

The preferred medium in Grant County since 1896

Just a drill: OEM to close road in Petersburg for test

For more information on the closure, contact the Grant County Office of Emergency Services and 911 at 304-257-5451.

Broadband feasibility study underway, GCDA seeking public input

The issue has received increased attention recently

See Study, page 7A

By the numbers: Local schools receive state academic scorecard

Due to lack of need, the county did not receive a score on English as a second language scorers.

Keyser woman admits to distributing methamphetamine in Grant County

“Methamphetamine overdose often leads to a stroke, heart at-

See Plea, page 7A

poll question

See page 4A.

Let us know on our Facebook page

Last week's responses:

Yes: 16%
No: 84%

Support the change of Columbus



<u>Local Flavor</u>	<u>2A</u>	<u>Sports</u>	<u>1B-2B</u>
<u>Opinion pages</u>	<u>4A-5A</u>	<u>Classifieds</u>	<u>1C</u>
<u>Obituaries</u>	<u>6A</u>	<u>Legals</u>	<u>1C-2C</u>



By Camille Howard

I was at the church kitchen last Wednesday night cooking up breakfast for supper for our kids' program (which translates to pancakes and scrambled eggs), and Sally Pownell, who was helping me make pancakes, asked me if I could run some recipes for chickpeas in my column.

She is a volunteer with the Petersburg Interfaith Pantry and they recently distributed boxes of food from the Mountaineer Food Bank, and included were a mountain of canned chickpeas.

People were carting home a case of chickpeas and wondering what they were and how to fix them. She gave me some copies of recipes she had found online and we talked about them.

I had in the back of my mind we were talking about garbanzo beans, which are pretty tasty on a green salad or make great hummus, but then I looked at her recipes and they said "chickpeas."

So I did a quick internet search on garbanzo beans (which is so much more fun to say than chickpeas), and found out they are one

in the same.

"Chickpeas" refers to the English name for the food while "garbanzo" is the Spanish name for them. So you decide whether you're in an English mood or Spanish mood when you open up a can.

According to one internet site, the beans come with a healthy amount of benefits such as being high in protein, containing lots of fiber, and even helping to stop cancer cells from any further growth.

A 2004 study published findings that suggested they reduce clusters that form in the colon, which are the earliest sign of potential colon cancer development. They are also loaded with vitamins such as iron, zinc, and vitamin B6.

It's amazing how many websites are dedicated to

this bean: history, location, explanation and, of course, recipes. I even found out that more than 12.1 million tons of chickpeas are produced annually.

If you're not a bean eater (and I raised two of them), there are recipes that contain chickpeas as a base or substitute, or for added nutritional value.

My Dad used to quote an ornery little poem about beans and as a kid, it was hilarious if not scandalous to repeat, and even better to know that Dad was the one who taught it to us!

I used to absolutely hate beans as a kid - soup beans, baked beans, kidney beans - all varieties. And then my sister and I went to some sort of craft fair at Jackson's Mill and they were serving soup beans and corn bread and she wanted to get some.

They smelled fabulous and so I decided to live

dangerously and ordered a bowl with cornbread. We sat down at a table that had chopped onions along with bottles of ketchup to top off the soup beans.

I wasn't too sure about the ketchup, but I am a fan of onions so I topped off my bowl with some, and with determination and a little fear (because no one wants to spit out a mouthful of something they don't like in a crowded room), and took a spoonful. I was hooked. They were delicious and we both cleaned our bowls to the bottom.

So I'm hoping that those of you who got a case of chickpeas/garbanzo beans will find they are pretty tasty and versatile.

You can't stop trying new things, or even old ones you don't like. Your tastes may have changed!

Don't forget that the Petersburg food pantry always welcomes food donations, especially at holiday times.

Holiday dinner items are needed such as canned sweet potatoes, canned pumpkin, vegetables, boxed potatoes, boxed stuffing mix, canned or jar gravy, cranberry sauce, etc.

But please ... no more chickpeas for awhile.



CRISPY ROASTED CHICKPEAS IN THE OVEN

2 cans chickpeas (15 ounces)
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 to 4 teaspoons spices or finely chopped fresh herbs like chili powder, curry powder, cumin, smoked paprika, rosemary, thyme etc.
Preheat oven to 400°F. Arrange rack in middle of the oven.
Pour chickpeas into a strainer in the sink and rinse thoroughly under running water.
Pat the chickpeas very dry with a clean dishtowel or paper towels. They should feel dry to the touch. Air dry for a few minutes

and remove any skins that may have fallen off.

Spread the chickpeas in an even layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with the oil and sprinkle with salt. Stir with your hands or a spatula to make sure they are evenly coated.
Roast for 20 to 30 minutes, stirring or shaking the pan every 10 minutes. A few may open - that's normal. They are done when golden and slightly darkened, dry and crispy on the outside and soft in the middle.
Sprinkle with your favorite spice(s) and stir to coat evenly. Serve while warm and crispy.
Great tossed with a salad or in soup.

CHICKPEA BLONDIES

Cooking spray
1 can chickpeas (15-ounces)
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted and cooled
3/4 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup chocolate chips
Arrange rack in middle of oven and preheat to 350°F. Spray an 8x8 inch baking with cooking spray.
Separate the chickpeas from their liquid and reserve 3 tablespoons of the liquid. Do not rinse the chickpeas.

Place chickpeas, reserved liquid, butter, sugar, vanilla, baking soda and salt in a food processor with the blade attachment.
Process until the chickpeas are broken down and the ingredients are well combined, 1-2 minutes. The mixture will be mostly smooth, but expect some graininess.
Transfer the mixture to a bowl, then stir in flour. Fold in chocolate chips. Transfer batter to baking dish and spread into an even layer.
Bake until edges are lightly browned and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with no crumbs, 20-23 minutes.
Cool in pan for 10 minutes before cutting into 16 squares.

BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER

LIVE MUSIC 50/50

LIVE AUCTION

FREEWILL DONATION

for Denny Woods

Recovering from auto accident, 47 days in UVA Hospital, assisting with medical expenses.

Saturday Oct. 26 4 - 6pm

LANDES RURITAN

5337 Franklin Pike -Petersburg, WV

US 220 south 5.3 miles

CASE MANAGER WANTED

A Case Manager is wanted to provide case management activities for the Region VII Workforce Development Board. The program will serve the counties of Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Mineral and Pendleton Counties. Responsibilities include: assessing applicant's needs; providing screening and placement of program participants; marketing services, developing and maintaining employer relations; and entering program related data. Proficient computer skills are a must. Travel is required. An Associate degree and two (2) plus years work-related experience and/or equivalent combination of education and experience is preferred. Send cover letter, salary requirements, and resume including references to:
Matthew Martin,
151 Robert C Byrd Industrial Park Road, Suite 2,
Moorefield, WV 26836
or mmartin@region7workforce.org
Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on November 22, 2019.
Region VII WDB is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GRANT CO. ARTS COUNCIL, INC. and Community Underwriters

SUMMIT COMMUNITY BANK

Emily, Darin, and Melinda Judy Family

Buck and Cynthia Geary

present

TURNING POINT

Classic Rock 'n' Roll

with guest Rick Bergdoll

SAT., OCT. 26 7 P.M.

LANDES ARTS CENTER

18 MT. VIEW STREET, PETERSBURG

ADMISSION: GCAC members free
non-GCAC member adults \$10
students 18 years and younger \$5
CASH AND CHECKS ONLY, NO CARDS
Persons requiring accessibility assistance should contact GCAC in advance at P.O. Box 988, Petersburg, WV 26847 or at GCArtsCouncil@gmail.com

Appalachian author/painter Ellen Elmes to present at Hardy County Library

Success impacted by Grant County patrons of the arts

As a young, emerging artist in the 1970s, Ellen Elmes found mentorship and patronage among many residents of Petersburg and Moorefield. Elmes reflects in her recently published book, "Appalachian Labyrinth: Painting to the Center," that such early support by Grant and Hardy County families made all the difference in jump-starting her successful career as a professional watercolor painter and muralist through the course of 50 years.

Hardy County Library will be hosting the Southwest Virginia author for a slide talk presentation and book signing Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. in the library. The event is free and open to the public.

Elmes will show selected Power Point slides of her work featured in her book - in particular, watercolor paintings commissioned by local families in the 1970s, including "Miss Lizzie's" Grove House and the Snell Family Home in Petersburg, and the Old Fields home and barn of Betty and Renick Williams.

During the slide showing, Elmes will read passages from her book to weave the story of how her life, her art, and living in the mountains have become "so appreciatively entwined." The author and her husband will be avail-

Health dept. continues flu shots on Tuesdays

Flu shots will be given every Tuesday from 1 - 3:30 p.m. at the Grant County Health Department.

Have your insurance, Medicare or Medicaid card(s) with you.

The GCHD offers doses for anyone six months and older and recommends the enhanced dosage vaccine which is available for

senior citizens age 65 and older.

The CDC recommends flu vaccine that protects from Influenza A and B for everyone 6 months of age and older. Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death.

For more information contact the health department at 304-257-4922.

TOYS FOR HAPPINESS

APPLICATION

Grant County Residents ONLY!

Please fill out this application to find out if you are eligible to receive toys.

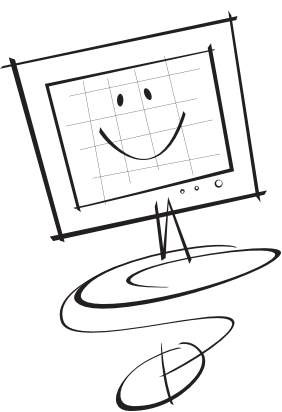
1. Size of family
2. Gross monthly income
3. Do you own your own home?
4. Do you receive food stamps?
5. Do you receive any other assistance? If so, please list below:
6. Are you having any financial hardships in your family?

