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GCPSD explains boil warning was precautionary

On Feb. 7, the Grant County Public Service District (GCPSD) lifted the boil and conserve water advisory in the Maysville area.

The advisory was caused by a damaged signal that caused a pump in that area to run low. The initial notice was given on Feb. 4.

The GCPSD explained that the boil warning was a precautionary action and was not cause for panic. The GCPSD said that the water quality was continuously tested through the replacement and it never fell outside of safety guidelines.

Melda Kesner, a board member of the GCPSD, said she was proud of how quickly the crew worked to fix the issue.

"I think all of the employees were very professional and quick in handling the issue," Kesner said. "I know the office was swamped with calls and the crew making the repairs were very conscious about getting it fixed in a timely manner. We really appreciate all of their hard work."

In their announcement of the issue's resolve, the department apologized for any inconvenience the advisory had caused and thanked the community for their patience.



SLAM DONK - Mike Landis grabs a basket in last week's Donkey Basketball event hosted at Petersburg High School. The event was a fundraising effort for the PHS Athletic Boosters. The game saw two local teams, the Petersburg Flamethrowers, consisting of members of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company, and the City Misfits, comprising multiple community members, face off, donkey-to-donkey in the PHS

Community drug prevention and intervention effort talks Hepatitis A and programs to reduce youth drug use

During the January meeting, the PITAR community based drug prevention and rehabilitation program heard updates about ongoing drug prevention and recovery programs, talked about prevention in schools, new medical programs available for those in recovery and health initiatives the county is participating in.

One topic covered during the meeting was the Grant County Harm Reduction Program (needle exchange) and its role in reducing disease, such as Hepatitis A.

Sandria Glasscock of the Grant County Health Department provided the group with information about Hepatitis A, saying the illness was

usually food borne but in the substance use population, it results from the non-sterile mixing of drugs.

Glasscock explained that Hepatitis A is becoming an epidemic in Charleston and Huntington due to its spread in drug communities.

She explained that Hepatitis A vaccinations are mandated by the state and are to be implemented in hospitals by April.

Vaccinations are given at the Grant County Health Department on Tuesday afternoons. Typically insurances cover such cost. This vaccine is free to specific "at risk" populations but Glasscock recommended that all people receive the Hepatitis A vaccine.

For additional information go to hep-awarew.org.

Since its implementation, the harm reduction program has allowed individuals to bring used needles in and receive clean ones, reducing the number of dirty needles on the street and the rate at which used needles are shared. Recently, the exchange rate for needles was five individuals exchanging 59 syringes.

The group also heard a presentation from the OnTrack Program, a state-funded program that works locally with Eastern Regional Family Resource Network.

During his presentation, T.J. Dawson gave a historical look at prevention strategies used to reduce drug use in the community, beginning with the moral position taken against drug use in the 1950s.

Dawson also talked about the current tools in practice including a heavier focus on community awareness, evaluation tools and medical understanding of addiction and its impact on the brain.

OnTrack also maintains a focus on removing old and unused medication from the community through proper disposal options, and using marketing, such as table-top tents and billboards, throughout counties to encourage participation.

See PITAR, page 7A

Sheriff warns public about IRS tax scam

As tax season begins, the Grant County Sheriff's Department, as well as state and federal agencies, are working to increase public awareness of potential scams targeting citizens.

In a report provided by the GCSD, the West Virginia Intelligence/Fusion Center (WVIFC) explained that citizens should be wary of any contact made by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

"IRS scams target Americans for monetary gain by impersonating IRS revenue officers who threaten victims with arrest and frozen assets if money is not paid immediately," the WVIFC said.

According to the report, the IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers through email, text messages, social networks or phone calls. The primary communication for the IRS is the United States Postal Service.

Additionally, the IRS will never demand immediate payment through methods such as prepaid debit cards, gift cards or wire transfers. They will also never demand that taxes be paid without the opportunity to question or appeal the charge nor will they ever threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or any other law enforcement.

These scams are designed to intimidate taxpayers into providing some form of payment, often through prepaid cards or wire transfers, in an attempt to steal from their victims.

"Numerous Americans have fallen victim to IRS scams," WVIFC explained. "No particular demographic is primarily targeted; however, their initial targets tend to be new immigrants to the U.S., senior citizens and English as a second language individuals."

The release also advised businesses to remain cognizant of potential IRS scams, as small businesses are often targeted through similar tactics and techniques. It was advised that any citizen that is suspicious of a claim from the IRS should always verify it with the department.

"If you are unsure about a communication with an alleged IRS representative, search the letter, notice or form number at IRS.gov," explained the WVIFC. "If the communication is legitimate, instruction will be provided on how to respond."

The WVIFC encourages all citizens to report encounters with fraudulent IRS officials by contacting the U.S. Inspector General on Tax Administration or the IRS at complaints@tigta.treas.gov and phishing@irs.gov.

Petersburg to get a little brighter after city council approves the installation of 56 new streetlights, response to crime complaints and concerns from The Field

Last week, the Petersburg City Council looked towards warmer weather while also reviewing the results of the town's recent cold snap.

During the Feb. 4 meeting, the council heard an update on the water leaks being handled by city maintenance due to the freezing weather. According to the report, the maintenance crew has stayed on top of the issue and are still focusing on leaks caused earlier in the winter.

The council also talked about the upcoming 2019 Spring Mountain Festival, which will be held again in the Petersburg City Park.

Another important announcement made during the meeting was the ap-

proval of 56 new streetlights that will be installed around the city.

The approval was a direct response to complaints of crime the council received last year.

The council said the goal of the new lights would be to better light areas in the city that were "dark spots" on residential streets.

