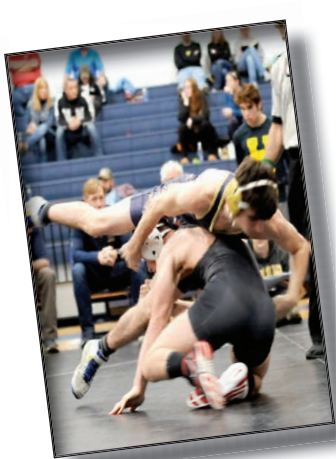




# GRANT COUNTY PRESS

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## Two arrested for arson in connection with storage unit blaze

Last week, two Hardy County residents were arrested in connection to a fire that burned down a storage unit building in Petersburg.

On Dec. 14, 2019, Deputy J. C. Earle of the Grant County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to the storage units located behind the 7-11 on Virginia Avenue., in Petersburg.

When Earle arrived at the scene, the fire was still active.

During an investigation of the scene, Earle became suspicious of the fire being arson related. The officer then contacted Joe Vacchio, the West Virginia Fire Marshal investigator.

In a report released by the Sheriff's Department last week, Earle was then able to obtain

information relating to previous damage inflicted on the units earlier in the day, as well as rental agreements and statements.

Earle and Vacchio obtained video surveillance from surrounding establishment, including footage of the storage buildings on the night of the fire. The investigation resulted in two arrests and multiple arson charges.

Hunter Todd Largent, 35, and Marci Largent, 45, both of P.O. Box 883, Moorefield, were charged with second degree arson, 20 counts of third degree arson, 20 counts of destruction of property, and 21 counts of conspiracy.

Vacchio also charged the couple with three additional charges of causing injuries for an arson

related crime.

The Largents were arraigned by Grant County magistrate W. Earle, with H. Largent receiving a bond of \$100,150 and M. Largent receiving a bond of \$100,000.



## City Council addresses citizen dog complaint

The city of Petersburg now has another police officer protecting its streets following the swearing in of D. Lambert during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Jan. 6.

Lambert was sworn in by Petersburg mayor Gary Michael in front of the city council, family, friends and Petersburg Police Chief D. Stark.

Lambert, who is also a member of the Grant County Sheriff's Department, is one of three county deputies to now also work for the city.

Also during the meeting, the council heard complaints from two local residents concerning two dogs often running at large in the city.

During their address to the council, the couple explained that the dogs, who belong to their neighbor, had attacked their own dog as well as behaved violently towards members of their household.

They said that both city and county officers had worked to intervene in the issue but the owner had not adequately addressed it.

They explained that the last incident, prior to speaking with the council, had occurred after midnight on New Year's Eve, when the dogs escaped their pen.

The council affirmed that there is a municipal ordinance concerning dangerous dogs and that it will be enforced.

The couple said that they felt the dogs were dangerous, describing an incident in which one parent was pinned in their vehicle with their underage daughter due to the dogs.

PPD Chief Stark, who was in attendance at the meeting, said the owner had been ticketed but that the animals could be removed from the home if the dogs remained unmanaged or if further attacks occurred.

The family thanked Stark for helping them with the problem and said the officers involved had been supportive of the issue.

Also during the meeting, the council reviewed the PPD's activity report for December 2019.

During the month, the department handled 65 complaints, issued 10 verbal and 10 written warnings.

Additional citations issued by the PPD includes a ticket for driving on a suspended license as well as a parking citation.

The department obtained one warrant and performed one mis-

See City, page 7A



**Above: The demolition of the building that recently housed Third Base Sports Bar and Grille. Right: The original post office building on Virginia Avenue.**

## Virginia Avenue says goodbye to historic building

Virginia Avenue lost a unique feature late last month when the building that housed Third Base Sports Bar and Grille was demolished.

The building had suffered extensive damage from a fire earlier in 2019 and was no longer safe to house the business.

The small brick structure, which was owned by Tyler Kuhn, had caught fire early in morning of Sept. 23. The fire was caught on film, and showed a container of recently dried laundry spontaneously combusting.

Instead of undergoing extensive and difficult renovations for the century old building,

Kuhn elected to demolish the space for a fresh start.

However, prior to its destruction, the building had a long, and occasionally tragic, history in the community.

The building was originally constructed to serve as the community's post office, when the previous mail room outgrew its location inside the W.E. Harman building, which was located where the Third Base parking lot sits today.

The Harman building was owned by Ross Ervine, who chose to build the little brick post office in the 1930s.

Since then, the building was home to several small business-



es.

At this point, the building was separated into shops, becoming the home of Mike's Barber Shop (owned by Mike Runion) and Marie's Beauty Shop (owned by Marie Pope). The building also had an apartment in the back that allowed someone to live on site.

In 2000, the building made headlines when a tragic incident resulted in two local residents losing their lives.

At the time, the business housed Modern Beauty Salon, owned by Vickie Stump from Cabins.

See Building, page 7A

## MVFC gets donation for lighting

Maysville Volunteer Fire Company recently received a donation that will allow them to upgrade lighting on their engine rescue truck.

The upgrade, which will be made to the company's scene lights, is a result of a \$5,000 donation made by Enbridge.

The donation was presented by Josh Whitaker, the Enbridge plant manager and Cameron Kessel, the operations coordinator at the New Creek Wind farm, to MVFC president Kyle Porter and chief, Chris Crites.

## Petersburg company loses PA plant to fire

Allegheny Wood Products, a company based out of Petersburg, recently saw major damage at one of their locations in Pennsylvania.

The company's sawmill in Marble, Pa. suffered loss from a fire that broke out in the early hours of Jan. 4.

Reports of the blaze came in around 2 a.m. and fire companies from Clarion, Venango and Forest counties responded along with state police and ambulance service. In all, 16 fire companies were at the scene.

Police say the fire began inside the structure and area residents heard several explosions around that time. The fire caused some power outages and smoke could

See AWP, page 7A

## PVFC honors members, names 2020 officers

Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company 400 hosted their annual appreciation dinner Jan. 4, in the Welton Room at the firehouse, with West Virginia State Fire Marshal Joe Vacchio as guest speaker for the evening. He gave a presentation on the West Virginia Fire Marshal's office including a brief history, its leadership and investigations.

According the Vacchio, the office, created in 1909, has 11 investigators for the state who looked into 668 fire/arson-related crimes in FY2019.

The company's fire report for 2019 was given by Nathan Keen, with 266 total calls including 57 motor vehicle accidents, 57 EMS assists, 16 helicopter landing zone setups, 13 structure fires, 13 fire alarms, 12 smoke investigations, nine downed power lines, seven brush fires, six each vehicle fires, flue fires and search and rescue, plus trash fires, hay baler fire, transformer fire, CO2 alarms, ATV accident, hazmat, traffic control, dirt bike accident, downed tree and tactical rescue.

The company also assisted on calls with Maysville, Moorefield and Pendleton Mineral and Hamp-

See PVFC, page 8A



|               |       |             |       |
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| Local Flavor  | 2A    | Sports      | 1B-2B |
| Opinion pages | 4A-5A | Classifieds | 3B    |
| Obituaries    | 6A    | Legals      | 3B    |

## poll question

Do you believe the authorization for use of military force from 2001 should extend to the action currently being taken in Iran?

Let us know on our Facebook page



## Last week's responses:

Yes: 60%  
No: 40%

*hope the New England Patriot's reign is over?*



# LOCAL FLAVOR

By Camille Howard

The NFL football season is winding down and in a way I'm sorry to see it go. There's nothing like falling asleep on the couch Sunday afternoon with a football game as background snooze noise.

Not that I don't watch some, and I am a Steelers fan, I'm just not one of those people who remember stats, discuss players, lament bad plays or second guess every decision by the coach.

I have not perfected the "wake up at exactly the right moment" aspect of sleep-watching nor can I sense when a non-game watcher is heading for the remote.

It's got to be a really exciting game before any shouting and jumping happens at our house but I have been around people who do that at every game.

I had a friend in high school whose dad and boyfriend were Cleveland Browns and Steelers fans respectively. I happened to be at her house one Sun-



day afternoon during a Browns/Steelers game and I thought someone should call the police.

They shouted at the refs, players, coaches and each other at the top of their lungs and a few times I was worried a fight might break out. At one point her dad was getting ready to throw the boyfriend out until she intervened.

The weird thing was that everyone else in the house thought that was normal. Her mom was out in the

kitchen cooking up something like it was no big deal. I felt like I was watching football at the Bunker house with Archie and Michael "Meathead" Stivic.

Then the game was over and it was like nothing had ever happened. My first and only game at their house.

As I said, I'm a Steelers fan, but I'm an even bigger fan of any team that can beat the New England Patriots. I'd even be happy to see the Washington Redskins beat them.

So to my delight, and the delight of many, many other football fans across this

country, the Patriots are on a downward trajectory. I'm at the point that I don't care who wins the Super Bowl, the big deal this season is the Patriots won't be in it!

I'm hoping the Packers make it to the Super Bowl, but if not, the loss the Patriots suffered at the hand of the Tennessee Titans makes me happy.

It remains to be seen who will be in the Super Bowl, but no matter what teams end up there, fans will be having food, food, food as they watch the ballgame on Feb. 2.

I'm pretty sure halftime was invented by someone who was selling snack food. Pizza is always a staple at game day, but pickup snacks are the best part.

An easy one is an 8 ounce block of softened cream cheese with hot pepper jelly or sweet chili sauce poured over top and served with crackers. You can also use cocktail sauce and a can of tiny shrimp that has been drained.

Here are a few other ideas you might want to try in addition to the usual menu. They all use cheese as an ingredient.

**DILL PICKLE ROLL-UPS**

1 package (6 ounces) smoked ham or turkey

1/2 cup spreadable cream cheese

4 dill pickle spears

Pat meat slices dry with a paper towel to make spreading easier. Spread with cream cheese, using about 1 tablespoon for each slice.

Cut each pickle spear lengthwise in half; place 1 half on each meat slice. Roll up. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Cut each roll-up into 4 pieces. Secure with toothpicks, if desired.