Name
Address
Phone number If you do not have a phone, list name and number of a person who could get a message to you.

Please list the names and ages of the children 10 and below:
Children under the age of 1, please list size clothes they will wear at Christmas.

NAME	AGE	SEX	SIZE CLOTHES

The committee will screen your application and let you know if you're eligible to receive toys. Please leave application at the Department of Health and Human Resources office or mail to "Toys For Happiness," 128 Royal Glen Rd., Petersburg, WV 26847.
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE NOVEMBER 22, 2019.



By Jenni Woy

Union Tigers have gotten off to a great start for the 2019-2020 school year. I would like to take this time to share the wonderful things that have taken place since the start of the school year and inform you of upcoming events to mark on your calendars.

UEC kicked off the school year with our annual "Back to School Night" on Aug. 15. Students and their families were invited to the school to meet their teachers, see what classes they would have this semester, and to familiarize themselves with the layout of the school. We had a positive turn-out of students and families.

During our Welcome Back to School Assembly on the first day of school with students we stressed the importance of attending school faithfully. Our schoolwide goal is to meet a 95% attendance rate every month.

To reward those students who achieve a 95% monthly attendance rate

From the principal's desk at Union Educational Complex

their name is put into a drawing at the end of each month in hopes of being selected for a gift card from Walmart. Students in grades K-6th have the opportunity to win a \$10 gift card, while those in grades 7th-12th have an opportunity to win a \$20 gift card to Walmart.

Our Back to School winners were: MJ Frame, Chelsea Moreland, Makayia Thomas and Gabe Getz. For meeting the 95% attendance rate for the month of August, our winners were: MJ Frame and Logan Davis. For September our winners were Nicholas Palmer and Cheyanne Palmer. Congratulations to those students.

In December, those students who have perfect attendance, with no tardies or absences, will have an opportunity to win either an iPad (grades K-6th) or an iPod (grades 7th-12th.) The plan will be to hold this drawing in December, on the day of our Christmas program.

With the start of September, I am excited to share that our new music teacher, Mrs. Isenberg, began an after-school band program for students interested in learning to play a musical instrument of their choice. Mrs. Isenberg continues to meet with

students every Wednesday after-school to enrich our students with knowledge of playing an instrument.

On Oct. 4, our athletic boosters hosted the annual Fall Festival. The festival is one of our major fundraisers. Monies raised at the event assists the athletic boosters, individual classes, clubs and athletic teams.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to win door prizes, play a variety of games, a chance to win raffle items, and to eat delicious food. In addition to all the fun that festival goers could have partaken in, the fall festival queen, princess, king and prince were crowned.

Bridgette Knapp and Ryan Bennett were named as our Fall Festival queen and king, while Chanelle Sutton and Sammy Jones were named Fall Festival princess and prince. We would like to thank students, staff, and the community on helping make the festival a success. Your continued support to our students is greatly appreciated!

On Oct. 16, UEC's elementary grades PreK through 5th had the attendance and character education assembly. We invited all families of those students to attend to help

us celebrate our elementary students. The character education traits focused on during the months of September and October were respect/courtesy and fairness/justice/equality. The assembly was held in the elementary gym.

Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 25, from 6 - 9 p.m. The PTO will be hosting the annual Monster Mash.

This is another major fundraiser that is great for all age groups. To name a few of the opportunities individuals can participate in are a plethora of games to choose from and play, costume judging for several age groups, and the opportunity to win prizes throughout the night. There will also be plenty of food to enjoy.

Lastly, this is a reminder to parents that the first nine-weeks report cards were distributed to students to bring home on Oct. 21.

It has been a pleasure to share the wonderful things taking place at UEC thus far and I know that there will be much more to celebrate as the school year continues. Our many thanks from UEC students and staff for our community's continued support.

WVU PSC Library relaunches online newspaper archive site; Grant County Press editions to be included

Are you a local history buff? Tracking down distant relatives? Or just remembering the good old days?

The West Virginia University Potomac State College Mary F. Shipper Library has digitized several local newspapers and posted them online. You can get to them through the library's homepage at psc.lib.wvu.edu. Click the button for "West Virginia Newspapers."

The website is free to use and features fully searchable copies of the Mineral Daily News Tribune all the way back to 1911. You will also find Potomac State's own newspaper, The Pasquino, from 1921 to 2014.

Thanks to generous donors like PSC Alumnus Carl Dennison "Denny" Avers, this online collection has been expanded to include every preserved



Nick Gardner, interim program coordinator for the WVU Potomac State College library, demonstrates how easily accessible some local newspapers are now that they have been digitized.

issue of The Elk Garden News, The Frankfort Beacon and The Piedmont Herald, dating all the way back to the 1880s.

This means you don't have to endlessly scroll through reels on the microfilm machine. If you have a computer and an internet connection, you have access to the same

historical newspapers as the professional researchers ... without leaving your living room.

Donations towards this effort have made it possible

to look beyond the borders of Mineral County and into the surrounding region.

With the cooperation of public libraries in Grant, Hampshire and Hardy counties, they are hoping to digitize all newspapers of record this side of the Eastern Panhandle which are currently in the public domain (1923 or older).

Editions of the Grant County Press after 1923 will also be included in this project.

For questions about this project, to make a donation or for more information, contact the Potomac State College library at 304-788-6901 or email ngardner@mail.wvu.edu.

Grant County students earn Shepherd U. scholarships

The following students have been awarded privately funded scholarships from the Shepherd University Foundation.

Maysville: Haley Annette Rohrbach, Dayton and Donna Hinke Scholarship

Petersburg: Samantha Danielle Simon, Sue B.

Reese Memorial Scholarship

Morgan E. Sites, Joseph and William Byers Memorial Scholarship.

The foundation will provide more than \$2.5 million in student, faculty, and program support for the 2019-20 academic year.

NOW
HIRING

MANAGEMENT

Some experience required.
Must be willing to work anytime.

One week paid vacation & bonuses available after 1 year. Apply in person.

FOX'S PIZZA DEN, PETERSBURG

304-257-4342

FALL
FESTIVAL

Living Hope Baptist Church
1 Veach Street
Petersburg, WV 26847
681-231-1682

Wednesday, Oct. 30

5:30 - 6:15pm Hot Dog/Chili Supper

6:30 - 8:00pm Carnival Games

WHOLESALE PRICES!!

Acute
Charm Boutique
&
Jewelry Elite

CLOTHING & JEWELRY
FUNDRAISER SALE

From brands you love

Chico's • White House Black Market
Macy's • QVC • HSN • & More!

Sheets, Blankets & Pillows too!

CASH, CREDIT & PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Grant Memorial
Family Waiting Room Area
Chapel Area

Thursday, Oct. 24 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 25 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Open to the public

CAREER
OPPORTUNITY

Grant County is recruiting a full-time
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
to support the local

WVU GRANT COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

The position will be responsible for working with the county Extension Agents to support program delivery in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth and families and health educational programs for the citizens and residents of Grant County. Some nights and weekends will be necessary. This is a Grant County Commission paid, benefits eligible, 40 hour per week position. The starting salary range begins at \$11.00 per hour.

To apply for this position, e-mail cover letter, resume and three names of professional references including email, cell phone, and additional contact information to:

GrantCountyExtension@mail.wvu.edu

A complete position description can be found at:
<http://extension.wvu.edu/grant>

Deadline for material submission is
Oct. 31, 2019, closing date

Weekend events at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center

Friday, Oct. 25, 1-4 p.m. - AmeriCorps member Elizabeth Mekonnen will present a display, The UXOs of the West Virginia Maneuver Area, and have open discussion.

Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. and **Saturday, Oct. 26,** 3-4 p.m.- AmeriCorps member Elizabeth Mekonnen will present the interpretive program, The Battle for Bats, in the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center Theater.

Saturday and Sunday Oct. 26, 27 - ALMAR Creations will be displaying their handmade white oak baskets, wooden kitchen utensils, and describing the process involved in creating them. Their items will be available for sale.

Saturday, Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m. - Don Olson will be performing an eclectic mix of music including jazz, blues, and bluegrass in the SRDC Exhibit Hall.

Sunday, Oct. 27, 1-4 p.m. - Musicians Carrie and Michael Kline will be performing a mixture of traditional music reflecting rural and small town America, as well as Appalachian ballads in the SRDC exhibit hall.

You can help...

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing new winter clothing for needy children

The need is great. In Grant County needy children will be cold without your help.

What is Warm the Children Fund?

It's neighbors helping neighbors. Grant County Press readers are asked to donate to the fund, and the proceeds will only be used to buy new winter clothing for Grant County children in need.

None of the donations will be used for administrative costs. All the money donated is used only to buy new warm winter clothing and footwear.

How will needy children be identified?

Public school staff and social service agency staffers identify needy children and provide their names and contact information to the Warm the Children coordinator.

How will the clothing be purchased?

The Children coordinator assigns volunteer shoppers to take families shopping for their winter clothing and footwear. Shopping takes place at Walmart in Moorefield. Each child receives \$80 worth of new winter clothing and footwear (\$40 if under the age of 2).

How can I help?

By donating time, money, or both! Contact EWVCA at 304-257-1107 or simply complete the coupon and mail it to:

**Eastern WV Community Action
c/o Warm the Children
P.O. Box 418
Petersburg, WV 26847**



**Warm the Children website
www.warmthechildren.org**



Find us on Facebook at
Warm the Children Grant County

No administrative fees...
every cent received is used
to buy winter clothing

Enclosed is my Donation to Warm the Children

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Donation Amount: _____

☐ I would like to be a shopper, email or call me at: _____

Note: _____

Checks can be made to:
Warm the Children

W.Va. shared editorials

Opioids: You'll pay one way or another

The Charleston Gazette

When West Virginians think about the opioid crisis, the analysis tends to drift in a few understandable directions. Death tolls from overdoses, obviously, are a huge part of the picture, as is treatment and rehabilitation. There's the law enforcement aspect of stemming the tide of illicit drugs distributed on the streets.