This year will also see the return of the trout catching contest in the Petersburg City Pool, which the council said was a family-friendly event they are excited to bring back. They also encouraged any local vendors or sponsors interested in participating in the event this year to contact the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

Also during the meeting, the council thanked the students at the South Branch Career and Technical Center for their help in installing a small solar panel on the city's electronic sign near Petersburg Elementary School.

The sign is a caution for drivers to slow down in the vicinity of Petersburg High School, SBCTC and Petersburg Elementary School.

Councilman Boyd Sites explained that the sign will greatly reduce the amount of running the city will have to do to charge and replace batteries in the sign. He said that prior to the solar panel's installation, the city crews would have to charge and install batteries every four days.

The council also talked about their ongoing goal to improve the expansion to the Petersburg City Park. Councilman Icky Hyre said the city was still accepting tax-deductible donations that would go directly to the installation of park buildings, such as gazebos, in the park.

Next, the council reviewed the police activity report from the Petersburg Police Department.

According to the report given by Sites, the PPD received and handled 102 complaints in January.

A total of 40 verbal and 12 written

warnings were given for traffic violations and eight citations were issued. Of those citations, five were for no seat

belt use, one was for speeding and two were for shoplifting.

The department obtained one warrant and issued one juvenile petition. One arrest was made for misdemeanor charges. Three accidents were investigated and four criminal investigations were opened.

Finally, the council approved four building permit requests. Permits ap-

proved were: Mountain Neighborhoods, 109 Russ Lane, to replace roof and windows; Charles Smith, 199 Houston Dr., to replace roof with metal; Grace Lutheran Church, 3 Pine St., to replace a roof with metal and Tyler Kuhn, to move a trailer onto a lot in Brake Trailer Park.

poll question

Do you think Labor Unions are

still necessary in the modern workforce?



Last week's responses:

Yes: 100%
No: 0%

think \$15 minimum wage will hurt

rural communities.

TUE FEB 12	
FRI FEB 15	
WED FEB 13	
SAT FEB 16	
THU FEB 14	
SUN FEB 17	

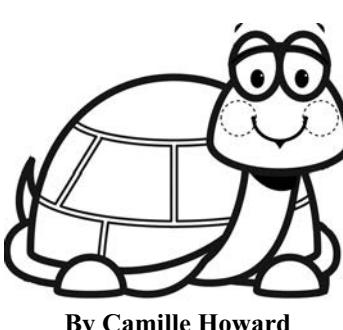
Weekly Forecast

Courtesy of weather.com



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

Let us know on our Facebook page

BOOGAHS**By Camille Howard**

Do we ever really get to the place that we know what we're doing? There's always something new to learn and experience. Most of the time those things are just thrust upon us.

When you think you've got it all figured out, that's when the surprises come.

If you're a reader of this column, you know we have two dogs, Baby (blind) and Hoover (deaf), four cats, Lucy (cranky),

PECAN TURTLES

1 teaspoon plus 1 cup butter, divided
1 cup light corn syrup
2 1/4 cups packed brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 pounds pecan halves, toasted
3/4 cup milk chocolate chips
3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
4 teaspoons shortening

Line baking sheets with waxed paper; lightly coat with cooking spray and set aside. Butter the sides of a heavy saucepan with 1 teaspoon butter.

Cube remaining butter;

place in pan. Add the corn syrup, brown sugar and salt. Cook and stir until sugar is melted.

Gradually stir in milk. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil. Cook and stir until a candy thermometer reads 248° (firm-ball stage), about 16 minutes.

Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Gently stir in pecans. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto prepared baking sheets. Refrigerate until firm, about 12 minutes.

In a microwave, melt chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Drizzle over clusters. Chill until firm. Store in the refrigerator.

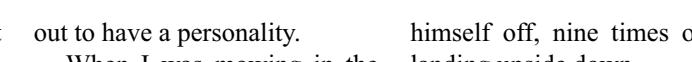
thick to pour, heat in microwave according to package instructions before pouring over cake.

Bake cake according to package instructions. Let cool for 10 minutes. Punch holes in top of cake using the handle of a wooden spoon.

Pour can of Eagle Brand Caramel Flavored Sweetened Condensed Milk over the top of cake. Spread to make sure it gets into all of the holes.

Put cake in refrigerator for 1 hour. Frost cake with chocolate frosting. Add nuts and chocolate chips on top. Drizzle with caramel syrup. Slice and serve.

Store covered in refrigerator for up to 5 days.

PLAYWOR

Percy (loud and mouthy), Scout (quiet but death on small animals) and Lil' Peanut (thief). Oh, and Sheldon the turtle, who I would describe as "briggidy."

I've written about Sheldon, but I've never told his story.

Now turtles must have a brain the size of a small lima bean. They just seem geared to foraging, staying out of harm's way and hibernating. Most people don't have much interaction with turtles.

Well I can tell you, be thankful for that, because turtles are incredibly demanding as pets. I just thought they swam around in small aquariums and ate turtle food and the occasional bug.

Little did I know that when I mowed over top of a turtle one summer day, that he would turn

out to have a personality.

When I was mowing in the back yard through some tall grass, I spied what I thought was a rock. So I bent down to pick it up and it was a teeny tiny box turtle about the size of a quarter.

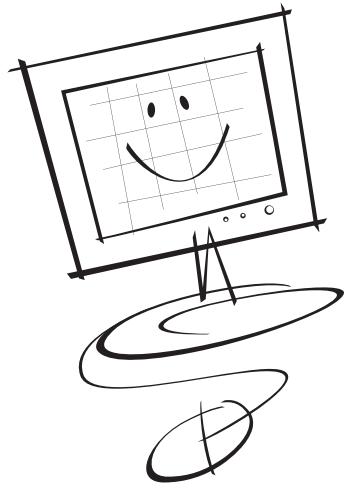
Boy was he cute, so I took him in the house and somehow we got attached to him, especially Erin. We got an aquarium for him and a little rock house and turtle food and thought we were all set.