You can make these a day ahead and wrap them in plastic wrap before refrigerating. Then cut in pieces before serving. 8 servings.

**BLUE CHEESE POTATO CHIPS**

1 8 1/2 ounce bag kettle-cooked potato chips

2 medium tomatoes, seeded and chopped

8 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

6 green onions, chopped

1 cup blue cheese, crumbled

Preheat broiler. In a 15x10x1-inch baking pan, arrange chips in an even layer. Top with remaining ingredients.

Broil 4-5 inches from heat until cheese begins to melt, 2-3 minutes. Serve immediately. 10 servings.

**BLT ROLLERS**

4 ounces cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup mayonnaise

8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled

1/2 cup chopped tomatoes

2 flour tortillas (8 inch)

1/2 cup shredded lettuce

Mix cream cheese and mayo in medium bowl until blended. Add bacon and tomatoes; mix well. Spread onto tortillas; top with lettuce. Roll up tightly.

Cut each roll-up diagonally into 7 slices. Serves 7.

**MARINATED MOZZARELLA**

1/3 cup olive oil

1 tablespoon chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes

1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley

1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

1 teaspoon dried basil

1 teaspoon minced chives

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1 pound cubed part-skim mozzarella cheese

In a large bowl, combine first 7 ingredients; add cheese cubes. Stir to coat. Cover; refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

## WVU researchers to unveil economic action plan for Potomac Highlands counties

The five-county area comprising West Virginia's Potomac Highlands could improve economically by embracing and promoting its regional identity, according to a new study by three West Virginia University centers.

After a year and a half of research, the plan which recommends several strategic actions to promote economic prosperity in the region will be released Friday at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Moorefield.

"It is anticipated that the WVU study will provide the basis for formulating a long-term regional development strategy that will benefit the five counties of the Potomac Highlands Region, both economically and culturally," said Pendleton County Commission President Gene McConnell.

Researchers at WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center and the Regional Research Institute contributed to the plan, which was funded by Pendleton County and the Region 8 Planning and Development Council, using funds from the U.S. Department of Defense.

"We are happy to be able to assist the Potomac Highlands counties to form a long-term plan to grow their workforce and economy," said BBER Director John Deskins. "We anticipate that this study will provide vital data and analysis to improve economic outcomes in the region."

The study makes six recommendations, including assistance in recruiting new workers, improving digital communications, and developing new policies to promote housing and lodging growth.

"The Potomac Highlands is a region full of opportunity," said Brownfields Center Director Patrick Kirby. "The Strategic

Action Recommendations further solidifies the value of regional economic development efforts and coordination."

McConnell said that the recommendations in the study will require concerted effort to implement, but he is confident that the region offers prospective business partners a diverse environment to consider as they develop business strategies.

"We fully understand there are no quick solutions to the economic challenges as defined by the study," McConnell said. "However, the study provides the data that should allow us to focus on initiatives that are appropriate for the Potomac Highlands Region in the formulation of a comprehensive Regional Development Plan."

## Shepherd University dean's list announced

Nine hundred twenty-eight students were named to the dean's list at Shepherd University for the fall 2020 semester.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must maintain a 3.4 grade point average for the semester and carry at least 15 hours of coursework or be in a professional teaching block.

The following Grant County students were named to the list:

Maysville: Tucker L. Bennett and Haley A. Rohrbaugh

Petersburg: Riley K. Barr, Madison P. Sites, Morgan E. Sites and Anulika J. Umnunah

Located in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, Shepherd University is a public liberal arts university. Shepherd is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges.

## Size of trout stocked in W.Va. lakes smaller than usual

West Virginia's Department of Natural Resources says anglers should expect trout stocked in state waterways during the winter months to be smaller than usual.

A long dry spell across the state from late summer through the fall is thought to have impacted the average "catchable" size of the fish, Jim Hedrick, the division's hatchery supervisor, told the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

When the drought broke in October, the hatcheries' water supplies were replenished and allowed workers to begin feeding trout at the normal rate. But winter

weather soon slowed the growth rate again, Hedrick said.

The growth rate is expected to return to normal as the weather gets warmer, he added. The division is also adding feed to try and increase trout size.

Hedrick said each of the 31 streams and 30 lakes designated for January stockings will receive as many pounds of fish as last year. And since the trout are smaller, the streams may actually get more fish than in years past, Hedrick said.

Hatchery trucks were scheduled to begin running late last week.

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Hawse Health Center in Baker, W.Va. is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Jacob Metheny, (DC) to our Baker facility. Dr. Metheny has opened his appointment schedule and is now providing chiropractic care to the community at large. He will soon have office hours available at the Grove Street Health Center in Petersburg, W.Va. as well. Dr. Metheny accepts all private insurances as well as Medicare and Medicaid.

We would also like to announce that our Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Chantel Coby, PMHNP has opened her appointment book to referrals and the community at large. Chantel is part of the Hawse Health Care Behavioral Health Team and is located in the Baker, W.Va. office. Chantel accepts all private insurance as well as Medicare and Medicaid.

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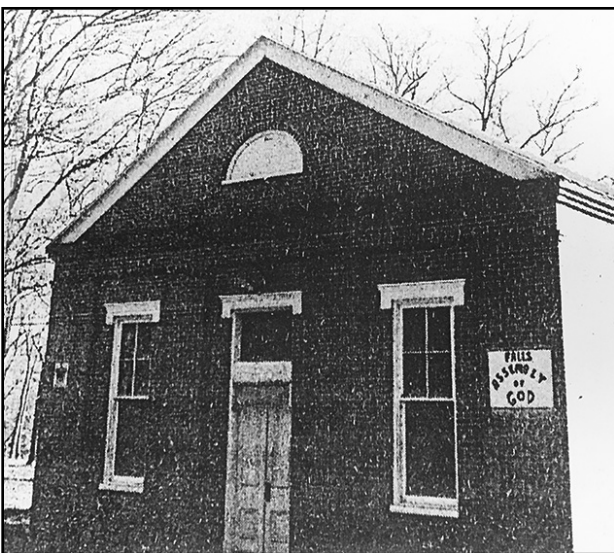
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# Information sought on church building history



In the 1950s, Falls Assembly of God, located on Knobley Road in Grant County, bought a building formerly occupied as a Methodist church. At the time of purchase it was a red brick building, later painted white. The bottom right photo shows the church as it is today.



Louise Kessel is looking for past records and a date when it was built. Descendants of the Babb family and area residents may have answers. If you have any information regarding the building, contact her at 304-749-7774.



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## Magistrates court report

The following cases were heard in the Grant County Magistrate Court between Dec. 1 - 31, 2019.

Debra Dove, 64, of 586 Buffalo Dr., Cabins, pleaded not guilty to charges of violating a peace bond. Her bail was set at \$500.

James E. Dove, 76, of 586 Buffalo Dr., Cabins, pleaded not guilty to charges of violating a peace bond. His bail was set at \$500.

Danielle Shaffer, 29, of 62 Brake Loop, Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$221 after pleading no contest to compulsory education charges (truancy).

Laura Shanholtz, 49, of 15 Grant St., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of compulsory education charges (truancy). Her bond was set at \$500.

Wendy Weasenforth, 40, of 8119 U.S. Hwy. 220 South, Moorefield, was fined and assessed \$246 after pleading guilty to charges of compulsory education charges (truancy).

Joshua Allen Hinkle, 34, of P.O. Box 32, Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of driving with suspended or revoked license. His bond was set at \$2,000.

Robert Glen Smith, 24, of 174 Crofton Dr., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of driving with a suspended or revoked license (third offense). His bond was set at \$3,500.

Robert M. Urlich, 37, of 78 Boardwalk Dr., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of overtaking and passing a school bus with signs, warnings and lights on. His bond was set at \$1,000.

Ashya Octavia Hill, 19, of 817 Wise Ave., Dundalk, Md., was fined and assessed \$175.25 after pleading guilty to charges of speeding.

Michelle Lynn Rohrbach, 27, of 2302 Country Rd., Maysville, was fined and assessed \$181 after pleading guilty to charges of violating general speed limitations.

Samantha Dongoski, 28, of 118 North Grove St., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of driving in an impaired state but with a blood alcohol level of less than .15. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

Woody Daryl Stewart, 73, of 1830 High Valley Way, Maysville, was fined and assessed \$196 after pleading no contest to charges of passing in a no passing zone.

Terry Lane Hartman, 66, of 706 Arnold Mine Rd., Elk Garden, was fined and assessed \$221 after pleading guilty to charges of failing to maintain mandatory disposal.

Michael Turner Brown, 19, of 10870 General Kirkland Dr., Bristow, Va., was fined and assessed \$175.25

after pleading guilty to charges of speeding.

Alexander Michael Bowlby, 21, of 563 Endless Mountain Rd., Maysville, was fined and assessed \$181 after pleading no contest to charges of operating a vehicle without a certified inspection or failure to produce certificate.

Michael Christopher Shocker, 35, of 691 Poplar Woods Dr., Morgantown, pleaded not guilty to charges of speeding and knowingly or intentionally possessing a controlled substance without a valid prescription. His bond was set at \$1,100.

Virgil W. Wratchford, 44, of 247 Clifftop Dr., Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$296 after pleading no contest to charges of threatening criminal acts by computer.

Timothy L. Parrish, 60, of 927 Bain Cutoff Rd., Elk Garden, was fined and assessed \$181 after pleading no contest to charges of speeding.

Frank Gleason Weese, 68, of 1748 Brick School Rd., Maysville, was fined and assessed \$181 after pleading no contest to charges of operating a vehicle without a certified inspection or failure to produce certificate.

Lloyd H. Bowers, 78, of 153 Tannery Hollow Rd., Moorefield, was fined and assessed \$1,442 after plead-

ing no contest to charges of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

John Daniel Rogers, 41, of 401 Buckskin Ln., Lahmansville, pleaded not guilty to charges of driving under the influence (second offense). His bond was set at \$3,500.