And, of course, there are the millions of pain pills shipped to the Mountain State and throughout Appalachia, largely blamed for starting the whole mess.

One thing that doesn't get as much attention is cost. Not the cost in lives, or the cost of recovery or even the cost to society, but the literal, dollars-and-cents cost the epidemic has placed on families, taxpayers and governments.

It might seem tacky to discuss such a thing. Then again, when Huntington rolled out its harm-reduction program several years ago, one of the statistics it used to help the public understand the scope of the problem was the hundreds of thousands of dollars it takes to treat someone with hepatitis C - a blood-borne illness running rampant in West Virginia because of shared, contaminated needles used to inject drugs like heroin and fentanyl - for the rest of that patient's life.

More recently, Al Marino Inc., a Charleston company that does plumbing, HVAC and electrical work, is suing 18 pharmaceutical companies claiming the opioid problem caused small businesses like it to pay outrageous premiums for health insurance. According to the lawsuit, health care expenses for West Virginians climbed by an average of 5.8 percent each year between 1991 and 2014, while insurance premiums hiked at a corresponding 5.7 percent per year from 2001 to 2014 - the heyday of pill mills.

Attorneys for Al Marino Inc., who are seeking class-action status, argue that "insured patients with opioid abuse or dependence diagnoses cost health insurers more than average patients, in West Virginia and nationwide."

Whether the lawsuit has merit or not is for the court to decide, but there is plenty of evidence that painkillers like oxycodone and hydrocodone were marketed in a misleading way, leading to scores of addicts who later turned to even more dangerous substances, like heroin, to avoid withdrawal and feed their addiction. It's not unreasonable to think a downturn in overall health connected with opioids would lead to a rise in insurance costs. It's just another ripple effect of a crisis that harms so many more than just the people using the drugs.

That's why government agencies and communities across West Virginia need to use all the tools at their disposal to stem not only drug use, but the health problems that threaten addicts and the greater community. Even the most callous individual, who thinks all drug offenders should be locked away, whether in a jail cell or through community marginalization and shunning, should be aware they are still footing the bill for this, one way or another.

Not enough jobs ... or willing workers?

The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

Our state's economy has "a lot of uncertainty," West Virginia University economist John Deskins noted during an economic outlook conference last week in Charleston.

Deskins, director of WVU's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, explained, among other things, the uncertainty relates to coal and natural gas jobs.

But one thing about West Virginia's economy has been certain for decades: Our labor force participation rate will be among the lowest, often the worst, in the nation.

At last count, only 54.9% of West Virginians were employed. No other state comes close; No. 2 is Mississippi, at 55.8%. The national rate is 63.2%.

If there is any good news, it is that labor force participation rate has been increasing steadily since February - but, again, we remain the worst in the United States. The highest rate, incidentally, is in the District of Columbia, where the taxpayer-funded federal government is responsible for a 71.1% number.

"We can never achieve the prosperity we want if we have a labor force participation rate that is nine points below the nation, that is dead last," Deskins commented. How, though, can the rate be improved?

"The mantra that there are not jobs in West Virginia is not true. What we need is to get people to fill those jobs," said state higher education Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker during the event. She added not enough people take advantage of job training and retraining programs.

In addition to having the lowest labor force participation rate, West Virginia has the lowest education attainment level in the nation. Obviously, that makes it more difficult for people to get jobs - and our state less

Shared editorials continued on Page 5A



By Lee Hamilton

We should continue to be a nation of immigrants

I was talking with a friend the other day about immigration. It's one of the most divisive issues

of our time, and we, too, found ourselves divided. "Our country is full," he quoted President Trump, who said this back in April. Let's improve the country with the people we already have, my friend added.

I had a quote, too, and it's one I still believe in. You'll find it on the Statue of Liberty. "From her beacon-hand/Glows world-wide welcome," it reads. And then, of course, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

I welcome new immigrants and want this country to set aside the nationalistic appeals and racial prejudice that often accompany calls for restrictions. And I believe firmly that immigration makes us stronger as a nation and represents the best of what we stand for. This country is a defender of individual rights, a beacon of tolerance and equality, and a champion of the notion that offering opportunity to all who live here — regardless of national origin — yields the innovation and hard work that drive our economy and culture.

I could take up the rest of this commentary just listing the immigrants who have enriched the United States, from Levi Strauss, Irving Berlin, and Albert Einstein to Liz Claiborne, Gloria Estafan, Yo Ma, and Patrick Ewing. But it's not just names you'd recognize. I have a clear memory from my time in Washington, D.C., of watching people who'd immigrated literally build the city: its stormwater system, its

metro lines, the refurbished Union Station. The same is true in any big city you care to visit in this country — and in our fields and orchards, our hotels and hospitals, our factories, our schools, our startups, our military forces, our movie studios... You get the idea.

Now, I agree that we can't let everyone into the U.S. who wants to come. We simply don't have the resources. But that's a far cry from saying that we're full, or that we're facing an immigrant "invasion," or that large numbers of immigrants

This country is a defender of individual rights, a beacon of tolerance and equality, and a champion of the notion that offering opportunity to all who live here — regardless of national origin — yields the innovation and hard work that drive our economy and culture.

are "stealing" jobs from Americans. There's very little evidence to support any of those claims.

Instead, I'd argue that immigration is an opportunity for the country. One of the first votes I cast in Congress was for the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which prohibited discrimination against immigrants on the basis of their nationality. Instead, it gave preference to professionals, people with skills the country needed, and relatives of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

That same principle is valid today. We have to use immigration to meet our needs, especially in the labor market. Every month for the last year and a half, the U.S. econ-

omy has had more job openings than people looking for work. And in a twist from what you'd expect, it's not the higher-end jobs that face the most acute shortages. It's health-care, hotel, and restaurant workers who are in the highest demand. In an array of categories, from retail to food processing to landscaping, we don't have the low-skilled laborers we need. The need for scientists, researchers, computer programmers and other knowledge workers hasn't abated, either. And nor has the need for workers with skills that won't soon be replaced by automation.

There was a time when both political parties in this country largely supported immigration. Not unanimously, of course, but they favored immigration in the national interest. I don't know if those days are over for good; I hope not. Because there is simply no question that this country has been made stronger by its immigrants, and there is no reason to think that will change.

So while I'm not arguing that we should throw open our doors to all comers, we should lean toward openness, recognizing that we have limits and constraints that demand building immigration policy around a principle. And what should that be? That immigration is a powerful tool for meeting our needs, strengthening our labor markets, bolstering our pool of talent, and remaining a beacon to those everywhere who believe that their own hard work, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit can build their own lives and contribute to the communities around them.

Lee Hamilton is a senior adviser for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government and was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

W.Va. billionaire governor's family farms get subsidy

By Anthony Izaguirre
Associated Press

A farming business owned by the family of West Virginia's billionaire governor has received \$125,000 in soybean and corn subsidies, the maximum allowed from a federal program meant to help American farmers through the U.S. trade war with China.

There is no evidence Gov. Jim Justice did anything illegal. But at least one analyst said the payments to the richest man in West Virginia are unseemly, given his wealth. And the subsidies have thrown the spotlight again on his business empire and the potential conflicts of interest it poses.

Records reviewed by The Associated Press show Justice Farms of North Carolina, owned by the Republican governor's family, hit the program cap of \$125,000 earlier this year and was the biggest recipient of soybean subsidies in West Virginia. The richest person in

the state, Justice owns a complex business empire of coal and agricultural entities that are perennially mired in litigation, often over unpaid bills. The farming company is no different. It is named in a long-running lawsuit that alleges the Justice businesses transferred assets between them in an effort to avoid paying a debt.

The company took in \$121,398 in subsidies for soybeans and \$3,602 for corn for farms on property it owns in West Virginia, according to records provided to AP under the Freedom of Information Act. Both figures far exceed the program's median payments: \$6,438 for soybeans and \$152 for corn.

President Donald Trump's administration set up the Market Facilitation Program to help offset losses caused by tariffs, basing the payouts on bushels produced. The program does not require farms to demonstrate their operations have been damaged by the trade war.

Loopholes have allowed many large, moneyed farming operations to blow past the \$125,000 cap, according to an AP analysis of the payments. Critics, including U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, have called for tighter oversight on where the taxpayer funds are funneled.

"We really think you should be subsidizing people who need the help. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense for taxpayers to be providing billions of dollars to wealthy farmers who do not need the subsidies," said Anne Weir Schechinger, a senior economic analyst at the Environmental Working Group, which tracks federal farm subsidy programs.

More subsidies for the Justice family company could be on the way. The administration has rolled out another \$16 billion in aid for farmers hurt by the president's trade policies but made some changes after criticism that large farming organi-

zations were finding ways around the caps. Officials have increased the cap to \$250,000 for the second round and payment calculations are based on acres planted and location instead of production.

Information on how the trade war has affected the Justice farms wasn't available. Officials in Greenbrier County, home to the subsidized farms, declined to release the company's agriculture data to the AP, as did the United States Department of Agriculture's regional National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Justice's government spokesman referred questions and an interview request to a representative for Justice's companies, who issued a statement saying tens of thousands of farms and ranches with products "directly impacted" by Chinese tariffs received money under the subsidies.

Governor's family farms continued on Page 5A

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Pitsenbarger appointed to fill 11th District vacancy

Governor Jim Justice has selected John “J.R.” Pitsenbarger to fill the vacancy in the 11th Senatorial District left by Sen. Greg Boso, R-Nicholas, who resigned Sept. 26.