First, we had to keep a lid on his "house" so the other creatures around couldn't get to him.

Of course we put in some grass and dirt so he would feel right at home and he spent lots of time watching TV while sitting on someone's lap.

He started to grow a little, snacking on his turtle pellets and the occasional fly. Seemed like the perfect pet.

It soon became obvious that he needed a bigger aquarium, so we located one and Erin and Craig upgraded his tank with a homemade ramp and sun deck. He would climb the ramp, get up on the deck and promptly launch



From the principal's desk at UEC

done by all of our student participants. On Friday, Feb. 8, many of our students participated in the school-level Social Studies Fair.

Mrs. Schrock, our Title I Specialist, hosted a "Snuggle and Read" night with pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade students and their parents on Jan. 22. Eight families attended along with nine students. The parents were shown a short video of a read aloud and were given important information about the benefits of reading with their children. The parents deemed the evening to be an enjoyable activity for them and their children.

The next Title I Program activity will be a Dr. Seuss Day at UEC. Students and parents will be involved with reading Dr. Seuss books and completing activities that go along with the books. Students will also watch a short Dr. Seuss video and enjoy Dr. Seuss themed snacks. More information regarding this upcoming event will be disseminated to our parents in the near future.

Christmas came early for the students and staff of UEC! On Dec. 10, we were provided great

news! The W.Va. School Building Authority selected UEC's project bid to assist in funding for a new roof and to replace and upgrade the existing sewage plant system.

UEC will receive \$2 million from the W.Va. School Building Authority for these repairs and upgrades. The plan is to begin these projects at the start of summer break with the hope that both projects will be completed by the time the 2019-2020 school year begins.

More great news came in January to our staff and students. UEC staff worked diligently to apply for three separate competitive grants through the W.Va. Department of Education Division of Teaching and Learning. We were successful and received notification from WVDE that one of our grant proposals was selected to be awarded monies. The awarded grant proposal focused on areas of mathematics, writing, and STEM with goals to increase student and family engagement by hosting after-school activities and to build student interest and understanding in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts,

and mathematics by providing real-world application.

On Thursday, March 21, UEC's elementary grades pre-through 5th will hold the attendance and character education assembly. We invite all families of those students to attend to help us celebrate our elementary students. The character education traits focused on during the months of February and March are: honesty, trustworthiness, sincerity, cooperation and teamwork.

We are in full-swing with our middle and high school girls and boys basketball teams. The UEC middle school teams will be hosting a tournament. The tournament begins on Thursday, Feb. 14, with the first game beginning at 5 p.m. The consolation and championship games will take place on Saturday, Feb. 16, with the first game beginning at noon.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. for parent/teacher conferences. We hope to see our students and parents to meet and discuss your child's academic progress.

It has been a pleasure to share the wonderful things taking place at UEC. Our many thanks from UEC students and staff for our community's continued support.

Local students on Marshall University dean's list

The names of Marshall University students who made the dean's list for the fall 2018 semester have been released.

To make the dean's list, students must have a 3.3 or above grade point average for a minimum of 12 hours.

Grant County students named to the list are:

Allison N. Harman of Laramieville, and Richard C. Cardot and Britney N. Schrader, both of Petersburg.

County Math Field Day results announced

The following are the list of this year's Grant County Math Field Day winners.

4th Grade

First - Tara Kimble, PES; second - Khole Haslacker, PES; third - Angela Willis, MES; and alternates Braylon Ward, UEC and Claire Kaposy, PES.

5th Grade

First - Lukas Wolford, PES; second - Logan Bachman, PES; third - Jake Alt, PES; and alternates Colson Bobo, MES and Kyler Lewis, UEC.

6th Grade

First - Ashly Rohrbaugh,

PES; second - Zalon Barrick, MES; third - Spencer Rochette, PES; and alternates Bryon Goldizen, PES and Cameron Branham, PES.

7th Grade

First - Ryan Sites, PHS; second - Jack Yeager, PHS; third - Jackson Alt PHS; and alternates Sara Vance PHS and Samantha Colaw PHS.

8th Grade

First - Peyton Day, PHS; second - Kaylee Wolfe, UEC; third - Cody Vetter, PHS; and alternates Kennedy Kaposy PHS and Patrick Shreve PHS.

9th Grade

First - Gianna Kopf, PHS; second - Anna Goldizen, PHS; third - Cody Mitchell, PHS; and alternates Ashlee Rohrbaugh PHS and Ryan Bennett, UEC.

10th-12th Grade

First place - Grant Brill, PHS; second place Sierra Arbaugh, PHS; third place - Stori Ketterman, PHS; and qualifiers, Lena McDonald, PHS, Mikayla Kopf, PHS, Jacob Cruz-Perez, PHS, Rylee Adams, PHS, Austin Berg, PHS, Adam Smith, UEC, and Austin Cullers, PHS.

PHS band members chosen for regional honor band



Five band members from Petersburg High School were chosen to be a part of the 2019 Region IX Honor Band. Middle school members were Skylar Donaldson and Jaden Poore. High school members were Victoria Hansrote, Kyrah Redman and Hannah Secrist. The band is under the direction of Kathryn Staub.

State Attorney General launches third "Kids Kick Opioids" PSA contest

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced the 2018-19 "Kids Kick Opioids" public service announcement contest is now open for submissions as the initiative enters its third school year.

The contest engages elementary and middle school students in designing a PSA that raises awareness about prescription painkiller abuse. Potential submissions may be a poem, drawing, letter or anything that would promote awareness.

"The opioid epidemic resonates in classrooms across West Virginia," Morrisey said. "'Kids Kick Opioids' has underscored that reality in a manner that few other initiatives accomplish by, in some cases, giving students an outlet to express their concerns, while using the creativity and talent of all participants to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic with the goal of pro-

viding a better future for their generation."