Andrei A. Popovici, 34, of 127 Hidden Hollow, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was fined and assessed \$175.25 after pleading guilty to violation of general speed limitations.

Nathan A. Biser, 36, of 172 Team Biser Ln., Burlington, was fined and assessed \$175.25 after pleading guilty to charges of violating general speed limitations.

**Court report continued next week**

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## High hopes for 2020 W.Va. legislative session

By Jack Cipoletti

I may be naïve, but I have high hopes for the 2020 WV legislative session.

I hope we'll see an environment of civility, co-operation, compromise and bipartisanship so that we don't lose any more conscientious delegates or senators.

I hope we'll see bills presented and evaluated on their own merit, without layers of unrelated components tacked on to leverage passage.

I hope we'll see members of committees charged with vetting those bills allowed to do so openly and objectively without fear of removal from the committee. And I hope the committee chairs understand their charge is to lead the vetting process, not dictate outcomes.

I hope legislators explain why they support or oppose a bill in a concise, honest manner, rather than language that is contrived and dizzyingly spinned.

I hope legislators remember the vast majority of West Virginia citizens are not represented by any of the 350 lobbyists, but that doesn't mean we should be forgotten when they step on the Capitol Campus.

I hope the legislators start each day with a new Pledge of Allegiance in addition to the one dedicated to the flag of the United States. It would go something like this:

*"I Pledge Allegiance to my constituents and all citizens of West Virginia, considering them ahead of my political party, the leader of my chamber, the chair of each committee on which I serve, fellow legislators, and lobbyists. I pledge to perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability in serving the people who entrusted me to do just that."*

A couple years ago, I had a conversation with a prominent senator, during which I expressed concern about the culture developing in our legislature. He didn't disagree with my observation, but said I just don't understand how things get done down there. I responded, "To the contrary, I do understand how things get done down there and that's precisely what concerns me and countless others."

So, these are the high hopes I have for the upcoming legislative session. I urge other citizens who have similar hopes to express them to the delegates and senators representing them. A phone call, letter or email will let them know you are out there and watching. Contacting them more than once would be even better. Changing the way things get done down there is overdue.

*Cipoletti is a resident of Charleston, owner of Point Forward Media and serves as a consultant for the West Virginia Press Association.*

## W.Va. shared editorial

### Staying at home to save the state money

The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register

About 1,060 West Virginians entitled to state assistance with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities would like to receive that aid in their homes rather than institutions. Despite the fact that would save taxpayers' money, those men, women and children have had to wait, some for years, to get waivers allowing them to make the change.

That is more than ridiculous. If the state Department of Health and Human Resources is not processing the waivers as expeditiously as possible, it is irresponsible, to put it mildly.

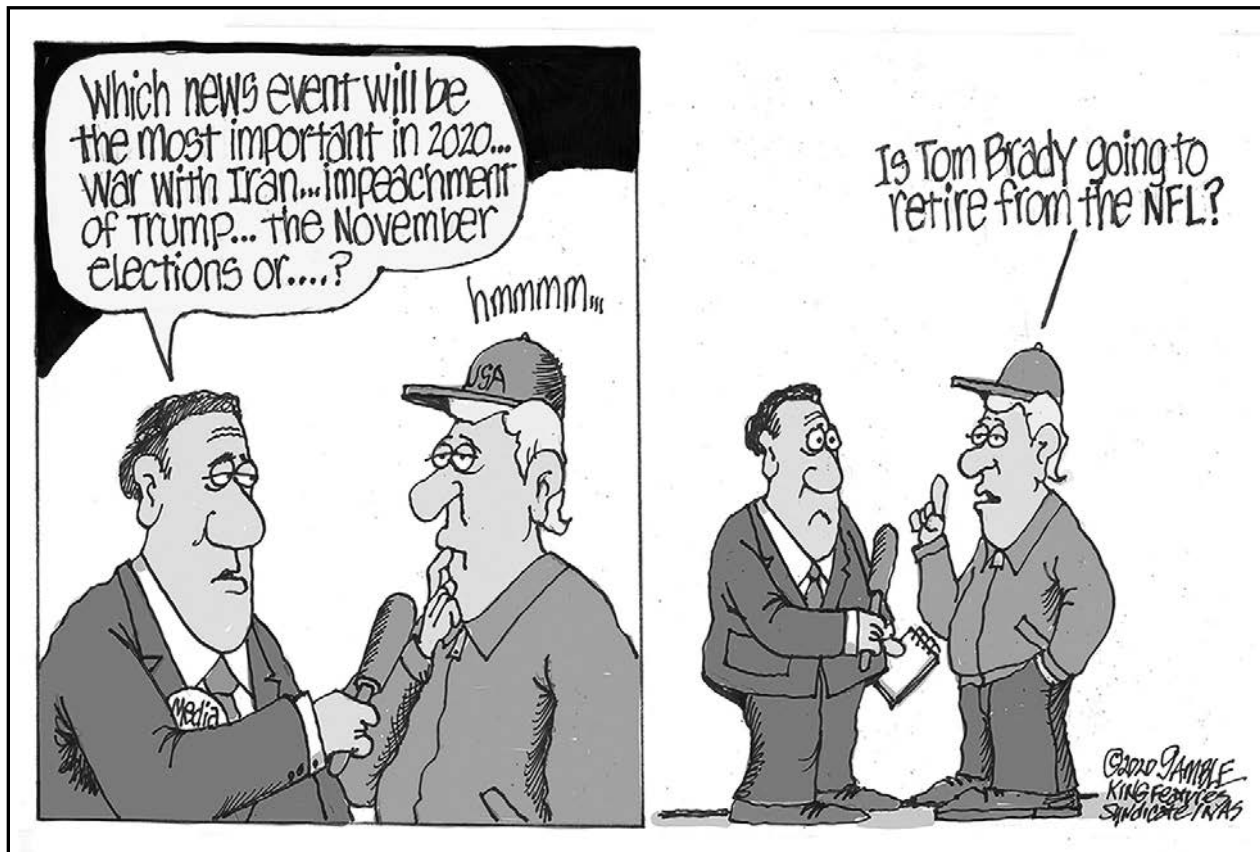
Gov. Jim Justice has directed the DHHR to investigate ways of eliminating the waiting list for the waiver program. He expects a report by Jan. 15

Justice's timing is good. It provides time for him to look at the DHHR's report and, if necessary, seek action by the Legislature if changes in the law are needed to speed up the waiver program.

Some of those on the waitlist for DHHR action on waivers have been there for four years, Justice said. "We absolutely must find a way to eliminate the waitlist so that these West Virginians can get the help and support they deserve," he added.

And, the governor pointed out, giving more people waivers so they can get help without being institutionalized is good for the state budget. Services provided through the waiver program cost 46% less than those provided by intermediate care facilities, Justice's office noted.

DHHR officials are right to examine requests for waivers carefully. Granting them may not be the best thing for some people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. But for those who would benefit, state government should accelerate the process instead of forcing them to wait for years.



By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Iran seemed to intentionally avoid killing Americans in their recent air-strike against our American military base in Iraq. Reports indicate it was more about "saving face" with their own people after the killing of their General Qassem Soleimani. Don't be fooled.

Iran does not want to be friends and has proven it over the years by their support of terroristic groups. Look for them to try to utilize some terror group to blindside us with something very destructive. They know they do not want a war with the United States and will try to hide behind someone else.

In 1998, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed and Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah were credited with being the masterminds behind the embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania that killed over 200 people and injured over 5,000 more. Twelve Americans were killed in those bombings.

The FBI would track 60 phone calls

placed on a satellite phone by Osama bin Laden from the small country of Azerbaijan to his associates in the country's capital of Baku. Bin Laden would be placed on the FBI's top 10 wanted list as a result of these attacks on our two African embassies.

In 2000, the USS Cole was bombed in Yemen. Seventeen U.S. Navy sailors were killed and 39 injured in the deadliest attack against a United States naval vessel since the USS Stark incident in 1987.

The organization al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden claimed responsibility for the attack. Many names and multiple people were involved in this attack. Bin Laden like Iran used people to do his dirty work.

On Sept. 11, 2001, the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history took place when 19 men hijacked four U.S. commercial airliners. The plot was orchestrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. A total of 2,977 people were killed at the World Trade Center in New York, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and in Shanksville, Pa.

Gen. Qassem Soleimani led the elite Quds Force, part of Iran's Revolutionary Guards that reports to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Soleimani was

also accused of controlling proxy militias across the Middle East including ones in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. He has been called a murderer by several of our U.S. officials.

The Pentagon blamed Soleimani for a series of attacks on allied bases in Iraq in recent months, including a rocket strike that killed a U.S. contractor and wounded four other service members. The Pentagon also has said Soleimani had been actively developing plans to attack U.S. diplomats and service members in Iraq and elsewhere throughout the region.

The Quds, which he led, were designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. and were considered the most powerful intelligence operative in the Middle East, for many years.

While none of us want killing, President Trump did the right thing. If bin Laden could have been taken out before the African bombings or before Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of lives could have been saved.

Soleimani was on the move to see who, how and what he could organize to strike again.

*Glenn Mollette is a syndicated columnist and author and is read in all 50 states.*



By Phil Kabler  
For WV Press

Legislature getting off to a fairly low-key start.

The 60-day regular session got underway Wednesday, featuring Gov. Jim Justice's fourth State of the State address.

Unlike his earlier addresses, which featured multiple props and folksy references to the Frankenstein monster and 18-carat dog messes, Justice's latest State of the State address was unusually long (running about 82 minutes) and more conventional than in the past.

Justice offered a particularly rosy view of the state's outlook, touting efforts in his first three years to improve state roads, public schools, and economic opportunities.

"We have changed ourselves from a state that was backwards, and having a tough time, dingy and dark," he said.

Justice endorsed proposals to roll-back the state personal property tax on business equipment and inventory, and to establish an intermediate appeals court – two concepts backed by state business interests.