Pitsenbarger is the owner and operator of Pitsenbarger Farms in Nicholas County and has been a field enumerator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service in Charleston. He currently serves as vice president of the West Virginia Farm Bureau and chairman of the Board of Governors of the WVU Extension Service for Nicholas County.

“There’s no question that it was going to take a special person to fill the vacancy left behind by Senator Boso,” Senate President Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, said. “J.R. brings to the Senate a wide variety of experience, including extensive agriculture and rural development knowledge. I know he will be able to do great things for the residents of his district and the State of West Virginia.”

The 11th Senatorial District includes Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, and Webster counties and part of Grant County.

Shared edits

Continued from Page 4A

appealing to job creators.

If Tucker is correct, and there is no reason to doubt her, a substantial number of West Virginians are not taking advantage of opportunities to improve their lives. Why? State legislators should ask that question and another: What can they do about the situation?

AG takes on the Medicaid fraud fight

The Bluefield Daily Telegraph

After months of planning, control of a unit that fights Medicaid fraud in West Virginia has been transferred from the Department of Health and Human Resources to the state attorney general’s office.

The change took effect earlier this month. Legislation calling for the transfer of the fraud unit was approved by lawmakers earlier this year. The hope is to strengthen West Virginia’s fight against fraud, waste and abuse.

The change will bring West Virginia in line with more than 40 other states, according to Attorney General Patrick Morrisey.

“There has been a tremendous amount of hard work on behalf of taxpayers to make for a smooth transition,” Morrisey said. “Our goal is to ensure the unit continues its excellent work and to enhance its ability to root out even more fraud, waste and abuse in hopes that we can solidify the Medicaid program for those who legitimately rely upon it as a safety net.”

To help ensure a smooth transition, technology improvements have been made, along with an increase in the state’s federal grant and security enhancements to bolster the unit’s protection of sensitive data, Morrisey’s office said.

Many of those who supported moving the unit cited the attorney general’s success in fighting Social Security disability fraud. That unit has generated more than \$18.5 million since its inception in several years ago.

Given Morrisey’s success in fighting Social Security disability fraud, moving the Medicaid fraud unit to the attorney general’s office was a logical move.

The unlawful taking of Medicaid benefits wastes tax dollars, deepens deficits and jeopardizes a program designed to help those most in need, points correctly noted earlier this year by Morrisey.

It is our hope that the transfer of the Medicaid fraud unit will help in weeding out those who are claiming Medicaid benefits in West Virginia of which they are not legally entitled to.

Attorney: Lawsuit planned over VA hospital death in Clarksburg

An attorney representing the family of a patient who died at a Veterans Affairs hospital in West Virginia says he plans to sue over what he believes is the man’s suspicious death from a wrongful insulin injection.

Charleston attorney Tony O’Dell said a notice of a pending lawsuit was filed recently with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the death of John William Hallman. The 87-year-old Navy veteran died at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg last year.

The notice said Hallman was given a shot of insulin “he did not need and for which no medical order was placed.” It said the shot caused his blood sugar to spike, leading to his death.

The Exponent Telegram of Clarksburg first reported the notice. The notice said Hallman’s death “is considered a homicide based upon the pattern of events leading to his death, although his body is not available for autopsy.”

Federal prosecutors are probing the deaths of up to 11 patients. Attorneys representing the families of men who died say at least two of the deaths have been ruled homicides, with both veterans dying from wrongful insulin injections.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia has said he spoke directly with Attorney General William Barr about the deaths and told Barr in a letter that he has “grave concerns over the pace of the investigation.”

The Democrat said VA officials had told him a “person of interest” was no longer in contact with any veterans at the facility. The VA inspector general told Manchin’s office about the opening of a medical and criminal investigation of the hospital in July 2018, after at least nine patients were diagnosed with unexplained low blood sugar, the senator said.

O’Dell’s notice also mentions a “person of interest” who was hired as a certified nursing assistant and was working at the time of Hallman’s death. The notice said the assistant had “documented involvement during the hospitalization while critically low levels of glucose were recorded.” The notice doesn’t name that worker.

In the deaths that attorneys said have been ruled homicides, 82-year-old former Army Sgt. Felix Kirk McDermott was wrongly injected with a fatal dose of insulin at the hospital in April 2018, according to a notice of a pending lawsuit. An attorney representing the family of George Nelson Shaw Sr., an 81-year-old retired member of the Air Force, said he too had died at the hospital in April 2018 from a wrongful insulin injection.

Bill Powell, the U.S. attorney in West Virginia, has said the investigation is a “top priority.”



October 19, 1949

Major Boyd Arnold, former Bayard resident, was appointed director of supply in the Division of Logistics for the U.S. Army in Alaska.

Veatch Clinic births included: Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Lambert of Mouth of Seneca, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Metheny of Petersburg, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aronhalt of Elk Garden, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Alva Kimble of Smoke Hole, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Evans of Moorefield, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bensenhaver of Rig, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. John Rexroad of Moorefield, a son; and Mr. and Mrs. George T. Browning of Petersburg, a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Veach had a dual birthday party for their daughter, Dixie, 11, and their son, Archie, 8.

Private 1st Class James Alt was on maneuvers with Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 32d Infantry Regiment, Seventh Infantry Division, at Sekine, Japan.

October 21, 1959

The annual Halloween carnival and parade was set for Oct. 30.

George B. Moomau was a guest of the secretary of the Navy, Oct. 5, for a cruise off the coast of Norfolk, Va., aboard the aircraft carrier, Independence.

Blane Michael, Clyde Kile and Beth Welton, members of the PHS student council, attended the 27th annual West Virginia Association of Student Council Convention at Jackson’s Mill.

Governor’s family farms

“Justice Farms of North Carolina was one of more than 3,000 farms in that state alone, and nearly 40,000 farms and businesses nationwide, that received support from this program. It’s absurd for anyone to use this important program as the basis for cynical political attacks,” said Brian Walsh, a spokesman for the Justice companies.

Walsh did not detail losses suffered by Justice Farms of North Carolina in the U.S. trade war.

West Virginia property records show the company has three farming properties and one residential building not far from The Greenbrier, a lavish resort the governor owns. The properties have a combined value of \$1.87 million and span nearly 700 acres (280 hectares), with one including a full-size tennis court, according to state records.

The sprawling farms are nestled into a relatively flat stretch of land between sections of the Appalachian Mountains. On a recent visit, the farms were

WV Legislature: 500 violations of Jobs Act cited in 2018-19

A legislative report says West Virginia’s Division of Labor cited more than 500 violations of a jobs act intended to give local laborers the majority of roles on state-funded public works projects.

The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported Wednesday that contractors were fined more than \$100,000 altogether during the 2018-19 fiscal year for failing to have at least 75% of their workers be from West Virginia or surrounding counties. A

Remember When



“Calhoun’s Lodge on Hermit Island in the Smoke Holes of W.Va.”

PHS seniors Janet Pennington and Kay Michael were chosen as co-editors-in-chief of the Viking Log.

Births at Grant Memorial Hospital included: Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Ours of Purgitsville, a son, Oct. 16; Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Harper of Moyers, a son, Oct. 17; Mr. and Mrs. Junior Whetzel of Petersburg, a son, Oct. 17; and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Combs of Lahmansville, a daughter, Oct. 17.

The Vikings chalked up their fourth victory, against two defeats, by topping the Circleville Indians, 34-0.

October 22, 1969

The board of education was considering the feasibility of a new Petersburg Elementary School.

Pfc. Ralph Sites of Petersburg, who enlisted in the U.S. Army, took his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. and was stationed at Savanna, Ill.

Petersburg native, David Koontz, GMG1, USN, New Bern Navy recruiter, re-enlisted for four years.

The Vikings beat the Keyser Golden Tornadoes, 35-16.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Harman Hedrick, a daughter, Oct. 13; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cook of Durgon, a daughter, Oct. 13; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keplinger of Petersburg, a daughter, Oct. 14; Mr. and Mrs. James Ours of Mouth of Seneca, a son, Oct. 15; Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Warner of Franklin, a daughter, Oct. 17; Mr. and Mrs. William Latham of Scherr, a son, Oct. 17; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Crites of Falls Church, a son, Oct. 18; and Mr. and Mrs. John Sites of Petersburg, a son, Oct. 18.

October 24, 1979

PHS senior, Tracy Bowyer, was crowned homecoming queen during halftime ceremonies of the Oct. 12 football game.

Both management and striking construction workers at Adell Polymers were ordered to refrain from violence and limit activities at the picket line by Circuit Court Judge Donald Hott.

Construction costs were \$80,000 less for the new PHS gym, by Construction

Costs Consultants.

Petersburg’s first Chinese restaurant, Oriental Restaurant, owned by John Peng, was on Virginia Avenue, near Main Street.

The Grant Memorial Auxiliary celebrated its 21st anniversary with a open house.

GMH hired Ann Devine-King, RPT, in the physical therapist department.

Lisa Rebecca Harman, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Roy Harman, became the bride of Tom Porter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eston Porter, Aug. 11, at Main Street United Methodist Church.

Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Riggleman of Petersburg, a daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Simmons of Petersburg, a daughter, Gwen Michelle.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Easter announced the birth of a son, Jeffrey Allan, Oct. 10, at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Va.

The Vikings beat Moorefield, 33-6, with a 4-4 record.

Continued from Page 4A

so they can skirt a debt. The suit seeks to force the companies to pay nearly \$17 million.