Students can work individually or in groups. The top submission will appear as a statewide newspaper PSA. Regional winners will be displayed in the capitol.

"Kids Kicks Opioids" has drawn thousands of submissions from more than 4,000 West Virginia students. Students from 118 different schools across 43 of the state's 55 counties have participated.

More than 1,000 West Virginians lost their lives to a drug overdose in 2017, many of which were opioid related.

Reversing this trend has been a top priority for the attorney general. He has fought the epidemic on multiple fronts with criminal prosecutions, funding to combat opioid abuse, civil litigation, multistate initiatives, new technology, engagement

with the faith-based community and education.

Contest entries must be post marked by April 5 by mail to the Attorney General's Office at 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E. State Capitol Building 1, Room 26-E, Charleston, WV 25305, or sent by email to AGPSA.contest@wvago.gov.



and mathematics by providing real-world application.

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THANKS

to everyone who sent cards & flowers in honor of my recent 96th birthday. It was a joy to hear from so many friends & neighbors.

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Grant County Schools Announce Pre-K & NEW Kindergarten REGISTRATION DATES

All eligible students for pre-k and kindergarten for the fall of 2019 will need to complete online registration at <https://tinyurl.com/GCS-PK-K>. Kindergarten students, CURRENTLY IN GCS pre-k, will NOT need to complete any further registration in March once the online registration is complete. Pre-K students will be contacted from the online registration to set up a time to attend registration in March.

PRE-K & NEW KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES

March 1 • Board of Education Offices • 8:30 - 4:00

March 8 • Union Educational Complex • 8:30 - 3:30

For school planning purposes, it is extremely important that all students are registered during this enrollment period.

Students entering Pre-K and kindergarten for the fall of 2019 must either turn 4 years old before July 1, 2019 or be 3 years old with a documented disability as determined by Grant County Schools.

Parents must bring the following items with them to registration:

- Parent/guardian photo identification
- Child's State Issued Birth Certificate
- Child's Social Security Card
- Up-to-date immunization record
- Child's health check form
- Dental examination record (within the last 12 months)
- Court Order of Custody (if applicable)
- Verification of Grant County residency (at least two items documenting parent's 911 address)
- Income identification (pre-k registration only)
- Health Insurance Information (pre-k registration only)

Students not having the necessary information will not be registered until it can be provided.

Parents may contact Vanessa Harlow, Director of Elementary Education, for more information about Pre-K or new kindergarten registration at 304-257-1011, ext. 126 or vharlow@k12.wv.us

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Standing up for what you believe

By Camille Howard

A round of applause to Sen. Joe Manchin, who stood for his belief in the sanctity of life, amid many of his fellow Democrats who remained seated, when President Donald Trump called to ban late-term abortions during his recent State of the Union address.

Not only is the president unpopular with the Democratic party, the late-term abortion issue is an ugly reality, as evidenced by the passing of new abortion laws in New York state and comments made by the governor of Virginia.

Sen. Manchin showed America his thoughts on that issue by his unspoken yet loud response. People from the Mountain State have always had independent minds and it's reassuring to see our state represented that way in Washington.

Opinion on the LGBTQ controversy; forced silence isn't agreement or change

By Don Smith

Executive Director

West Virginia Press Association

Will the controversy surrounding statements last week about LGBTQ organizations by a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates greatly change West Virginia?

Will change come from...

...the delegate's statements? In discussion of an amendment to allow LGBTQ individuals by law to have anti-discrimination rights, the delegate used a slur, compared LGBTQ organizations to terrorist organizations and offered other political opinions.

...the angry responses and condemnation from other delegates? Several delegates in the committee and on the House floor expressed their displeasure and opposition to the statements. There have also been calls for the delegate's resignation.

No, neither of those incidents will greatly change West Virginia.

We must be honest: The delegate's statements certainly horrified and infuriated many West Virginians. Others were mostly shocked and surprised to hear such comments uttered by an elected official during the legislative session. Some, though, agreed with the statements.

Informed West Virginians — regardless of our personal beliefs — know state residents hold vastly different opinions on many important issues. Those opinions reflect personal experience, location, education, person finances and numerous other influences.

Real change, if it happens, would come in how we — as a state — respond to the controversy, not in how we — as individuals — react to the statements.

The First Amendment assures us freedom of speech.

The delegate is entitled to his opinion and allowed to speak. We must remember he is legally elected to represent a House District in West Virginia.

However, each of his critics in the House of Delegates is equally entitled to their individual opinion and to pass legislation as a governing body. If our system of government works, the sound of the entire choir will always overwhelm the voice of a member singing in a different key to assure a quality performance.

Change will come in how the legislature, after hearing from the people of our state, view the delegate's right to make such statements.

We should not fear public statements; those can be debated. Danger comes from action based on personal beliefs. In the case of an elected official, voters should encourage statements in committee but watch votes on legislation.

West Virginians should encourage open and public discussion on all topics. We gain nothing by forcing silence through legislation, threats or violence. You can only change a person's opinion, if you're aware of the position.

It's likely some voters who supported the delegate in the last election were extremely offended by his statements. As a result of this public controversy, at the next election, they can pull their support and possibly remove the delegate from office. Others, however, may offer the delegate their support.

Restricting free speech reduces the discussion of important issues, the expression of personal opinions and the public's general awareness. Forced silence isn't agreement or change.

For positive change, West Virginians need to be more informed on the issues, not more insulated from the realities.

For related article, see page 5A



At the Capitol: Revisions continue to Omnibus education bill

By Phil Kabler

Charleston

Gazette-Mail

Capitol

Correspondent for the West Virginia Press Association



As the 60-day regular session of the Legislature passed the midway point, the omnibus education bill continued to dominate the session, undergoing methodical and major revisions in the House Education Committee, after passing the Senate on a narrow and partisan 18-16 vote.