However, Justice was low-key on both issues, mentioning the intermediate appeals court almost as an afterthought in the closing moments of the long address, and saying of the inventory tax, "I don't want anyone to doubt that I would like it gone – at least, gone in time."

He also announced plans to invest an additional \$26.4 million into the Department of Health and Human Resources to enhance Child Protective Services and foster care programs overstressed by families shattered by the state opioid crisis, while pledging to set up a Narcotics Intelligence Service to combat the flow of illegal drugs into the state.

Addressing would-be drug deal-

## At the Capitol: Tight finances result in low-key start to state Legislature's regular session

ers, Justice warned, "We are going to bust your ass. That's all there is to it."

While Justice toned down the use of props and folksy stories in his 2020 address, he didn't eliminate them entirely.

While touting his Roads to Prosperity road bond program, and increased state spending for highways maintenance, Justice had Division of Highways' employees come through the aisles of House chambers handing out reflective vests for legislators to wear – while making clear that they were loaners and not gifts, and needed to be returned after the speech.

The address may be most remembered for an impromptu appearance by World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams, to whom Justice yielded the podium so that he could make a pitch for the final \$12,000 of funding needed to erect a monument to Gold Star families on the Capitol grounds.

Two years removed from a record year for state revenue that provided some \$500 million of budget surplus, the Justice administration is facing a contracting state economy as it puts together a 2020-21 state budget bill.

As a result, Justice is proposing a "flat" \$4.58 billion general revenue budget that includes no pay raises for public school or state employees. That plan is \$108.64 million less than the current state budget – and Justice is proposing closing that budget gap by taking that amount out of unused state funding for Medicaid, the state-managed health plan for the state's poor, disabled and elderly.

Meanwhile, a six-year financial outlook prepared by the administration shows that 2020-21 is likely to be the first of five straight years where state spending will exceed state revenues – as plunging natural gas prices, and dropping coal prices and production put a damper on state tax collections.

Deputy Revenue Secretary Mark Muchow told legislators that a warm winter to date isn't helping coal or

natural gas prices in the short-term, noting, "This weekend, the forecast is for temperatures in the 70s. That's not good for tax collections. What we need is minus 10 degrees."

Meanwhile, the first bill moving in the House of Delegates would require November run-off elections for state Supreme Court justices, if no candidate receives at least 40 percent of the vote in the nonpartisan election during May primary elections (HB2008).

Advocates of the bill contend that the new one-off Supreme Court elections could result in individuals being elected to the court with a relatively small percentage of the vote in races with a number of candidates.

That follows 2018 elections where Tim Armstead and Evan Jenkins won election to the high court without either receiving 40 percent of the vote in separate multi-candidates races

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

Saw the cartoon in the Press sketched out by KIRK, a King Features Syndicate political cartoonist. He pictured Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi addressing a constituent saying, "I won't turn impeachment over to the Senate until they meet our demands," the constituent remarks, "I thought Democrats were against Quid Pro Quo." A rather overly broad application of the Latin expression describing a simple transaction; this for that. "I will give you \$50 for that Mountaineer Jersey" or "If you paint my house I will pay you \$500" It has to be a fair exchange, a deal two parties agree to.

In this cartoon, KIRK conflates the expression by misapplying it. Speaker Pelosi was offering to turn over the House approved articles of

Letter to the editor  
continued on 5A

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#### January 11, 1950

Births at Veatch-Townsend Clinic included: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest See of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Warfield Markwood of Purgitsville, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Edsel Smith of Purgitsville, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Keplinger of Mount Storm, a daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dawson of Maysville, a daughter.

Charles Godlove of Petersburg retired after 28 years of service with Potomac Light and Power Company.

A surprise seventh birthday party was given in honor of Barbara Kay Ketterman, Jan 7, at her home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Park celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary at Park Hotel, with 42 guests attending.

Mary Deadrick was among 12 Berea College students, who was to be included in the 1949-50 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

#### January 13, 1960

The South Branch Motor Freight Inc., Moorefield, was sold to Vivan Mowry of Petersburg, from Marlin Bean.

There was an increase in 1959 of accidents on county's roads with seven deaths.

The Citizens Telephone Committee announced that approximately 200 applicants in Scherr and Maysville was to get telephone service in 1961.

Members of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company answered a total of 19 calls during 1959 and total damages of \$40,590.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Porter of Medley observed their 50th wedding anniversary, Jan. 17.

Mrs. Ora Kimble entertained at her home, Jan. 9, in honor of her son Leslie's fifth birthday.

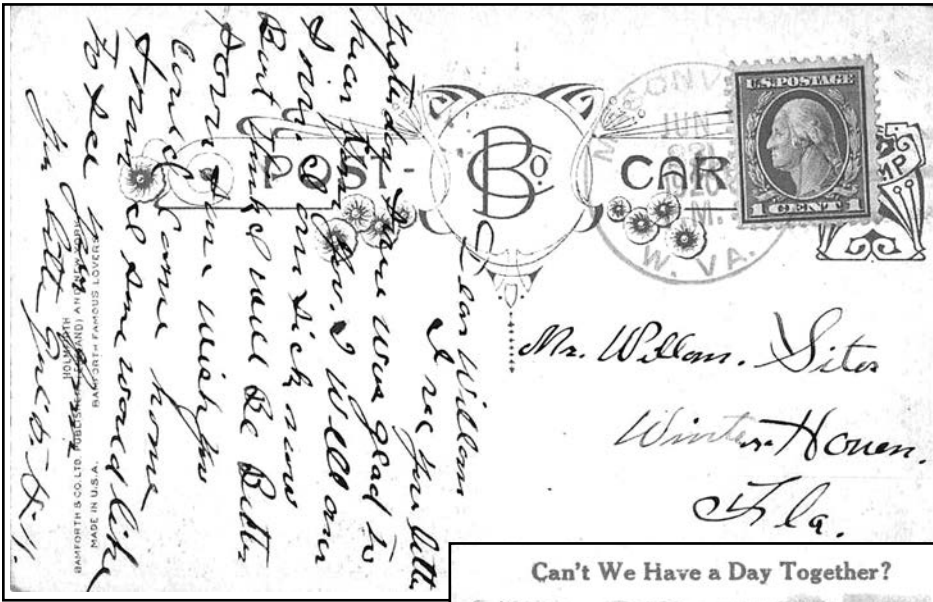
Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Jesse C. Parsons of Petersburg, a son, Jan. 5; Mr. and Mrs. Angus Shobe of Moorefield, a daughter,

## West Virginia Senate creates Select Committee on Children and Families for 2020 regular session

The West Virginia Senate has created a select committee for the second session of the 84th Legislature to give special attention to addressing legislation related specifically to child welfare.

Senate majority leader Tom Takubo, R-Kanawha, has been named the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Children and Families. Senate majority whip Ryan Weld, R-Brooke, will serve as

Remember When



Almost 100 years ago, June 23, 1920, this post card was sent from Masonville, an area near the Spring Run fish hatchery. There must have been a post office there in order for the cancellation stamp to say Masonville, W.Va.

The card is addressed to Mr. William Sites, Winter Haven, Fla. and reads "Dear William, I rec your letter yesterday. I was glad to hear from you. I (illegible). I am sick now but will be better soon. I wish you could come home soon. I sure would like to see you. From (initials illegible).

The picture on the front is a stock photo from the Bamforth & Co. Ltd. of New York.

If you have old photos of the area up through the 1970s, please stop in and let us scan your picture(s) and get some information.

Jan. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Wilard Judy of Rough Run, a daughter, Jan. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Veters of Cabins, Jan. 10; and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alt of Petersburg, a son, Jan. 10.

Nineteen members of the Petersburg Chapter of FFA received the Chapter Farmer degree, Dec. 18. They were: Andy Kile, Roger Hines, Hansel Carr, Ralph Layton, Wayne Koontz, Lawrence Kessel, Elmo Hesse, David Helmick, Richard Hawk, Eugene Cook, Charles Smith, Jack Berg, Junior Parks, Gerald Huffman, Robert Moore, Sheldon Dolly, Ervin Mallow, Roy Mallow and Randall Turner.

#### January 14, 1970

Whitewater Weekend was planned for April 3-5.

Miss Carol Wisman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wisman of Glen Dale, became the bride of Roy Stephen Harman,

son of Dr. and Mrs. Roy Harman of Petersburg, Dec. 21, at Glen Dale United Methodist Church.

Cynthia Harman was crowned Snow Queen VII, Dec. 23, at the Christmas dance.

Births at Grant Memorial Hospital included: Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eye of Upper Tract, a son, Jan 5; Mr. and Mrs. Carter Inskeep of Burlington, a daughter, Jan. 9; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Funk of Moorefield, a son, Jan. 9.

#### January 16, 1980

The Federal Mediation Service entered the three month old Adell Polymers strike in Petersburg, with neither side describing the meeting as productive.

Jeff Berg and Diana Wolford were named as Petersburg High School Students of the Month.

Leisa Mongold was to join a delegation of West Virginia and Pennsylvania

vice chairman.

Other committee members include Senator Sue Cline, R-Wyoming; Senator J.R. Pitsenbarger, R-Nicholas; Senator Rollan Roberts, R-Raleigh; Senator Patricia Rucker, R-Jefferson; Senate Minority Leader Roman Prezioso, D-Marion, Senator Paul Hardesty, D-Logan; and Senator Ron Stollings, D-Boone.

Two of the committee's primary areas of focus will

be addressing issues that stem from West Virginia's continuing foster care crisis and substance abuse epidemic.

There are more than 7,000 children in foster care throughout the state, and according to a recent legislative audit of the Department of Health and Human Resources Child Protective Services, CPS "did not meet the statutorily required time frame for investigating child abuse and neglect allegations in 50% of cases during federal Fiscal Year 2018."

Additionally, the agency continues to experience high turnover, and the drug epidemic has increased the caseload of CPS workers by 79% since 2015.

While legislation related to these issues typically goes through other committees like Health and Human Resources, it must compete with dozens of other bills.

high school basketball stars on a playing tour of the British Isles in the summer.