The business structure of Justice’s many companies has perplexed litigants as well as federal prosecutors. In June, the U.S. attorney for the southern district of West Virginia asked a judge to hold the Justice family accountable for a more than \$1 million court-ordered sanction against one of their companies after deeming it a shell corporation. One of Justice’s other businesses quickly moved to pay the bill.

With a net worth estimated at \$1.5 billion, Justice lists more than 100 business interests on his most recent financial disclosure form. When Justice became governor, he said he wanted to put all his businesses in a blind trust but has not done so, causing criticism when his private and public roles intersect.

A prominent Republican state senator called for Justice to resign this summer after the U.S. government sued nearly two dozen of his coal businesses for failing to pay safety fines. Federal prosecutors in a public corruption unit have sent three subpoenas to his administration requesting information about his businesses and resort.

Justice has tried to put some distance between himself and his companies, saying his children control them. He has said the process of putting his businesses in a blind trust “has been slowed down by the multitude of financial institutions that work with my family’s companies.”

In the case of Justice Farms of North Carolina, the governor was listed as a manager in North Carolina business registry filings up until 2018, when his daughter’s name replaced his. The company has not been included in his financial disclosures filed with the ethics commission in West Virginia.

Justice’s general counsel, Brian Abraham, explained the absence by saying the governor’s children own the business but could not say exactly why it wasn’t included on financial disclosures when Justice was listed as a manager. He noted that a third-party company handles the Justice family business registry filings.

GRANT COUNTY PRESS

Want to give your opinion?

Answer this week’s Poll Question on our page.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor are encouraged. The writer must sign the letter and include a phone number and address for verification.

Letters are subject to editing and those longer than 400 words will usually not be published.

No more than one letter per month per person will be published.

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS and thank you notes are considered advertising, not subjects for letters.

Local and area obituaries

VERDA BENNETT

Verda Kisamore Bennett, age 92, of Petersburg, formerly of Cabins, died Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center, Petersburg.

Born Sept. 30, 1927, in Seneca, she was the daughter of the late Joel Kisamore and Clara (Dolly) Kisamore. On December 4, 2014 she was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Austin "Buck" Bennett. She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Burl Kisamore, Marvin Kisamore and Jonas Kisamore; three sisters, Vercie Carr, Velma Phares Lyon and an infant sister; and one grandson.

Mrs. Bennett attended schools at the Forman School House, Lahmansville, and the Long Hollow High School. She was a member of the Corner United Methodist Church. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by three daughters, Mildred Whetzel and Loretta Alt, both of Petersburg and Ronda Barger of Maysville; three sisters, Ester K. Vernon of Richmond, Ethel Phares Dickerson of Amissville, Va. and Otie K. Whitak-



er of Oak Harbor, Wash.; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were Sunday afternoon at the Basagic Funeral Home chapel, Petersburg, with the Rev. Stanley Kile officiating. Interment was at the Lahmansville Cemetery, Lahmansville.

Memorials may be made to the North Fork Ruritan Club c/o Peggy Nelson or to the donor's choice.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

(10-22-19)

THELMA G. KILE STICKLER

Thelma Gail Kile Stickler, 83, of Toms Brook, Va. passed away Friday, October 18, 2019 in Cabins, W.Va.

Born Sept. 23, 1936, in Cabins, she was the daughter of the late Harman Clyde and Bernice Ours Kile. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Stephen Lee Stickler.

She was a member of the Toms Brook United Methodist Church. She had worked as a secretary for the Shenandoah County Schools for 23 years and the secretary-treasurer for the Town of Toms Brook.

She is survived by her children, Mark Stephen Stickler and wife Virginia of Berkeley Springs, W.Va. and Leta Stickler of Toms Brook; one granddaughter, Misty Sutherly of Mt. Jackson, Va.; one brother, Clyde Kile of Cabins; and several nieces

and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m., at Stover Funeral Home, 177 N. Holliday St., Strasburg, Va.

A graveside service for Mrs. Stickler will be conducted at Thursday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m., at the Lebanon Church Cemetery, Strasburg, with the Rev. Dr. Stan Thompson officiating.

Pallbearers will be Jeremy Fauber, Scott Rinker, Wayne Bly, Greg Neff, Jay Johnson and Daryl Bowers.

Memorials may be made to Toms Brook United Methodist Church.

You may sign the guest book and submit condolences to the family online at www.stoverfuneralhome.com

Stover Funeral Home and Crematory, Strasburg, Va. is serving the family of Mrs. Stickler. (10-22-19)

New WVU program aims to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



From WVU Today

High school graduates with intellectual and developmental disabilities will soon be joining West Virginia University's campus through a new program developed to prepare them for independence that will provide improved academic, social engagement and real-world work experiences.

Students ages 18-23 who are enrolled in the program — tentatively named the Country Roads program—will live in a shared residential housing arrangement, participate in social activities across campus and receive career education and training.

The program will include a two-year core track focused on independent-living skills and workforce preparedness, plus the option of an advanced track for an additional two years. During the advanced track, students will apply their new skills in workplace settings and can enroll in select WVU certificate

programs.

"With one in five West Virginians having a disability, it is important to offer opportunities for students with disabilities to get the training needed to join the workforce and be engaged community members," said Lesley Cottrell, director of the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

"Programs like Country Roads and the Project SEARCH internship program through WVU Medicine are just two examples of how the center is helping to create opportunities for teens with disabilities."

The Center for Excellence in Disabilities has partnered with the WVU Office of Accessibility Services, the National Down Syndrome Society and members of the business sector to develop the curriculum. The program is expected to launch in fall of 2020, pending Board of Governors approval, and will enroll four to eight students in its first cohort.

NOTICE

The annual cleaning of the Bayard Cemetery will be Saturday, Nov. 2. Remove any flowers or items you wish to keep. All items remaining will be discarded. If you have any questions, you may contact Steven Durst at 304-693-7300.

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Registered Nurse Position

Grant County Health Department



**Grant County Health Department has a position for a
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This position will be housed at the Grant County Health Department and serves 8 counties in the Eastern Panhandle. Hiring will be from the WV Division of Personnel Register. Applicant must have a valid WV Driver's and Registered Nurse License.

For more information and how to apply contact Sandra Glasscock, RN, Nurse Director/Acting Administrator at 304-257-4922 or email sandria.l.glasscock@wv.gov

Seeking Administrator

GRANT REHABILITATION & CARE CENTER (GRCC), formerly Grant County Nursing Home is seeking applicants for the position of

Licensed Nursing Home Administrator

GRCC is a non-profit, independent corporation with 110 dually certified beds located in Petersburg, WV. GRCC provides skilled and long-term care to the region and beyond and offers a variety of living options and professional clinical services.

The candidate is a highly engaged individual that focuses on day to day operations where the highest level of care is provided to residents and families. Individuals with a nursing home administrator's license are preferred. Candidates must possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree with 3 years of senior level management experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE: Team leader of business, staff, and customer excellence; ensures regulatory and policy compliance, works in collaboration with a management team; develops and carries out budgetary guidelines; and provides oversight to the independent living community. This position reports to the GRCC Board of Trustees.

Applications are due no later than October 25th at 1pm. Please include a resume and applicable experience, qualifications, and educational background to:

**Clayton Baker, GRCC Board Chairman
c/o Grant Rehabilitation & Care Center
127 Early Ave., Petersburg, WV 26847**

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aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork

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Study

Continued from front

The meetings will occur at the following locations:

- Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. in the commission meeting room at the Grant County Courthouse;
- Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Maysville Fire Hall;
- Nov. 13 at 3:30 p.m. at

the Mount Storm Community Center.

Citizens are also asked to complete the Broadband Needs Assessment Surveys being mailed to Grant County addresses.

There is a separate survey for residential and business purposes. In addition to the direct mailing campaign, the surveys may be found and completed online.

The Residential Broadband Needs Assessment Survey is available at: <http://projects.designnine.com/survey/grant-residential-broadband>.

The Business Broadband Needs Assessment Survey is available at: <http://projects.designnine.com/survey/grant-business-broadband>.

Plea

Continued from front

tack, or organ problems, first responders and emergency room doctors try to treat the overdose

by treating these conditions,” the CDC reported.

Beyond overdose risks, the CDC warns that long-term health effects from methamphetamine include risk of addiction; risk of contracting HIV

and hepatitis; severe dental problems (“meth mouth”); intense itching, leading to skin sores from scratching; violent behavior and paranoia.

Guinn faces at least 10 years and up to life incar-

ceration and a fine of up to \$10 million.

Under the federal sentencing guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal

history, if any, of the defendant.

Also assisting with the case were the Potomac Highlands Drug and Violent Crime Drug Task Force.

Assistant U.S. Attor-

ney Stephen D. Warner is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government and U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael John Aloï presided.

A happy ending: Burlington United Methodist Family Services purchases Keyser landmark at auction

In what many Keyser officials are calling a happy ending, the historical Alkire mansion in Keyser was sold on the auction block to Burlington United Methodist Family Services.

The sale of the landmark caused controversy in Mineral County after the city declared the building too expensive for the municipality to restore. As a result, the mansion was put up for auction. Multiple citizens expressed concerns about the future of the building,

with the sale even including regulations on the preservation of the home.

However, in a positive turn of events, the pre-Civil War landmark will soon serve as a home to children in the care of Burlington United Methodist Family Services. As many as seven young men will inhabit the mansion.

The youths are typically housed on the Burlington Campus; however, the service has said the house will be a more community-interactive home.

The house is located next to the Mill Meadow Park, which boasts a ballfield and walking trails, which will allow the boys (ages 12 to 17) to enjoy the area while in the care of the home.

The Burlington United Methodist Family Services is an agency that works with infants,

young children, parents and adults and provides a plethora of services, including residential programs and in-home visits. They also provide licensed social workers who work throughout the community.