At press time, the bill (SB 451) continued to undergo numerous changes, including scaling back charter schools to a pilot project, scaling back vouchers for public school alternatives, and removing provisions aimed at teachers' unions, including a requirement to annually renew paying union dues as a paycheck deduction.

At the West Virginia Press Association's annual legislative breakfast, held on the 30th day of the session, House and Senate leaders had differing views on where the bill stands.

Senate President Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, said the idea that Senate leadership was pushing radical, anti-public schools measures in the bill was absurd.

"Charter schools have been tried in 44 other states," he said. "Why can anyone say it's a bad idea to provide an option that's enabled in 44 other states?"

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, said he hopes the Senate bill will serve as a vehicle for education reform that ultimately will have bipartisan support in both houses.

Hanshaw's use of the word "vehicle" is significant, since in legislative vernacular, it refers to a bill that is used as a shell into which other legislation can be inserted.

Carmichael conceded that the House will likely dramatically change the bill, but said he hopes they don't lose sight of its ultimate intent of improving education outcomes.

"It will change. It will evolve. We understand that," he said.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Roman Prezioso, D-Marion, took Gov. Jim Justice to task for his failure to show leadership on the issue, with Prezioso saying the governor's involvement to date consisted of holding a single press conference to denounce the bill as "a mess," and to threaten a veto.

"The governor should be here daily taking the bull by the horns," Prezioso said, adding, "The governor needs to be here to make this happen. If not, we're going to fight back and forth."

House Minority Leader Tim Miley, D-Harrison, questioned how the 133-page bill materialized with little or no input from stakeholders, noting, "There needed to be a lot more effort to reach out to teachers, to find out what their problems are."

Miley also used the breakfast to discuss the most contentious issue of the week at the Capitol, stemming from an attempt to amend a local government bill to effectively overturn anti-discrimination ordinances in cities around the state that include protections for sexual orientation.

As the state tries to attract and retain young adults, Miley said the Legislature needs to consider what message such divisive legislation sends.

"I think we need to be careful about what we do, and the messages it sends about our

state," he said. "Who are we trying to attract here, and what are we doing that might repel them?"

The action in House Government Organization Committee — and particularly remarks by freshman Delegate Eric Porterfield, R-Mercer, attacking the anti-discrimination ordinances and the LGBT community — provoked fiery floor speeches in the House the next day.

"The effect of the amendment was to spread hate across West Virginia once again," said Delegate Mike Caputo, D-Marion. "It's absolutely shameful that we got into such a heated debate over an issue that our children can't understand why we would fight about it."

Freshman Delegate Sammi Brown, D-Jefferson, said of the amendment and Porterfield's comments, "There is a crisis of character in this chamber."

Also at the Capitol:

— The Senate passed 30-0 and sent to the House legislation that would cut off legislators' per-day pay during budget impasses after five days.

Lead sponsor, Sen. Roman Prezioso, D-Marion, said the bill was inspired by budget impasses in 2016 and 2017 that dragged on into the summer, at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

— Delegate Gary Howell, R-Mineral, announced that through implementation of legislation to require state agencies to obtain new license plates and registrations for state vehicles, the state finally has an accurate count of how many vehicles it owns: 8,380, including 4,175 passenger cars and trucks.

"After years of confusion and conflicting data, we finally know how many vehicles the state owns," Howell said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

It never ceases to amaze me when members of the Republican Party, Trump supporters all (for now), complain about the lack of respect for Trump. They conveniently forget Mitch McConnell's pledge to make Barack Obama a, "... one term president ..." on Obama's inauguration day.

This was a mission Mitch failed to accomplish and one he finished off by refusing to allow Obama to nominate a justice for the Supreme Court, a responsibility that was clearly Obama's to make.

If there is a reason members of the Democratic Party, myself included, fail to "respect" much less "admire" this current occupant of the Oval Office, it has less to do with us, and everything to do with the occupant himself.

We were all willing to give him an opportunity to, "become more presidential" once he assumed the office, but he squandered that opportunity from his first cabinet nomination and executive actions to his most recent "tweets."

Respect must be earned, as any military man, a Marine

no less should appreciate, but Charles Hanretty seems to believe that we should salute the office while forgetting the man who holds it.

From the very first descent down that escalator announcing his run for president, an event in which he characterized an entire country of people as comprised of rapists, drug dealers and members of MS-13, to his myriad of rallies where he called rivals names, encouraged his supporters to assault peaceful protesters (remember "Punch him in the face"?") and was exposed in a television spot bragging about sexually assaulting women.

This a man with three wives (all whom he cheated on) with five children from the three young women. When it comes to role models, he ranks amongst the worst.

We would all welcome, "... bringing honor and civility back into our lives." But it starts at the top. With our elected officials, our leaders, who lead by example, in word and in deed. Something Donald Trump has failed, miserably failed to do.

Frank L. Miller
Mount Storm

WV editorial sharing

The Intelligencer Wheeling News-Register

On a state bill to give parents and guardians new routes to seek immunization exemptions

Parents and guardians who have legitimate medical or religious reasons for concern about having their children immunized against disease should be treated fairly and with consideration by state officials in West Virginia. That should go without saying.

But some of those who say no to protecting their sons and daughters base their objections on superstition, vague fears of the health care system or social media myths that have been discredited for years. When they refuse to have children immunized, they increase the risk of disease spreading through the general population.

A bill introduced in the state Senate, SB 454, would give parents and guardians new routes to seek exemptions from the rule that children in schools be immunized against various diseases.

SB 454 continues the policy of providing exemptions from the immunization law based on religious conflicts or legitimate health care concerns. But it adds a worrisome section, providing that exemptions can be permitted

ted for "either a conscientious or personal objection."

That provides an enormous loophole for those whose objections to immunization have nothing to do with religion or medical situations.