Pvt. Randy Ketterman of Petersburg entered the U.S. Army Reserves, Oct. 17, 1979, and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy T. Carr of Maysville announced the birth of a son, Douglas Roy, Jan. 12, at General Memorial Hospital, Elkins.

Mr. and Mrs. George Waldron of Cabins announced the birth of a daughter, Beth Ann, Jan. 1, at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Va.

A first birthday celebration for Roland Douglas Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Parker, took place at their home.

Gerald Huffman of Petersburg was named a recipient of the 1979 Logger of the Year award by West Virginia Forests Inc. at their fall banquet in Charleston.

Senate President Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, said this committee would be able to devote its attention solely to those issues that affect child welfare, and in turn, give those issues more attention than they would possibly receive otherwise.

"Our children are our state's most precious resource, and it's clear that despite our best efforts, we are falling way short in adequately providing for the needs of the ones who need us the most," Carmichael said.

"My hope with this new select committee is that the members take a deep dive on these issues and work toward the kinds of solutions that will ensure no child in the state of West Virginia gets lost in a bureaucracy that does not put them on the best path to stability, comfort, and self-worth."

## U.S. Senate passes bill in response to homicides at Clarksburg VA Center

U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Shelley Moore Capito's (R-W.Va.) legislation, The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019, passed the Senate right before Christmas.

This bipartisan legislation would require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit detailed reports on patient safety and quality of care at VA Medical Centers in light of the recent deaths of veterans at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center.

The legislation ensures that Congress, veterans and their families are fully informed on the policies and procedures in place across the VA nationally. Additionally, this bill requires the VA, once the criminal investigations are completed, to submit a detailed report and timeline of events surrounding the deaths at the Clarksburg VA.

**Sen. Manchin** — "I'm proud that my Senate colleagues joined Senator Capito and I in voting to pass this important legislation. This bipartisan bill that will increase transparency at the VA and set the groundwork for greater accountability. Due to the lack of information being made available to the public, veterans across our state are having a crisis of confidence in the safety, security, and quality of their VA healthcare.

"This legislation will help our veterans and their families gain insight into the policies and procedures that could have led to these homicides. Ultimately our goal is to help restore public confidence in the VA across West Virginia and the nation.

"Victims' families have waited long enough and deserve answers. I can't imagine having a loved one murdered at a VA Medical Center and after a year and a half, still not knowing how it happened. I want to make sure this never happens to another veteran at any VA facility ever again."

**Sen. Capito** — "Our veterans should always feel safe and cared for at our VA hospitals. No questions asked. It's for this reason that I've stayed on top of this issue since day one when the news first broke. Since that day, I have remained in close contact with those involved in this investigation, such as VA Secretary Wilkie, U.S. Attorney Bill Powell, Clarksburg VA Director Glenn Snider, and VA Inspector General Michael Missal, as well as checking in with staff on the progress of the investigation.

"It's important that we get more information for the families, the veterans, and the community. We need to discuss how these tragedies happened and how to prevent similar occurrences in West Virginia and VA hospitals nationwide. Passage of this legislation is welcome news, as it will help us find answers to these questions and help make sure that tragedies like this never happen again."

## Candidate filing reminder; last day is Jan. 25

The candidate filing period for the 2020 election cycle began yesterday and will last until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25.

In the Eastern Panhandle, candidates can file their Certificate of Announcement in person during the hours listed at the following locations:

#### WVSOS Eastern Panhandle Business Hub Office

229 East Martin Street, in Martinsburg

Now through Friday, Jan. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 20 through Friday, Jan. 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

#### Grant County Clerk's Office

5 Highland Avenue in Petersburg

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Candidate's certificates of announcement can also be mailed to the Secretary of State's Office, and will be accepted as long as they are postmarked by no later than Jan. 25. Certificates postmarked by the deadline but received by the proper filing office after the Jan. 25 deadline will be accepted. However, any Certificates of Announcement that are postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted.

Candidates for the following offices must file their Certificate of Announcement at the Secretary of State's Office: President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Justice of the WV Supreme Court of Appeals, WV State Senate, WV House of Delegates, Circuit Court Judge (unexpired) and Greater Huntington Park Board.

Candidates for all other offices elected in the 2020 election cycle must file their Certificates of Announcement with their county clerk.

For Running for Office Guild, elections calendar, additional information regarding the election, campaign finances, voter information, absentee voting and educational resources to to sos.wv.gov.

For more information about candidate filing, contact the Elections Division at 304-558-6000, 866-767-8683 (toll free) or send a message to elections@wvsos.gov.

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by Mike Marland

R.F.D.



### Letter to the editor

Continued from Page 5A

impeachment, one for abuse of power by the president for withholding funds already approved by both houses of Congress for a sovereign nation trying to defend itself from a foreign invasion by Russia.

Additionally, obstruction of Congress for refusing to turn over any documents they requested and instructing all of his aides to refuse to respond to lawfully obtained subpoenas for their testimony.

Speaker Pelosi was withholding the Articles until she had assurances from Majority Leader McConnell that he would hold an impartial hearing, a trial with what most trials include: Witnesses and documents (aka evidence). With McConnell refusing to allow any witnesses or

any documents to be considered, his "trial" would represent the "sham" that his fellow Republicans thought the impeachment hearings engaged in. You know the one with a dozen witnesses and thousands of pages of documents and videos, one that allowed both sides to question and cross examine the witnesses.

If you had that Mountaineer jersey, and were offering it to someone who was a student at University of Pittsburgh, who made it clear he would use that proud jersey as a rag to clean his dorm toilet ... wouldn't you hold that Mountaineer jersey close to your heart? I would.

Frank L. Miller  
Mount Storm



# Local and area obituaries

## DOROTHY L. HARMAN

Dorothy Louise Harman, 85, of Maysville, W.Va., departed this life to be in her Heavenly Father's arms on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in her home.

She was born Sept. 14, 1934, in Kessel, W.Va. and was the daughter of the late Cecil W. Smith and Clara (Pratt) Smith. In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by one daughter, Joyce Elaine Harman in 1994; son-in-law, James F. Western in 2015; two sisters, Eloise Smith Hines and Dora Smith Watts; two brothers-in-law, Minor Watts and Robert Kreiser; and one sister-in-law, Cecilia Smith.

Dorothy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She had a strong passion for baking and her love for taking care of flowers. She lived life with a unconditional love for others. She was a joy and inspiration to all who knew her. She attended Moorefield High School and Love Church in Moorefield, W.Va.

Dorothy is survived by her husband of nearly 65 years, Lynn D. Harman of Maysville; her five children, David (Marites) Harman of Maysville, Cathy Harman of Maysville, Brenda (Danny) Ketterman of Maysville, Lori Western of Maysville and Journey Mongold of Maysville; 12 grandchildren, Kevin Mongold, Laramie Harman, Jonathan Mongold, Jenny Harman, Lindsey (Western) Porter, Bethany (Mongold) Stump, Casey Western, Miranda Mongold, Danielle (Ketterman) Mayle, Micah Western,



Jalyn Western and Ian Harman; 13 great-grandchildren; five brothers, Marshall Smith, Rev. Kenneth (Bonnie) Smith, both of Winchester, Va., Hieskell (Betty) Smith of Moorefield, Evers (Diane) Smith of Petersburg, W.Va. and James (Nancy) Smith of Friendly, W.Va.; three sisters, Orpha Cowgill of Petersburg, Carmelita Kreiser of Fairbanks, Alaska and Juanita (Robert) Trichel of Bossier City, La.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Saturday morning at Love Church, Moorefield, with Bishop Edward Murray and Pastor DixieLee Murray officiating. Interment was in South Branch Valley Memorial Gardens, Petersburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to her great-grandson, Carson Stump, c/o Bethany Stump, 190 General Drive, Lahmansville, WV 26731.

Arrangements by the Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg. Condolences to the family may be left at [www.schaefferfuneralhome.com](http://www.schaefferfuneralhome.com). (1-14-20)

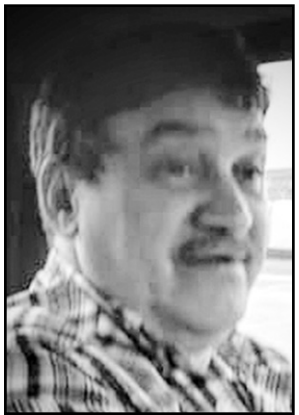
## JOHN LEE PRATT

John Lee Pratt, 54, of Purgitsville, died Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Hampshire Memorial Hospital, Romney.

Born Sept. 24, 1965, in Petersburg, he was the son of Judy F. (Pratt) Leatherman of Fisher and the late John Lee Reel. He was also preceded in death by an infant daughter, Sherri Renee Pratt; and half sister, Libby Ann Reel.

John attended Moorefield High School and was an automobile mechanic and a former employee of Fitzwater Trucking, Moorefield.

He is survived by two daughters, Amanda Barrett of Wardensville and Heather Pratt of Moorefield; two grandchildren; one sister, Julie "Sue" Pratt of Fisher; one half sister, Kathy Bobo of Fisher; and one half brother, Marshall "Ike" See



of Cross Junction, Va.

