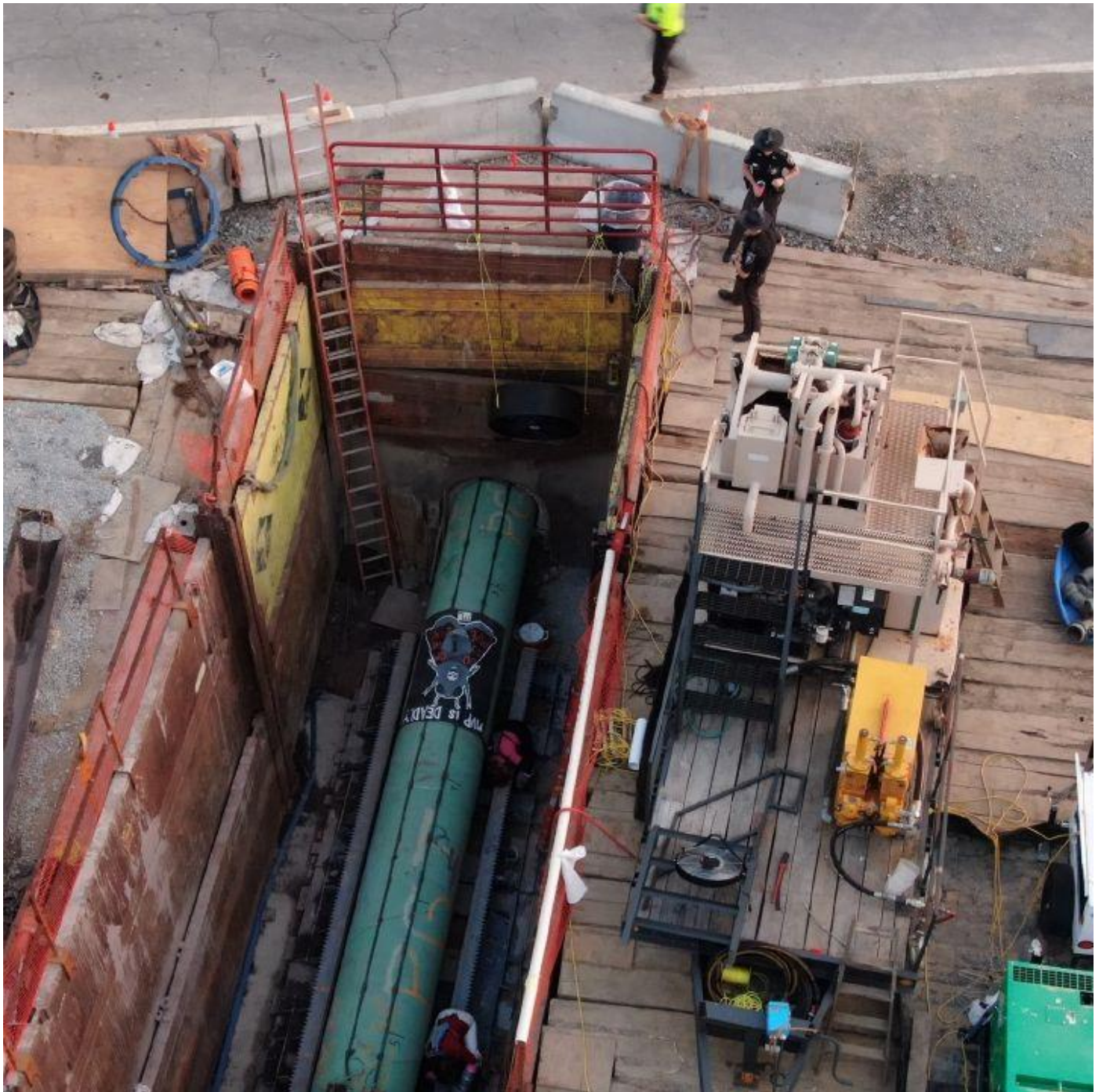


Photo courtesy of Appalachians Against Pipelines

Both individuals were charged with trespass on property, obstructing an officer, and conspiracy. They were arraigned before a Greenbrier County Magistrate. According to Appalachians Against Pipelines, bail was set at \$5,000 and \$7,500.

According to Mountain Valley Pipeline's website, the project developers expect:

- "Ongoing operation of the pipeline would support a total of 54 jobs across the state with average annual wages and benefits of \$65,000."
- "The MVP project is expected to generate \$3.7 million in annual county ad valorem taxes (property taxes) once the pipeline is in service."

— There will be direct-use benefits for “residential, commercial, and municipal” properties. “While natural gas generally is available in the major towns in the county, Greenbrier’s residents use primarily electricity (47%) for home heating with only 20% using natural gas. This large discrepancy presents a potentially large savings opportunity for the residential, commercial, and municipal sectors by switching to natural gas. In 2014, delivered gas prices were less than half the cost of delivered electricity prices. The MVP project could help enable switching and provide additional supplies to service these sectors.”



The proposed MVP route map.

Members of the WV State Police, Clintonville Fire Department and Smoot Fire Department provided on-scene assistance.