Some may wonder what is wrong with allowing such parents or guardians to put their own children at risk. Several things:

First, of course, the children who have no say in the matter can suffer lasting harm if they contract one of the diseases in question. In rare cases, they may die.

Second, unprotected children can serve as disease transmitters. Washington, among the most liberal states in permitting exemptions from immunization rules, recently declared a state of emergency because of a measles outbreak that sickened 42 people.

If there are reasonable concerns that some children who should be exempted for medical or religious reasons are being forced into vaccinations, they should be addressed. But telling the parents and guardians all they need is a "personal objection" is irrational — and possibly dangerous. SB 454 should be shelved.

Porterfield standing by statements about LGBTQ organizations

By Charles Booth
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

Del. Eric Porterfield (R-Mercer County) is standing by his statements about the "brutal monsters" and "socialist" LBGTQ organizations even after facing threats and calls for his resignation.

Porterfield said he had to call the Capitol Police in Charleston Friday after receiving threats, one by a telephone call from a man who said he wants to fight him.

The firestorm and threats came, he said, after he spoke in support of an amendment in a House committee Wednesday that would not allow any protective classes added that are not already in state code.

"It was just a simple amendment, not offered by me, to not add any protective classes ... not already in state code," he said Friday afternoon. "That was it."

The amendment, introduced by Del. Dean Jeffries, R-Kanawha, would basically not recognize LBGTQ as a protected group since it's not in the state code, and nullify ordinances that municipalities have passed to include them.

If the amendment, which was killed, would have passed both legislative bodies and approval by the governor, no municipality in the state could allow LGBTQ individuals by law to have anti-discrimination rights.

Porterfield said it's all about individual freedom and if someone owns a business they should be able to decide if a "lifestyle" is unacceptable to them.

Porterfield made specific comments on the LBGTQ organizations, which, he says, do not represent gay people.

"They represent a socialist activist agenda," he said. "They are opponents of freedom."

Calling them "brutal monsters," he said the proof of that has already been demonstrated in the telephone threat.

Porterfield played a recording of the call, where a man identifies himself as a "f....t," and calls Porterfield a "f....g coward," saying, "You suck," and asking Porterfield to call him out to fight.

"You bring as many people as you want," the caller said. "Bring it on."

Porterfield, who is blind and cannot fully open his eyes, also received a text referring to him as "slits-for-eyes."

"I am terrified of these people," he said, "I feel like the LBGTQ .. would be the Ku Klux Klan in the modern era without the hoods."

He said he has also been attacked on Facebook and by Democrats.

WVDP Chairwoman Belinda Biafore called for Republican leadership to denounce Porterfield's "hate-filled remarks and actions" and said he should resign.

"First of all, Delegate Porterfield needs to resign," she said in a statement. "West Virginia has no room for someone who expresses such hate. Let alone room for him to hold a public office where he is supposed to represent the people of West Virginia. His hate-filled remarks and actions speak volumes and so does the Republican Party's silence. The Republican majority's leadership needs to condemn these actions. Their silence is complicit and the people of West Virginia deserve better."

Porterfield, who is also a minister (Blind Faith Ministries) in Princeton, said some Democrats "took those comments (he made about the amendment) and used them as political fodder," spending "almost an hour on the floor ridiculing me."

He said he does not agree with the "homosexual lifestyle," but thinks people should live their lives the way they choose.

"This is not an us against them thing," he said. "We can disagree" but that does not mean any sort of threats or what he terms "hate crimes" are acceptable.

"It incited a hate crime against me and disparaging remarks about my disability ..." he said, adding that his freedoms have been attacked.

"I don't personally believe homosexuality is right, but I don't persecute gays," he said, again emphasizing the "brutal and vicious people" that are not part of the general gay community but the ones he identifies with some LBGTQ organizations.

He said they want to "take our communities and force them to live" by their standards.

Porterfield said such an agenda can take away the rights of people who do not want to serve or house certain lifestyles, and taxpaying citizens should have a choice in the matter.

"That is your business if you do or you don't (serve a particular lifestyle), that is a behavior, that is not a protected lifestyle," he said.

Porterfield compared it to a landlord not wanting to rent to people whose behavior may include drinking and partying.

"It is about freedom and democracy," he said. "It is completely about individual freedom."

Porterfield referenced Virginian John Leland, a Baptist minister who helped James Madison to insist on the Bill of Rights.

"That (Bill of Rights) is why we don't have a state church in America," he said. "You have the right and freedom to disagree, but let me live my life within the scope of how I want to live it, without fear or threats."

Porterfield, who was wearing a Make American Great Again hat Friday, also sent a screen shot of some of the texts of support he had received.

Those included:

"Keep fighting the socialist scum trying to bury our country! We were born free, and we will remain free!"

"Keep standing for truth!"

"Right on, Eric. We All Behind Ya Brother!!!!"

Fellow 27th District legislators John Shott and Dr. Joe Ellington, both Republicans, were not familiar with the details of what Porterfield had said in committee and could not comment on it.

WV House passes bill allowing Sunday retail liquor sales

The Herald-Dispatch

The West Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill Thursday allowing for the retail sale of liquor on Sundays after 1 p.m.

Currently on Sundays, West Virginians can only purchase beer and wine.

Thirteen delegates, all Republicans, voted against the bill. Del. Eric Porterfield, R-Mercer, was the only one to speak against it.

"Any expansion of alcohol is not going to make West Virginia a better place to live, work or raise a family," Porterfield said. "I believe if we expand any type of alcohol, we've also got to look at the crime, the families that are going to be broken up, and all the other things that come with it."

The bill still needs approval from both the Senate and the governor to become law.

The original version of the legislation enabled retail liquor sales after 10 a.m., but it was amended in committee.