In accordance with John's wishes, his body will be cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Pratt family, c/o Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg, WV 26847. Condolences to the family may be left at [www.schaefferfuneralhome.com](http://www.schaefferfuneralhome.com). (1-14-20)

## Potomac State announces president's, dean's lists

West Virginia University's Potomac State College President Jennifer Orlikoff announces 153 students who earned a place on the president's list for fall 2019. To be eligible, a student must earn a 3.7 to 4.0 grade point average while maintaining a full-time student status. Those students in Grant County who earned a place include:

Lahmansville: Shawna Weatherholtz  
Maysville: Maggie Canoy, Natasha Henry and Blake Landis

Petersburg: Alec Burgess, Wesley Cosner, Marissa Earle, Tyler Feaster and Levi Whetzel

Dean of Academic Affairs Greg Ochoa announces 267 students who earned a place on the dean's list. In order to be eligible, a student must be enrolled

for at least 12-credit hours of graded courses, earn a 3.0-3.699 grade point average and not have any D, F, or I grades. The following Grant County students have met the criteria:

Cabins: Lauren Fleming  
Maysville: Lance Barb, Justin Cook, Wyatt Evans and Caitlin Hose

Petersburg: Daniel Alt, Robert Bondiskey, Jaden Corbin, Shayna Eskridge, Makayla Harman, Kelsey Harper, Brooke Hawk, Cassidy Hedrick, Rodney Hedrick, Ridge Liggett, Sarah Mullenax, Kyras Redman, Maxwell Roth, Jace Shanholtz, Shawna Sites, Cody Southerly, Steven Southerly, Alexis Vance, Kayla Veach, MacKenzie Weasenhorth and Sarah Wilson

Scherr: Ashley Quick  
Mount Storm: Nathaniel Evans

## LORA NAOMI BENNETT

Lora Naomi (Dolly) Bennett, 83, of Gaithersburg, Md. and formerly of Onego, died Thursday, Jan. 9, at Shady Grove Hospital, Rockville, Md.

Born July 9, 1936, in Onego, she was the daughter of the late Charles Edward Dolly and Ina Jane (Shirk) Dolly. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Foster Elwood Bennett in 2002; two sons, Foster E. Bennett Jr. and Jerry Lee Bennett; and two brothers, Justin Curtis Dolly and Mason Dolly.

Mrs. Bennett was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

She is survived by two sons, Paul Dolly of Pennsylvania and Charles Bennett of Sykesville, Md.; three daughters, Loretta L. Cooley of Damascus, Md., and Lois Bennett and Linda Bennett, both of Gaithers-



burg; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Sunday afternoon at the Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg, with Pastor Tommy George officiating.

Burial was in the Bennett Family Cemetery, Onego.

Condolences to the family may be left at [www.schaefferfuneralhome.com](http://www.schaefferfuneralhome.com). (1-14-20)

## DANIEL CHRISTOPHER BORROR

Daniel Christopher Borrer, 36, of Brandywine, W.Va., passed away Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, at his home.

Born March 15, 1983, in Harrisonburg, Va., he was the son of Connie Lee Simmons Sulser and husband, Charles of Petersburg, W.Va. and Dewayne Borrer and wife, Vonda of Franklin, W.Va.

He was a 2002 graduate of Petersburg High School and his passion was being an EMT and firefighter. Daniel was a member of the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and South Fork Volunteer Rescue Squad and had taken numerous EMT/Firefighter, AHA CPR Instructor and First Aid classes. He and his mother ran transport calls together on Lambert's Ambulance in both Keyser and Romney and on the Mathias-Baker Rescue Squad. He had won the title of Pendleton County Fair Idol by singing "Long Black Train." Daniel was a member of Riverside United Methodist Church.

Surviving in addition to his parents are two sisters, Christina Branham and husband, Nick of Arthur, W.Va. and Laura Sulser of Maysville, W.Va.; three stepsisters, one aunt, one



uncle, three nieces, four nephews and several cousins

Funeral services were Friday afternoon at Riverside United Methodist Church, Brandywine, with Pastor Aaron Himes officiating. Interment was at Pine Hill Cemetery, Brandywine.

Memorials may be made to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 297, Brandywine, WV 26802 or South Fork Rescue Squad, c/o Charlotte Hoover, 124 Black Thorn Road, Sugar Grove, WV 26815.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com). Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Kimble Funeral Home, Franklin. (1-14-20)

## Nominations being accepted for Ag and Forestry Hall of Fame

Nominations for induction into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) 2020 class are now being accepted.

The WVAFHF is devoted to honoring individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions and foundations who have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of the agricultural, forestry and/or family life of West Virginia.

Selected nominees will be officially enshrined during the WVAFHF Enshrinee Recognition Dinner on July 25, at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp.

"Our state has a rich history connected to the agricultural and forestry industries. Remembering those who have contributed to these communities is important," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Showing a little recognition is the least

we can do."

Those who are eligible must have lived in West Virginia, had a long tenured association with agriculture, forestry and family life, have made outstanding, direct contributions to those industries and demonstrated the highest standards of leadership and contribution on a local, state, national and/or international level.

Nomination forms can be found here: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/executive/Documents/2020%20AFHOF.pdf>.

All forms should be sent to WVU Extension Service, c/o Robin Rupenthal, 809 Knapp Hall, P.O. Box 6031, Morgantown, WV 26506 or emailed to [JOWilliams@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:JOWilliams@mail.wvu.edu) and must be received by close of business Monday, Feb. 24. For more information, visit <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/executive/WVAFHOF/Pages/default.aspx>

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## City

Continued from front

demeanor arrest.

The council also reminded residents that the city would now be enforcing the sidewalk ordinance, which will require residents selling their homes to include the installation of a sidewalk in front of their house in the sale contract in some capacity.

This ordinance ex-

cludes houses passed by inheritance or to some family members. For more information on this ordinance or its application, contact the Petersburg City Office.

The council then approved multiple building permits, including to: the Tri-County Fair Association on Rig Street to install a sewer tap; Larry Grapes of Virginia Avenue to tear down storage units and to Jeremy Riggleman of Point Drive, to replace

an outbuilding.

The city tabled one permit from Bob Cooper, of Keyser Avenue, to place a sign, to ensure the request complies with state highway licensure as well as check to find if the city needed to issue a variance for the placement.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Petersburg City Council is Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Petersburg City Office.



Mayor Gary Michael, city police commissioner Boyd Sites, new PPD officer D. Lambert and PPD Chief D. Stark.



Debris from the Marble, Pa., Allegany Wood plant following the fire.

*photo courtesy of john crites 11*

## AWP

Continued from front

be seen several miles from the plant as firefighters fought the blaze.

According to the Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department, crews arrived on scene to find heavy fire with partial collapse of the building and multiple structures endangered.

The sawmill was al-

ready fully engulfed and they worked over 12 hours containing the fire to the buildings initially involved, preventing the spread to other structures on site, putting out hot spots and preventing any rekindle.

The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal.

It was estimated it caused \$3 million or

more in damages to the facility. No injuries were reported.

AWP acquired the Marble sawmill in 2004 from the Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

The mill was built in 1927 and is located 70 miles north of Pittsburgh.

AWP operates sawmill, wood pellet and dry-kiln facilities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including Petersburg and Riverton, locally.

## Building

Continued from front

The bodies of Stump and her husband were dis-

covered inside the building by a customer. The incident was later ruled a murder/suicide.

In more recent years,

the building was purchased by Bruce “Icky” Hyre, who bought the location from Danny Kuykendall. It was rented out as a beauty shop, variety shop, craft shop and later to Kuhn who ultimately purchased it from Hyre.

Now, in 2020, the lot sits vacant, the brick and rubble removed, a small space sandwiched between the Grant County Magistrates building and Spectacle Family Eye Care.

In an announcement released last week, Kuhn explained he did not plan to rebuild Third Base Sports Bar and Grille on the site, instead opting to purchase the larger Mathias-Baker building on Keyser Avenue.

The decision by Kuhn not only breathes life back into a long empty building in Petersburg, but also allows the business to

expand far beyond what would have been possible at its previous location.

What will become of the space that began as a

post office is unsure, but, as of now, it is another change to the face of Petersburg’s most prominent street.



Demolition photos, shared by owner Tyler Kuhn, of the small brick structure that once housed the Petersburg Post Office.



Image of the damage done from the September fire inside the Third Base Sports Bar and Grille on Virginia Avenue in Petersburg.



Third Base Sports Bar and Grille will receive new life with the decision to purchase the old Mathias-Baker building on Keyser Avenue. The new location will allow the business to expand as well as renovate a long-empty building in Petersburg.

*photos courtesy of third base sports bar and grille*

# Grant County students have the opportunity to submit artwork for statewide PSA to fight opioid usage

Local youth may have an opportunity see their creative work displayed as the face of efforts to reduce the ongoing drug issues through the launch of Kids Kick Opioids.

Kids Kick Opioids is a public service announcement contest that spurs the creativity of elementary and middle school students while raising awareness of prescription painkiller abuse.

Kids Kick Opioids has drawn more than 9,500

entries since the 2016-17 school year.

The fourth contest launched this month with entry forms and details mailed to schools across West Virginia.

“This has been a tremendous contest,” said an announcement from the West Virginia Attorney General’s office. “Each year, I’ve been impressed by the creativity and talent of our students. Their entries, some especially poignant, have been a driving

force in raising awareness as to the dangers and personal impact of opioid abuse. We must do all we can to stop the senseless death and this has been a powerful tool for prevention.”

The contest provides an opportunity for students to learn the dangers of prescription painkiller abuse.

It has also given many an outlet to express the personal impact of opioid abuse upon their lives and that of their loved ones.

Students can work individually or in groups. Potential submissions may include drawings, poems, letters or anything that would promote awareness.

The winning entry will appear as a statewide newspaper PSA. Regional winners will be displayed in the State Capitol.

Kids Kick Opioids generated 3,240 entries from 3,422 students last year. Since its inception, schools from 52 of the

state’s 55 counties have participated.

Nearly 1,000 West Virginians lost their lives to a drug overdose in 2018, many of which were opioid related.

Reversing this trend has been a top priority for many state offices, including the West Virginia Attorney General’s Office.

The department has fought the epidemic on multiple fronts, including a lawsuit against the U.S. Drug Enforcement Ad-

ministration that achieved sweeping reforms to the nation’s drug quota system.

Efforts to address the ongoing opioid crisis has also been combated with civil litigation, multistate initiatives, funding to target opioid abuse, criminal prosecutions, new technology, engagement with the faith-based community and education.



# PVFC

continued from front

shire counties, including brush and structure fires and water rescue.

Representing the Grant County Commission was Commissioner Scotty Mile, who was thanked on behalf of the fire company for the commission's support and allocations toward equipment purchases.

Assistant chief Brian Westfall and vice president Ben Hanlin recognized area mutual aid fire companies and EMT services for their assistance throughout the year.