In the coming days, the mansion will be refurbished, including

electrical and plumbing replacements and the installation of a new fire alarm system.

The agency purchased the home for \$25,000, which was the minimum starting price at the auction. The renovation is estimated to cost approximately \$250,000. While the number may seem steep, the agency explained the construction of a new facility would cost approximately \$1.2 million. This action allows them to not only be part of the history of

Keyser but also provide a unique and community-centered home for the boys in their care.

Following the purchase a representative from the agency said they were told by several auction attendees that they would not bid against BUMFS if they chose to purchase it. Michael Price, the chief executive officer of Burlington United Methodist Family Services said he was touched by their actions and that it said a lot about the kindness of the community.

Four admit to roles in oxycodone distribution operation

Three Detroit, Mich. residents and one West Virginia woman have admitted to their roles in a drug distribution operation, U.S. Attorney Bill Powell announced.

Konshawntas Boyd, 39, of Detroit, pleaded guilty to one count of maintaining a drug-involved premises.

Boyd, a nurse practitioner, admitted that she had an apartment located in Barrington North

Apartments in Morgantown for the purpose of distributing oxycodone from September 2016 to March 2017.

Devante Maddox, 27, and Michael Wesley, 47, also known as “Black” and “Big Flea,” each pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of oxycodone.” Maddox and Wesley admitted to selling oxycodone in January 2017 in Monongalia County.

Tiffany Edwards, 37, of Westover, pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering conspiracy.

Edwards admitted to handling financial transactions that involved money made from the distribution of oxycodone from the summer of 2013 to June 2017 in Monongalia County and elsewhere.

Maddox and Wesley each face up to 20 years incarceration and a

fine of up to \$1 million. Boyd and Edwards each face up to 20 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$500,000. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Zelda E. Wesley is

prosecuting the cases on behalf of the government. The Mon Metro Drug and Violent Crime Drug Task Force, a HIDTA-funded initiative, led the investigation. The task force consists of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Monongalia County

Sheriff’s Office, Morgantown Police Department, the Star City Police Department, the West Virginia State Police, the West Virginia University Police Department, the Granville Police Department, and the Monongalia County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael John Aloï presided.

West Virginia kicks off International Charity Fraud Awareness week

As the holiday season winds up, West Virginia officials are working to generate awareness on the potential dangers of charity fraud and encouraging West Virginians to ensure their donations are going to the causes they intend.

Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, Secretary of State Mac Warner, along with a host of domestic and international partners, kicked off International Charity Fraud Awareness Week.

The international effort offers tips for wise giving with the hope of helping charities and consumers avoid charity fraud. This year’s initiative, which kicked off Monday and runs through Friday, also features cybersecurity and data security tips for nonprofits.

“Charitable giving is a wonderful way to support many worthy causes,” said Morrissey. “However, failing to protect information can lead to identity theft and financial fraud, so it’s important to consider the tips offered by this week’s joint awareness initiative.”

The group launched International Charity Fraud Awareness Week with an event yesterday morning in Charleston. They were joined by three in-state partners – the West Virginia Nonprofit Association, Philanthropy West Virginia and AARP West Virginia.

“Charity Fraud Awareness Week is an annual opportunity for us to focus everyone’s attention on the tremendous and positive impact charitable giving has on West Virginia,” Warner said. “It’s important that we all work together to make sure that donations made by our citizens are made to legitimate and properly registered charities. I am pleased to work with the attorney general, AARP and leaders of our non-profit business community to keep charity scams out of West Virginia.”

Those concerned about the legitimacy of a specific charity or organization should confirm it is registered to solicit donations in West Virginia. That information can be accessed through the West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office.

International Charity Fraud Awareness Week continues through Friday, Oct. 25. The coordinated effort strives to help charities and consumers avoid charity fraud and promote

wise giving.

Both offices are participating with the National Association of State Charities Officials, the Federal Trade Commission and other U.S. partners, in addition to the Charities Commission for England & Wales, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, New Zealand Charities Service, and the Office of the Scottish Regulator among other non-governmental participants.

Any West Virginian solicited to donate to a charity they think may be fraudulent can contact the attorney general’s Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808, the Eastern Panhandle Consumer Protection Office in Martinsburg at 304-267-0239 or visit the office online at www.wvago.gov.



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October 22, 2019



Homecoming Queen candidates Carly Cooper, Bryanna Moreland, Kaitlyn Koontz and Klowie Schultz with Homecoming Queen Shayla Whiteman and underclassmen princesses Jenna Burgess, Anna Goldizen and Katie Green.



Homecoming King candidates Abel Carvajal Perez, Jeb Kuykendall, Dalton Lough, Kahner Turner with Homecoming King Dawson Tingle.

During their homecoming game, the Vikings wore special decals in honor of their teammate who was injured in a hunting accident earlier this month and will likely be out the remainder of the season.



Frankfort Falcons fly away with PHS Vikings' homecoming game, 35-6



For their homecoming game, the Petersburg High School Vikings faced off against the Frankfort Falcons. The game ultimately went to the Falcons, who out-

scored the Vikings 35-6.

The Falcons picked up two touchdowns in the first period, setting the score at 14-0 moving into the second. They continued their lead in the second, grabbing another two touchdowns over the Vikings and setting the halftime score at 35-0.

The second half of the game saw the Vikings step up their defensive stride, locking the Falcons down

and, following a hard-fought push, move the ball two within just a few yards of their end zone by the end of the third.

While the quarter ended before the Vikings could move the scoreboard, they went into the final quarter just four yards outside of their goal.

After a solid pass to Viking Jacob Landis, the Vikings put their first touchdown on the board and

moved the score to its final 35-6 just eight seconds into the fourth quarter.

With three games left in their season, the loss to Frankfort moved the Vikings to a 3-4 record for the season. They will next take on the Moorefield High School Yellow Jackets this Friday at 7 p.m. in the annual Summit Bowl.



Governor's annual One Shot Hunt to help fund Hunters Helping the Hungry scheduled for Oct. 26 at Stonewall Resort

The Governor's One Shot Hunt - an antlerless deer hunting event that provides a source of fundraising and venison for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program - has been scheduled for Oct. 26 at Stonewall Resort in Lewis County.

"I've been a hunter all my life and I know our natural resources, like our deer, are phenomenal," Gov. Jim Justice said. "There are so many people who really enjoy hunting, but the appetite for venison might not be there. So we give them this incredible alternative."

As of last year's deer seasons, generous hunter donations of venison have topped the 1 million-pound mark since the inception of the program in 1992.

According to DNR's Wildlife Resources Section, hunters have donated 26,387 deer, making up 1,003,202 pounds of venison for 1,349,660 meals.

"This is a significant milestone for this worthy

program, and we expect it will continue through this fall's hunting seasons and beyond," said DNR Director Stephen S. McDaniel. "Although DNR sponsors this program, its success depends not only upon venison donations, but also upon the monetary donations and sponsorships required to administer it. We thank everyone who contributes to this program for the benefit of our less-fortunate citizens who depend upon HHH to provide what is likely their only source of red meat during the year."

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture also plays an active role in this program through its regulation of the processing facilities. Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt is encouraging more hunters to participate in 2019.

"Last year, hunters

heard our call by donating the highest number of deer since 2013. Those donations led to an additional 32,000 meals available to West Virginia's most needy," said Commissioner Leonhardt. "This year we need more hunters to step up to the challenge. Help us serve even more

West Virginians."

Hunters who decide to participate in the program take their deer to a participating meat processor, where the processor grinds, packages and freezes the venison. From there, participating food banks pick up the venison and distribute it to the needy through their statewide network of 600 charitable food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers, shelters, community centers, orphanages, missions, and churches.

There is considerable interest in the program, but the DNR is restricted from using sportsmen's license dollars to fund the program. Therefore, the DNR must rely on the generosity of concerned individuals, businesses, conservation organizations, foundations, and churches.

The HHH program is a cooperative effort that involves the DNR, hunters, meat processors, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Mountaineer Food Bank, Facing Hunger Foodbank, and a statewide network of more than 600 food pantries, shelters, churches, children's homes and similar groups.



Golden Lanes Bowling Results

ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE

Team standings: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 26 - 10, Terminators 23 - 13, Strike Force 22 - 14, WELD 21 - 15, The Wild Bunch 18 - 18, Pepsi Kids 18 - 18, Misfits 16 - 20, Livin on a Spare 13.5 - 22.5, Traitors 13.5 - 22.5, Yokum's 9 - 27.

High Game Men (Scratch): Richie Burgess 223, Roger Earle 223, Larry Walp 216, Larry Ware 216; (Handicap): Richie Burgess 246, Tim Hedrick 246, Larry Ware 235.

High Series Men (Scratch): Larry Walp 587, Roger Earle and, Clayton Laub 573; (Handicap): Tim Hedrick 666, Clayton Laub 660, Devin Keplinger 641.

High Average (Men): Roger Earle 193.56, Larry Walp 186.26, Troy McGreevy 175.48.

High Game Women (Scratch): Tonya Keplinger 214, Dee Anna McDonald 203, Denise McGreevy 182; (Handicap): Tonya Keplinger 248, Dee Anna McDonald 231, Denise McGreevy 228.

High Series Women (Scratch): Dee Anna McDonald and Tonya Keplinger 565, Denise McGreevy 481; (Handicap): Tonya Keplinger 667, Dee Anna McDonald 649, Denise McGreevy 619.

High Average (Women): Carissa Michael 169.56, Dee Anna McDonald 168.22, Sarah Earle 164.14.

10/8

THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE

Team Standings: Strike Force 26 - 6, Builders Center 24 - 8, Vetter's Mini Mart 16 - 16, Petersburg Oil Company 15 - 17, Country Cars & Trucks 15 - 17, Pepsi Cola 14 - 18, Golden Lanes 11 - 21.