Remember When



February 9, 1949

Lossie VanMeter, who resided in Cabins, was charged with possession of 2.5 gallons of moonshine. Officers found a fully equipped and ready-to-operate 50 gallon capacity still on his property.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Van Meter announced the birth of their second daughter, at Memorial Hospital, Cumberland, Md.

Births at Veach Clinic included: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mongold of Petersburg, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Swick of Petersburg, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. James Patch of Dorcas, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Benson Nesselrodt of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Foster Zirk of Moorefield, a son; and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Reel of Maysville, a son.

Flames, which destroyed a three room frame farm house near Bismarck, took the lives of three people: Milford Cosner, 72; Juanita Cosner, 19, his daughter-in-law; and Elizabeth Cosner, 22 months, her daughter.

February 11, 1959

Darlene Bobo won the Petersburg High School 1959 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow. She was also among the top 10 winners in West Virginia.

Pvt. Carl Hogbin was assigned to Company C, 6th Battalion, 2nd Training Regiment at Fort Jackson, S.C.

February 12, 1969

Hampton Riggleman was appointed and accepted a position as a cardio-pulmonary technician, at Newton D. Baker Hospital, Martinsburg.

Herman Kesner Jr. of Dorcas and Donald Mayle of Petersburg enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. David Van Meter of Maysville, a son, Feb. 3; Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Keplinger of Maysville, a son, Feb. 4; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde George of Moorefield, a daughter, Feb. 5; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Keplinger of Maysville, a son, Feb. 6; Mr. and Mrs. James T. George of Petersburg, a son, Feb. 6; Mr. and Mrs. Benton Cochran of Petersburg, a daughter, Feb. 7; and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Vance of Petersburg, a son, Feb. 7.

An 80th birthday party was given for E.F. Curry at the Bayard Fire Hall, by the fire company and auxiliary in appreciation of his work.

February 14, 1979

Dr. V.L. Dyer observed his 50th anniversary of the practice of medicine in Grant County, Feb. 14.

Joseph Garber was announced the West Virginia University Department of English first place winner for the first semester 1969-69 semi annual writing contest.

Martha Barger was chosen as the February Student of the

Month by the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Births at Grant Memorial Hospital included: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wayne Vance of Petersburg, a daughter, Feb. 4; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Berg of Maysville, a son, Feb. 4; Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Smith of Franklin, a daughter, Feb. 4; Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Martin of Scherr, a son, Feb. 5; Mrs. Linda Lee Wimer of Moorefield and the late Kenneth G. Wimer, a son, Feb. 6; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Yukom of Mouth of Seneca, a daughter, Feb. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Dale J. Ours of Cabins, a son, Feb. 6; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Leo Eye of Moorefield, a son, Feb. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Berg of Maysville, a daughter, Feb. 9; and Mr. and Mrs. Barth Sites Jr. of Petersburg, a son, Feb. 10.

Miss Daisy McNemar was honored on her 90th birthday at a reception following the Sunday morning worship service at the local Presbyterian Church.

February 14, 1979

Dr. Kainai L. Das, a pediatrician, signed a formal commitment to locate to Grant County.

Births at Winchester Memorial Hospital included: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dean of Fisher, a son, Richard Allen Jr., Feb. 10; and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mongold of Petersburg, a son, Larry Dyer, Feb. 8.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Cookman of Petersburg announced

the birth of a daughter, Mindy Marie, Feb. 10, at Memorial Hospital, Cumberland, Md.

Miss Ruth Barger and Don Watts were united in marriage, Feb. 2, at Oakland, Md.

Debbie Goldizen, a 1974 Petersburg High School graduate and a 1977 graduate of Zion Bible Institute in Rhode Island, was in Bethel, Alaska, serving as a missionary in the Yupik Assembly of God Church.

The PHS Viking wrestling team won the Section 1, Region 2, Class AA-A title at Frankfort High School.

Loney Keplinger Jr. of Maysville was selected Producer of the Year in the Moorefield area by Rockingham Poultry Marketing Cooperative Inc. of Broadway, Va.

Petersburg City Council's withdrawal of its support of city-wide Halloween treat or treating touched a nerve with a number of area residents. There was to be a public meeting organized to discuss the situation further.

Ambulance operator Carl Van Meter's legal bid to temporarily stop the county-owned service fell short of a victory during a Grant County Circuit Court hearing before Judge Donald Hott.

Trenton Electronics had a grand opening to mark the store's new location in the former Hilltopper building across from Trenton Motor Company, Keyser Avenue.

W.Va. Legislative leadership provides media with opinions on Comprehensive Education Reform bill

By Erica Young

WVPA Capitol Reporter

Comprehensive Education reform — Senate Bill 451 — was the primary topic of conversation Thursday during the West Virginia Press Association's Legislative Breakfast.

During the legislative panel, Senate President Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, took the opportunity to speak on the Senate's recent passage of the bill, adding "education is among the most important functions of our state government."

Carmichael took a moment to personally thank Senator Patricia Rucker, R-Jefferson, for her efforts regarding the bill before explaining why he feels it is best for the state of West Virginia, namely the implementation of charter schools, asking "why could anyone say it's a bad idea to provide an option that's enabled in 44 other states?"

He went on to point out that charter schools would not be mandatory, but it is important



Senate President Mitch Carmichael, R-Jackson, speaks at the WVPA's annual legislative breakfast.

to give parents and students the option: "choice is good, options are healthy." Carmichael said West Virginia should continue to invest in public schools and teachers.

Carmichael said data shows students drop in comparison to students in other states the longer they are in the school sys-

tem.

Delegate Roger Hanshaw, Speaker of the W.Va. House of Delegates, who spoke before Carmichael, said the House appreciated the Senate's effort and were reviewing the bill. Hanshaw later Thursday called for a public hearing on the SB 451 for Monday at 8:30 a.m.