Recognized for years of service were: Daniel Alt, Lee Drewel and Brian Westfall - 15 years, Cole Burgess - 10 years, and Dalton Ours and BJ Bobby - 5 years.

Also recognized were the Swift Water and Rescue Team of Hunter Whetzel, Steve Reel, Mike Crites, Jeremiah Mayle, Randall Riggelman and Drewel.

The top three responders for the year were Marshall Collins with 149 calls, Andrew Davis with 146 calls and C.T. Cook with 129 calls. The three with the most fundraiser hours were Keen - 63, Collins - 59 and Duke Weasenforth - 57.

Door prizes provided by local businesses were given away along with gifts to firefighters and those who have assisted the company throughout the year.

Also honored were:

Firefighter of the Year award - Marshall Collins

Chief's Award - Brian Westfall

Royce Heare Memorial Award - Hunter Whetzel

Line officers and executive officers were installed by PVFC Chaplain Craig Howard and are as follows:

Chief - Bobby Funk, Deputy Chief - Nathan Keen, Assistant Chief - Brian Westfall, 1st Captain - Hunter Whetzel, 2nd Captain - Danny Lambert, 1st Lieutenant - Tanya Nelson, 2nd Lieutenant - Steven Reel, President - Hunter Whetzel, Vice President - Ben Hanlin, Secretary - Marshall Collins, Treasurer - Kristy Rohrbaugh, Assistant Treasurer - Brian Westfall, Chaplain - Craig Howard, Trustees - Donald "Duke" Weasenforth, Chris Morse and Mike Crites, and Sergeant at Arms - Jeremy Hottinger.

The evening ended with a slide show of 2019.



Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company 2020 officers (front) Steven Reel, Donald "Duke" Weasenforth, Ben Hanlin, Marshall Collins, Jeremy Hottinger, Craig Howard, Danny Lambert, Nathan Keen and Brian Westfall and (back) Kristy Rohrbaugh, Bobby Funk, Hunter Whetzel and Mike Crites.



Royce Heare Memorial Award - Hunter Whetzel



Chief's Award  
Brian Westfall



Firefighter of the Year  
Marshall Collins



State Fire Marshal Joe Vacchio



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January 14, 2020

## Local archers bring home wins

On Jan. 11, the Grant County Archery teams competed in the annual Buckhannon Archery Tournament.

The Maysville Archery team grabbed a big win at the event, finishing second as a group.

Individual winners of the event were Kadin Tinney, who finished fourth in the middle school boy division and Danielle Fridley, who finished fifth in the high school girl division.

Following the tournament, archery coach Ruthann Nuzum took to Facebook to congratulate the team on their performance.

"We are proud of all the shooters and look forward to a great archery season," Nuzum said.

The team will next travel to Wheeling for the "A Shot in the PARK" tournament.



## Viking Wrestlers compete in Buckhannon tournament

The Petersburg High School Viking wrestling team competed in the Grafton Duals late last month.

The annual event hosts a pool of 10 teams, seeing teams from all over the state travel to vie for the championship title.

The Vikings went into the event at a disadvantage, bringing only a handful of wrestlers.

"We are a smaller team and that, combined with injuries, we knew it was difficult to win at the duals," explained coach Tony Weatherholt.

Despite the lack of wrestlers resulting in numerous forfeits across several weight classes, the team ultimately finished eighth.

This win also included multiple strong individual showings, including many Vikings finishing the event undefeated, including Ethan VanMeter, Thomas Ours and Jacob Landes all finishing 5-0.

Other Vikings in the event were Jacob Perez, who fin-

ished 4-1, James Wolford finishing 2-3, Aedan Lott finished 1-4 and Jacob Simmons finished 0-5.

This was the team's fifth competition of the season, with the WSAZ Tournament in Huntington. The month will also culminate in the annual Viking SMASH, PHS's home tournament.

The final regularly competition of the season is scheduled at Southern Garrett High School in Maryland for Feb. 6.

The team will be winding up to their regional competition on Feb. 15 and ultimately the state tournament, on Feb. 27.

In the past, the PHS wrestling team has sent multiple state competitors to the tournament each year, including back-to-back state championship title holder, Viking graduate, Jackson Moomau.



## Young hunter bags a big buck

One young hunter picked up a trophy buck last fall while participating in the The Outdoor Dream Foundation's annual Lowcountry Dreams Youth Hunt in South Carolina.

Justin Sites, a student at Petersburg Elementary School, bagged the 8-point buck at Whitehall Plantation in Colleton County on the weekend of Sept. 20.

Over the course of the weekend, the young outdoorsman participated in two afternoon deer hunts, fishing and catching alligators.

The Outdoor Dream Foundation is a nonprofit organization that offers outdoor adventures to children facing medical issues.

According to the foundation's website, since

2004, more than 1,000 kids have been impacted by outdoor adventures. This includes going to support adventures for Outdoor Dream Kids and their families.

Sites is the son of Jaret and Heather Sites of Petersburg, the maternal grandson of Mike and Susan Thorne and the great-grandson of Emory "Sam" Berg.

He is the paternal grandson of Art and Betty Puffenbarger and the great-grandson of Curtis "Peanut" Sites.

For more information on the hunts and events offered by the Outdoor

Dream Foundation, contact the nonprofit at 864-760-9101 or visit their website at <https://outdoordream.org>.





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## WVSSAC coaching education courses to be offered at Union Educational Complex

The West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission is conducting coaching education classes at Union High School in Mount Storm on Jan. 27, 28 and 30. The classes will last from 5-10

p.m. The instructor will be current Union High School athletic director and coach, Jamie Tallman. Those individuals that are not otherwise qualified by the West Virginia Department of Education and wish to coach any sport at the high school or middle school level in West Virginia is required to take these classes. To register and receive more information go the website: [wvssac.org](http://wvssac.org) and select the tab "Coaches Education" or call 304-485-5494. Space for the class is limited to first come first served.



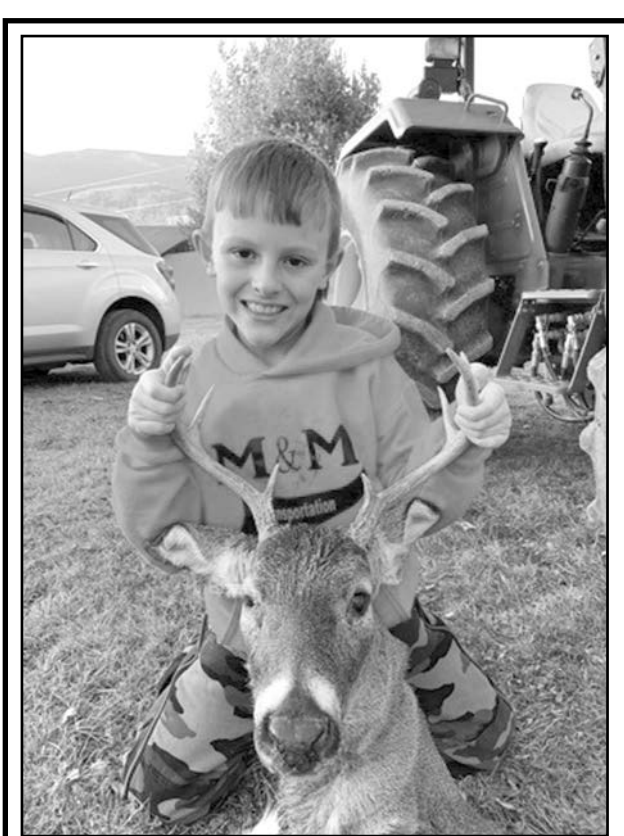
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**Austin Arbaugh, 9, killed his first buck, an 8-point while hunting with his pappy Richard in Pendleton County on Nov. 27. He is the son of Ronnie and Maggie Arbaugh.**

## West Virginia University ranks No. 17 in AP Poll

**By: Tanner Cain  
West Virginia University**

The West Virginia University women's basketball team (13-1, 3-0 Big 12) moved up two spots to rank No. 17 in the latest Associated Press Top-25 Poll, announced Monday.

West Virginia received 289 points to rank No. 17 in the latest rankings.

The Mountaineers' No. 17 ranking is the highest mark WVU has achieved this season.

WVU is 89 points ahead of No. 18 Arizona State and 38 points behind No. 16 Gonzaga.

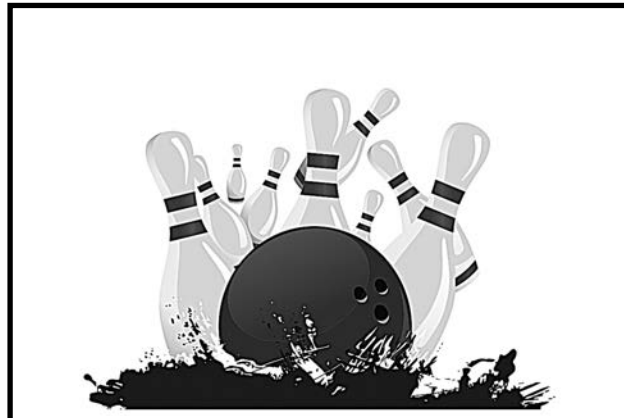
The Mountaineers are one of two Big 12 teams represented in this week's poll.

Baylor jumped four spots to rank No. 2 in this week's poll.

The Lady Bears received 724 points and seven first-place votes.

West Virginia continues Big 12 play at the WVU Coliseum on Wednesday, Jan. 15, as the Mountaineers are set to host Oklahoma at 7 p.m. ET.

Wednesday's contest against the Sooners will be broadcast on Nexstar stations throughout the state, including WOWK-CBS (Charleston), WVNS-FOX (Beckley) and WTRF-TV (Wheeling). A live stream also will be provided on [WVUsports.com](http://WVUsports.com).



## Golden Lanes Bowling Results

### Thursday Night Men's League

Team standings: Strike Force 53 - 19, Builders Center 48.5 - 23.5, Vetter's Mini Mart 38.5 - 33.5, Country Cars & Trucks 37 - 35, Pepsi Cola 36 - 36, Petersburg Oil Company 35 - 37, Golden Lanes 31 - 41.