High Game (Scratch): Tyler Halterman 246, Troy McGreevy 246, Larry Walp 231, Tim Hedrick 224, Clint Vandevander 220; (Handicap): Tyler Halterman 280, Troy McGreevy 263, Time Hedrick 256, Larry Walp 243, Eric Hartman 234.

High Series (Scratch): Troy McGreevy 644, Larry Walp 613, Clint Vandevander 605, Tyler Halterman 585, Tim Hedrick 578; (Handicap): Troy McGreevy 695, Tyler Halterman 687, Eric Hartman 677, Tim Hedrick 674, Jon Hedrick 662.

High Average: Andrew Kesner 228.67, Clint Vandevander 201.67, Gary Leatherman 194.04, Larry Ware 189.54, Larry Walp 187.38.

10/10

SBVW

High game: DeeAnna McDonald 191, Christina Everly and Kay Leslie 167. High series: DeeAnna McDonald 512, Kathy Vance 456 and Kay Leslie 455. High average: DeeAnna McDonald 180, Kay Leslie and Teresa Barr 145 and Tina Bible 142.

9/30

High game: Tina Bible 199, DeeAnna McDonald 182 and Sheri Arbogast 170. High series: DeeAnna McDonald 498, Tina Bible 479 and Christina Everly 456. High average: DeeAnna McDonald 177, Tina Bible 146 and Kay Leslie 143.

10/7

High game: DeeAnna McDonald 210, Tina Bible 184 and Kay Leslie 177. High series: Kay Leslie 503, DeeAnna McDonald 497, and Tina Bible 479. High average: DeeAnna McDonald 175, Tina Bible 148 and Kay Leslie 147.

10/14

For more information about the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program, including a list of participating meat processors, visit the DNR website at www.wvdnr.gov or call the DNR district office in French Creek at 304-924-6211.

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Fifth-ranked Sooners too much for WVU

By: John Antonik
West Virginia University

On Oct. 19, Jalen Hurts threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more to lead fifth-ranked Oklahoma to a 52-14 victory over West Virginia here at Gaylord Family - Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman, Ok.

Hurts' immense talents were on display Saturday, the Houston resident completing 16-of-17 passes for 316 yards and running 10 times for 75 yards before giving way to backup Tanner Mordercai on the Sooners' second offensive possession of the fourth quarter and the game well in hand.

Hurts led OU to touchdowns on four straight possessions in the first and second quarters to take a 28-14 lead into the locker room at halftime, and then directed a 21-point third quarter outburst to blow the game open.

Eight of Hurts' 16 completions went for at least 20 yards as the Sooner offense got yardage in large chunks. All six Oklahoma

See WVU, page 3B

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WVU

Continued from 2B

touchdowns from the offense came on possessions lasting 3:39 or shorter, including three in two minutes or fewer.

Hurts' touchdown passes covered distances of 20 yards to running back Jeremiah Hall, 6 yards to Charleston Rambo and 46 yards to Lee Morris.

His two touchdown runs were from distances of 2 and 22 yards.

OU's other touchdowns came from running back Kennedy Brooks, a 9-yarder, and a blocked punt by Braden Willis that was recovered in the back of the end zone by reserve tight end Austin Stogner late in the third quarter.

One possession later at the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Sooners broke the 50-point barrier for the 25th time since 2015 when Gabe Brkic punched through a 29-yard field goal.

The Sooners had the ball at the WVU 1, but Hurts bobbled the third-down snap from Creed Humphrey and was hauled down by Josh Norwood for an 11-yard loss.

The only other misplay by Oklahoma came in the first half when the Sooner Schooner took a wide turn and the wagon carrying some of the Oklahoma cheerleaders fell over and the wheels came off. Fortunately, no one appeared to be seriously injured.

West Virginia's two touchdowns came in the second quarter and were

the result of Austin Kendall passes to T.J. Simmons.

The first touchdown followed Josh Growden's successful fake punt when he completed a pass to Dante Bonamico for 7 yards to the WVU 38. Five plays later, on fourth and 6, Kendall hit Simmons in stride to the near side of the field and he broke a tackle at the 25 to run 38 yards for a touchdown.

That score trimmed Oklahoma's lead to 14-7.

Simmons' second score came right before the end of the second quarter to reduce OU's lead to 28-14. A Kendall 19-yard pass to freshman Bryce Wheaton moved the football to the Sooner 32. Another Kendall pass to Sam James for 7 yards gave the Mountaineers a first down at the Sooner 19.

Oklahoma was penalized for pass interference on the next play, putting the ball at the 4 with the game clock winding inside of a minute remaining in the half. A Leddie Brown run for a loss of 3 and an incomplete Kendall pass forced Brown to use a timeout with 29 seconds left.

Kendall's next pass went to Simmons, who worked himself free in the back of the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown. Kendall was able to buy some extra time in the pocket to allow Simmons to get open. Simmons finished the game with a team-best six catches for 74 yards.

West Virginia played the entire second half without leading tackler Josh Chandler, who suffered what appeared to be a leg injury while attempting to tackle Ceedee Lamb during a second quarter punt.

"We're playing a lot of young kids right now and we've got a lot of people hurt," Brown said. "If you look at it, Josh Chandler, arguably our best defensive player, goes out (in the first half) today.

We played the whole second quarter with a walk-on at corner (Devan Wade) and it's kind of where we're at.

Oklahoma out-gained West Virginia 560 to 242 and had 25 first downs to the Mountaineers' 15. OU gained 363 yards through the air and 197 on the ground.

Kendall, returning to Oklahoma where he spent three years backing up Heisman Trophy winners Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray, completed 15-of-31 passes for 182 yards before giving way to redshirt freshman Trey Lowe III in the fourth quarter.

Lowe completed both of his pass attempts for 2 yards and also ran three times for 12 yards.

West Virginia once again had great difficulty getting anything

at all from its run game. Brown, making his first career start, carried the ball 16 times for 28 yards and his longest run from scrimmage was just 7 yards. Lowe's 13-yard run in the fourth quarter with mostly backups in the game at that time was WVU's longest carry from scrimmage.

The loss drops West Virginia's record to 3-4 overall and 1-3 in the Big 12. It was the Mountaineers' eighth straight defeat at the hands of the Sooners since West Virginia began playing Big 12 football games in 2012; WVU is now 2-10 all-time against Oklahoma in a series that dates back to 1958.

The victory boosts Oklahoma's record to 7-0 with a meeting at Kansas State on the horizon next Saturday.

West Virginia does not play again until Thursday, Oct. 31, at 18th-ranked Baylor in a game that will be televised nationally on ESPN.

"We've had an extremely tough last three weeks and we get a little break here before we play these last five," Brown said. "We're going to get a couple of these guys back hopefully and then we've got to finish the season in the right way. We've got to make steady improvement as we go."

For the 100th time ...



Lacey Moyers made her 100th strikeout for the travel ball season. She plays for Tri-County Heat and is the daughter of Mike and Gwen Moyers of Maysville.



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GMH BOARD MEETINGS are the fourth Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the board room at GMH.

Monongahela National Forest to close area

Monongahela National Forest is closing four areas in the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District to all public entry during helicopter timber sale operations in the Twelve Mile Timber Sale area. This closure begins October 28 and could last several months. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety during timber sale operations. When helicopter operations are complete, the area will reopen to public use.

The closed areas are north and west of Lead Mine in Preston and Tucker counties. Two areas of National Forest System land are included along Hile Run and one area each in Thunderstruck and Twelve Mile/Tanner Runs.

Travelers on State Routes 5, 7, and 9 may encounter flaggers when the helicopter is operating adjacent to or over these roads. Heavy log truck traffic is expected during times of active logging operations. Use caution when driving in this area.

Helicopter logging operations will shut down and the area will open for public use from Monday, November 25, to Saturday, November 30, for the Thanksgiving holiday and first week of deer season.

For a map of the closed area and the latest project information, visit the public website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf/> or call the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District at 304-478-2000.

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WVU BSN Class of 2022 participates in white coat, pledge ceremony at Potomac State College

The WVU School of Nursing BSN Program Class of 2022, located on the WVU Potomac State College campus, in Keyser, recently participated in their white coat and pledge ceremony.

The purpose of the ceremony is to celebrate students' entry into the study of nursing and highlight their commitment to professionalism, humanism and compassion in their clinical studies.

Additionally, students were given a humanism pin to remind them of the commitment they are making. This year, the ceremony was made possible by a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation-Amer-

ican Association of Colleges of Nurses.

To learn more about the BSN program, call 304-788-7175, email ashapiro@hsc.wvu.edu or visit potomacstatecollege.edu.



Front: Dr. April Shapiro - nursing chair, Kayla Veach (Petersburg), Katrina Roxas (Falling Waters), Kylie Crites (Moorefield), Sarah Hott (Petersburg), Avery Shanholtz (Keyser), Hannah Dorsey (Ridgeley), Andrea Kimble (Swanton, Md.), Chelsea Ketterman (Burlington), Rachel Raschella - program assistant and Dr. Tara Hulsey, WVU Vice President for Health and Wellness and Dean for the School of Nursing.

Center: Dr. Diana Niland, - nursing faculty, Allison Bennett (Riverton), Sarah Mullenax (Petersburg), Brooke Ketterman (Baker), Cheyenne Kisamore (Riverton), Makayla Harman (Petersburg), Felicia Gano (Keyser), Tanner Minney (Keyser), Sarah Billmeyer (Romney), Linda Shroyer - nursing faculty and Heather Coddington - nursing faculty.