High game (Scratch): Terry Wratchford 248, Bradley Vetter 245, Larry Ware 234, Roger Earle 232, Gary Leatherman 222; (Handicap): Bradley Vetter 263, Logan Willis 257, Terry Wratchford 256, Roger Earle 247, Larry Ware 244.

High series (Scratch): Larry Ware 625, Bradley Vetter and Terry Wratchford 617, Roger Earle 606, Logan Willis 590; (Handicap): Logan Willis 698, Terry Wratchford 679, Bradley Vetter 671, Larry Ware 655, Roger Earle 651.

High average: Terry Wratchford 191.17, Gary Leatherman 188.83, Larry Ware 188.56, Troy McGreevy 185.96, Larry Walp 184.19. 12/26

### Thursday Night Men's League

Team standings: Strike Force 55 - 21, Builders Center 52.5 - 23.5, Vetter's Mini Mart 41.5 - 34.5, Country Cars & Trucks 40 - 36, Pepsi Cola 37 - 39, Petersburg Oil Company 37 - 39, Golden Lanes 31 - 45.

High game (Scratch): Bradley Vetter II 232, Terry Wratchford 227, Chris Kesner 225, Clayton Laub 223, Donald Burgess and Zachary Ar-

baugh 222; (Handicap): Donald Burgess 263, Bradley Vetter II 259, Zachary Arbaugh 250, Chris Kesner 247, Clayton Laub 245.

High series (Scratch): Terry Wratchford 639, Bradley Vetter II 607, Chris Kesner 568, Richie Burgess 564, Clayton Laub 557; (Handicap): Bradley Vetter II 688, Donald Burgess 678, Terry Wratchford 660, Chris Kesner 634, Kevin McDonald 633.

High average: Terry Wratchford 192.32, Gary Leatherman 188.26, Larry Ware 187.63, Troy McGreevy 185.96, Larry Walp 184.19. 1/2

### SBVW

High game: DeeAnna McDonald 204, Trina Crawford 182 and Kay Leslie 181. High series: DeeAnna McDonald 505, Marcie Yokum 460 and Teresa Barr 456. High average: DeeAnna McDonald 168, Trina Crawford 148 and Teresa Barr 146. 12/2

### SBVW

High game: DeeAnna McDonald 221, Kathy Vance 192 and Kay Leslie 182. High series: DeeAnna McDonald 547, Tina Bible 474 and Linda Helmick 461. High average: DeeAnna McDonald 169, Trina Crawford 149 and Tina Bible 146. 12/9



WVU is 89 points ahead of No. 18 Arizona State and 38 points behind No. 16 Gonzaga.

The Mountaineers are one of two Big 12 teams represented in this week's poll.

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The Lady Bears received 724 points and seven first-place votes.

West Virginia continues Big 12 play at the WVU Coliseum on Wednesday, Jan. 15, as the Mountaineers

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**FIND NEW ROADS**







# WVU researchers help find illusive cosmic radio bursts

For more than a decade, astronomers across the globe have wrestled with the perplexities of fast radio bursts — intense, unexplained cosmic flashes of energy, light years away, that pop for mere milliseconds.

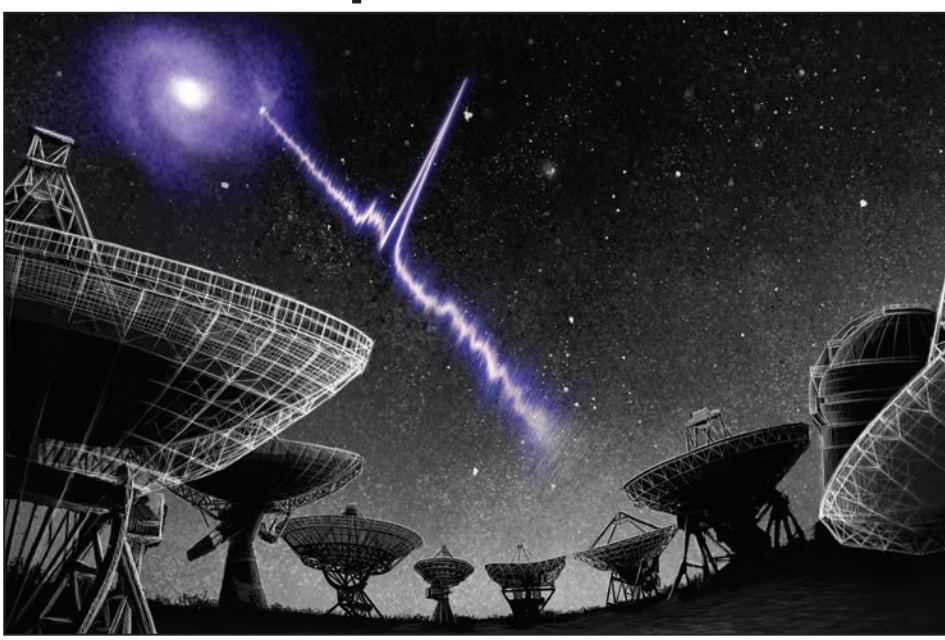
Despite the hundreds of records of these enigmatic sources, researchers have only pinpointed the precise location of four such bursts.

Now there's a fifth, detected by a team of international scientists that includes West Virginia University researchers. The finding, which relied on eight telescopes spanning locations from the United Kingdom to China, was published Jan. 6 in "Nature."

There are two primary types of fast radio bursts, explained Kshitij Aggarwal, a physics graduate student at WVU and a co-author of the paper: repeaters, which flash multiple times, and non-repeaters, one-off events. This observation marks only the second time scientists have determined the location of a repeating fast radio burst.

But the localization of this burst is not quite as important as the type of galaxy it was found in, which is similar to our own, said Sarah Burke-Spolaor, assistant professor of physics and astronomy and co-author.

"Identifying the host galaxy for FRBs is critical



An artist's conception of the localization of Fast Radio Burst 180916.J0158+65 to its host galaxy. The host galaxy image is based on real observations using the Gemini-North telescope atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii. The impulsive burst emanating from the galaxy is based on real data recorded using the 100-metre Effelsberg radio telescope in Germany. (Image credit: Danielle Futselaar; artsource.nl)

to tell us about what kind of environments FRBs live in, and thus what might actually be producing FRBs," Burke-Spolaor said. "This is a question for which scientists are still grasping at straws."

Burke-Spolaor and her student, Aggarwal, used the Very Large Array observatory in New Mexico to seek pulsations and a persistent radio glow from this burst. Meanwhile, Kevin Bandura, assistant professor of computer science and electrical engineering, and third WVU co-author of the article, worked on the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment team that initially detected the

repeating fast radio burst.

"What's very interesting about this particular repeating FRB is that it is in the arm of a Milky Way-like spiral galaxy, and is the closest to Earth thus far localized," Bandura said. "The unique proximity and repetition of this FRB might allow for observation in other wavelengths and the potential for more detailed study to understand the nature of this type of FRB."

Using a technique known as Very Long Baseline Interferometry, the team achieved a level of resolution high enough to localize the burst to a region approximately seven

light years across — a feat comparable to an individual on Earth being able to distinguish a person on the moon, according to CHIME.

With that level of preci-

sion, the researchers could analyze the environment from which the burst emanated through an optical telescope.

What they found has added a new chapter to the mystery surrounding the origins of fast radio bursts.

This particular burst existed in a radically different environment from previous studies, as the first repeating burst was discovered in a tiny "dwarf" galaxy that contained metals and formed stars, Burke-Spolaor said.

"That encouraged a lot of publications saying that repeating FRBs are likely produced by magnetars (neutron stars with powerful magnetic fields)," she said. "While that is still possible, the fact that this FRB breaks the uniqueness of that previous mold means that we have to consider perhaps multiple origins or a broader range of theories to understand what creates FRBs."

At half-a-billion light years from Earth, the source of this burst, named "FRB 180916," is seven times closer than the only other repeating burst to have been localized, and more than 10 times closer than any of the few non-repeating bursts scientists have managed to pinpoint. Researchers are hopeful that this latest observation will enable further studies that unravel the possible explanations behind fast radio bursts, according to CHIME.

WVU has remained at the research forefront of fast radio bursts since they were first discovered in 2007 by a team at the university that included Duncan Lorimer and Maura McLaughlin, physics professors, and then-student David Narkevic. The trio discovered fast radio bursts from scouring archived data from Australia's Parkes Radio Telescope.

## SBCTC spotlight student



Quentin Turner

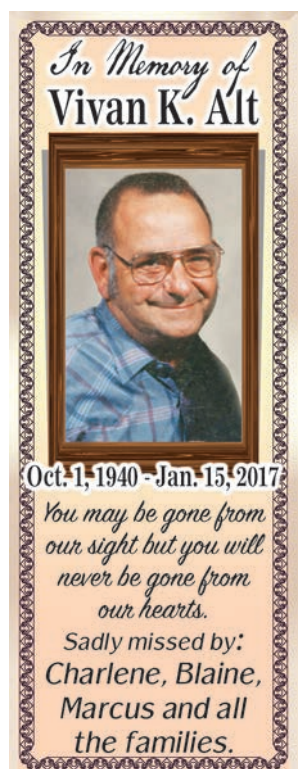
South Branch Career and Technical Center announces its "Spotlight Student" for December.

Quentin Turner, an 11th grade student from Petersburg High School, has earned this honor due to his positive attitude and determined spirit. He is the son of Jenny and Chuck Turner, and is enrolled in both the

residential wiring course and the industrial equipment maintenance program at SBCTC.

Turner decided to enroll in these courses to fulfill his high school credits and prepare himself for a future career as an electrician. Quentin demonstrates excellence of character both in and out of school. He is

a member of Skills USA, an organization which celebrates the talents of Career and Technical Education students, as well as the Boy Scouts of America. During his free time, Quentin enjoys lifting weights and being outdoors.



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