Back: Matthew Hottle - nursing faculty, Veronica Smith (Keyser), Holly Buckel (Frostburg, Md.), Ryan Irvine (Greenbank), Benjamin Ritz (Springfield), John Owens (New Creek), Seth Leedom (Ridgeley), Julie Fertig (Keyser), Bethany Jones (Keyser) and Dr. Mary Beth McCloud - nursing faculty.



The Grant County WVU Extension Office will have their fourth annual trunk-or-treat event Thursday, Oct. 31, from 5 - 7 p.m. in the parking

lot of the Grant County Courthouse on North Grove Street.

Car spaces are available and free to all organizations in Grant Coun-

ty and all Grant County youth are invited to attend.

For more information contact 4-H agent Alex Coffman at Alexandra.Coffman@mail.wvu.edu or call the office at 304-257-4688 if you are interested in registering a car/booth. Cars should arrive between 4-4:30 p.m.

Last year, approximately 650 trick-or-treaters turned out for the event.

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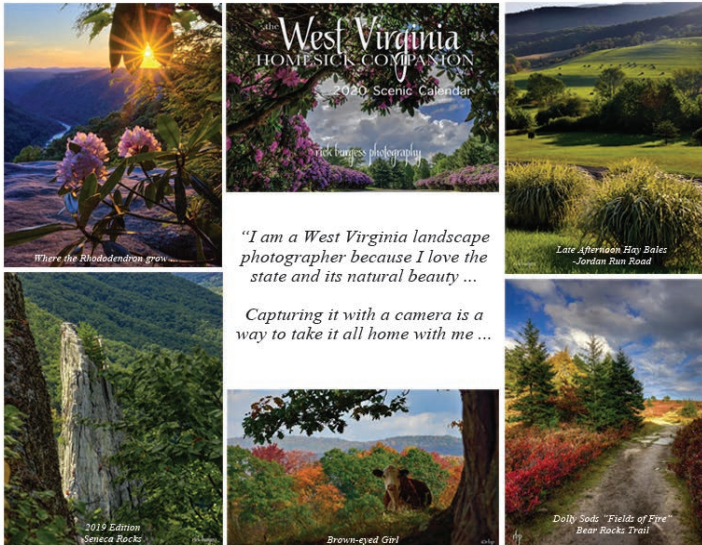
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SUMMIT 10TH ANNIVERSARY BOWL

Where: Petersburg Summit Community Bank Lawn
When: Friday, October 25, 2019 • 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Pep Rally starting at 4:00pm featuring the Petersburg Viking Football Team, PHS Band, and Cheerleaders. Enjoy free food, giveaways, games and music. **Also, Enter to WIN Summit Tailgate/Game Day Gear!***

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Join Summit Community Bank as we celebrate our two communities coming together for a local High School Football Game. Each year we celebrate the Petersburg vs. Moorefield rivalry with a tailgate hosted by the home team. This game will provide a chance for each to win the bragging rights and the Little Brown Jug trophy.

Highlands Bankshares earnings ending Sept. 30

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. announced unaudited earnings of \$2,431,000 for the first nine month period ended Sept. 30. This represents a decrease of 16.5% from the \$2,911,000 earned during the same period in 2018. On a per share basis, net income was \$1.82 for the first nine months of 2019, compared to earnings of \$2.18 per share for the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2018.

On Oct. 8, the board of directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.45 per share to be paid on Nov. 1, to all shareholders of record as of Oct. 25. Based upon the current market price and annualizing the dividends paid to shareholders this quarter, Highlands' current dividend yield is 4.44%.

John Van Meter, chairman and chief executive officer of the holding company, stated "Again

Allegheny Bancshares acquires Bank of Mount Hope

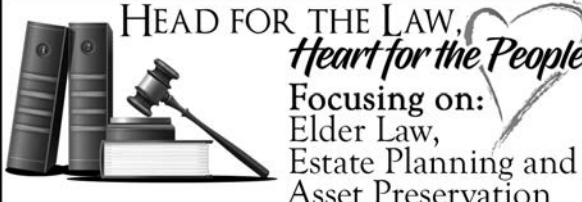
Allegheny Bancshares, Inc. (Allegheny), parent company of Pendleton Community Bank Inc., announced it completed its acquisition of Bank of Mount Hope, Inc. (Bank of Mount Hope). Immediately following the acquisition, Bank of Mount Hope was merged into Pendleton Community Bank, with Pendleton Community Bank as the resulting institution.

"Bank of Mount Hope has a long-standing history of excellent service to its customers and the communities they serve—which is also a tradition at Pendleton Community Bank," said William A. Loving, Jr., president and chief executive officer.

"We are excited to be joining our banks together and are confident that this transaction will further strengthen our company, expand our footprint in West Virginia and provide more banking options for customers of Pendleton Community Bank and Bank of Mount Hope. We look forward to welcoming Bank of Mount Hope's customers as we work toward a seamless transition."

Bank of Mount Hope was advised by the investment banking firm of Pro-Bank Austin and the law firm Bowles Rice LLP. Allegheny was advised by the investment banking firm of Vining Sparks Community Bank Advisory Group and was represented by the law firm Jackson Kelly PLLC.

this quarter, the company booked expenses related to foreclosed properties and the provision for loan losses providing us lower year over year net income. Given our strong capital position, we are pleased to return additional value to our loyal shareholders by maintaining the same dividend we paid during the previous six quarters."



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October 1-31



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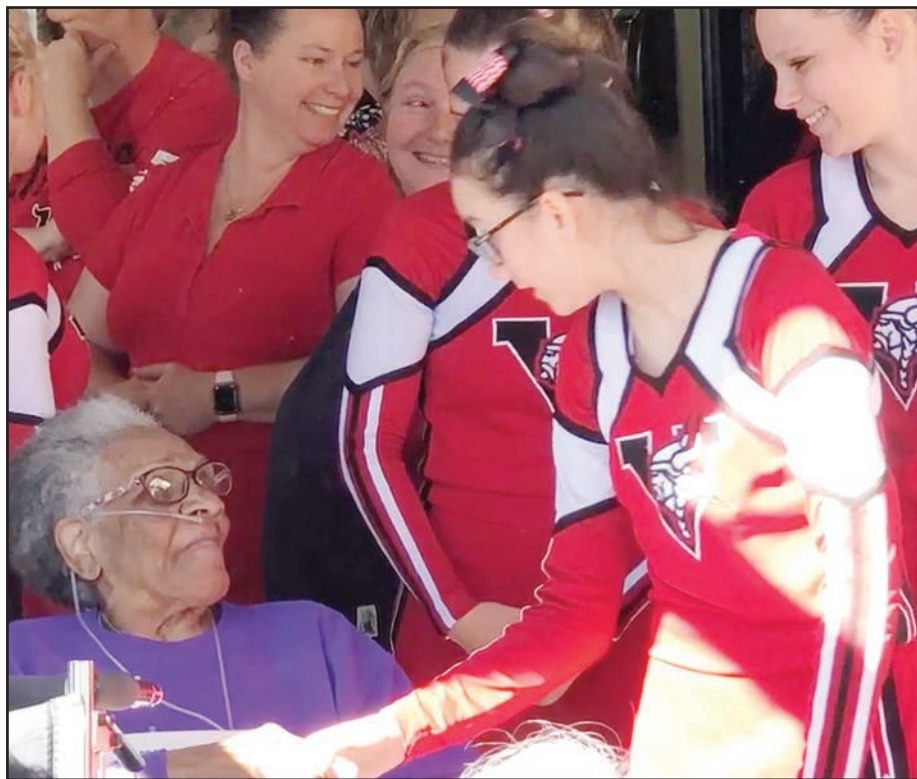
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PHS students share homecoming festivities with residents at GRCC



Petersburg High School football players, cheerleaders and marching band held a homecoming pep rally last week with the residents at Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Residents enjoyed the cheering, music and meeting the students and showing their support of the Petersburg Vikings.

Parsons named for SBCTC student spotlight

Dakota Parsons, son of Melina and Randy Parsons, holds the September "Student Spotlight" title at South Branch Career and Technical Center.

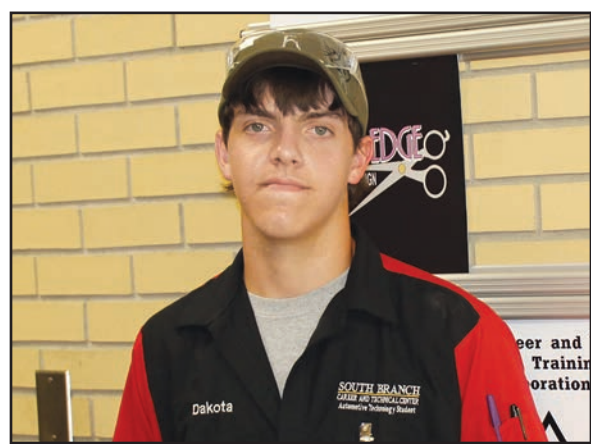
He is an 11th grade student at Petersburg High School who is also enrolled in the automotive program at SBCTC.

Parsons holds the simulated workplace role of R.O.I. manager, which

involves documenting automotive repair projects and filing this information in the South Branch Auto E.R.'s company records.

While his performance in automotive class is to be commended, he is probably known best for his outstanding skill in archery.

Parsons has competed on the PHS archery team at the state, national, and world levels.



VanMeter named homecoming king



Loren Coontz and Ryan VanMeter

Ryan VanMeter of Maysville, was named the homecoming king at Marietta College. Named as homecoming queen was Loren Coontz.

VanMeter and Coontz

won the honors during halftime of the Pioneers' football game against Heidelberg at Don Drumm Stadium Oct. 12.

VanMeter is a graduate of Petersburg High School

and is majoring in intervention special education. He was the Petersburg High School homecoming king in 2015.

He is the son of Mike and Rhonda VanMeter.



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