State Senate committee tables SNAP benefits bill; judiciary committee passes "Missing Persons Act"

By Erica Young

WVPA Capitol Reporter

West Virginia may soon be the next state to opt out of a federal law prohibiting those convicted of a substance-related felony to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits. West Virginia, South Carolina, and Mississippi are currently the only states where the ban is still in effect.

The Senate Health and Human Resources Committee discussed SB 394, which would make this so.

Counsel Cindy Dellinger explained that the bill would allow more federal SNAP dollars to come to West Virginia because more people would be eligible for the program. She also explained that this bill is designed to reduce the numbers of reoffenders as convicted felons are more likely to go back to prison upon release when they do not have access to programs like this that can help them. Those on probation or house arrest would still be eligible as well.

Senator Corey Palumbo, D-Kanawha, said it is important to him that people convicted of all felonies, even those not involving drugs, were not banned from receiving the benefits.

He said, "I didn't appreciate the fact that the ban was so narrow in the federal law."

Ultimately, the bill was tabled until the next reading due to a similar bill about to be heard by the House Judiciary Committee. Committee Chair Mike Maroney, R-Marshall, said he plans to speak with House

Judiciary Committee Chair John Shott, R-Mercer, to see where that bill stands before reaching a final decision.

The West Virginia Senate Judiciary Committee moved to report SB 237 to the full Senate with the recommendation to pass on Monday. The bill contains an article known as the "Missing Persons Act," which says the first 24 hours following the discovery that a person is missing are critical because if the person is not found within this time frame, it is "unlikely that he or she will be found alive or without serious injury."

It states that since other states have been successful with the implementation of these programs, the legislature sees fit to establish them in West Virginia.

Scott Pettry of the West Virginia State Police Department elaborated on a part of the bill regarding the use of technology being helpful to locating missing persons. The section specifically referenced "traffic video recording and monitoring devices," but Pettry also explained to the committee the use of Facebook and spreading of information through social media to let the public know things such as the height and weight of a missing person as well as the last thing he or she was seen wearing. He also said that police tend to get more responses about missing persons when the use of these technologies is involved.

Senator Glenn Jeffries, D-Putnam, the bill's lead sponsor, spoke in support by saying

ing "no one wants to experience a family member going missing." and spoke about how scary it is for him even when his grandchildren wander off in a store.

No senators were opposed to the bill and quickly passed it through, with Committee Chair Charles Trump, R-Morgan, commenting on how he feels this bill is better for people than any of the similar legislation that came through the senate last year. Trump also praised Jeffries for his work on the bill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 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 not be published.

Political endorsements and thank you notes are considered advertising, not subjects for letters.

Local and area obituaries

OLIN TERRANCE HAWK

Olin Terrance Hawk, 94, of Petersburg, W.Va., passed away Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, at Grant Memorial Hospital, Petersburg. Born March 29, 1924, in Bayard, W.Va., he was the son of the late Paul Granville Hawk and Mae Elva (Taylor) Hawk. In addition to his parents, Olin was preceded in death by six sisters, Mary Ellen Dayton, Shirley A. Arbogast, Lovell M. Goldizen, Eileen Foley, Ramona June Cook and Carolyn S. Conner; and one brother, P. Wendell Hawk.

Olin was a graduate of Petersburg High School Class of 1942. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He was a life member of Potomac Highlands VFW Post 6454 and American Legion Post 78 and Disabled American Veterans. He was a retired West Virginia Bank Examiner. He was a member of Grove Street United Methodist Church, Petersburg.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Phyllis (Mills) Hawk; three sons, Kevin S. Hawk (Madelyn) of New Market, Md., Terry L. Hawk (Tina) of Petersburg and Rodney E. Hawk of Petersburg; one daughter, Rhonda K. Sites (Lysle Jr.) of Petersburg; 12 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Ronald Hawk (Jean) of Cumberland, Md., William E. Hawk (Joan) of Broome's Island, Md. and Richard Hawk (Martha) of Maysville, W.Va.; four sisters, Phyllis Treadway (Rupert) of Arlington, Va., Frances



KEVIN JAMES SCHELL



Kevin James Schell, 51, of Cabins, passed away Monday, Feb. 4, at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown.

Born Nov. 20, 1967, in Petersburg, he was the son of Donna Jean (Delawder) Schell of Cabins and the late Golden Richard Schell. He was also preceded in death by one son, Brayden J. Schell, March 6, 2017.

Kevin graduated from Petersburg High School in 1986. He was a member of Hillside Chapel in Petersburg, Petersburg Masonic Lodge #145 and Operating Engineers Union #132. He was a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Dougherty-Schell, whom he married Nov. 19, 2017; his mother; and two brothers, Dane Schell of Stephens City, Va. and J.C. Schell of Cabins.

Funeral services were Saturday morning at the Basagic Funeral Home chapel, Petersburg, with Pastor Bobby Brown officiating. Per Mr. Schell's request his body was cremated.

PITAR

Continued from front

courage using pill drop off locations, so local law enforcement can properly dispose by incineration.

Other PITAR members praised the efforts of OnTrack, pointing to their growing presence in the school system and updates of awareness programs to illustrate the danger of drugs while also ensuring recovery options are available and non-stigmatized.

Also during the meeting, the group heard an update concerning, SAMHSA, an evidence-based training for regional school systems on JUULING/vaping and the many harmful effects of these products. Currently, five people have been certified in this program. This program was implemented in Grant County on February 4.

The SPORT program will also be available in Mineral and Pendleton counties this year. The group is also currently in preliminary talks with the Superintendent for WV School for the Deaf and Blind about starting the program in that school as well. Masih explained that all materials can be converted to braille for their blind students, and they will use sign-interpreters to facilitate for the deaf students.

The group also heard a short update into ongoing research being done at the Russ Hedrick Recovery Resource Center on the role exercise plays in recovery.

The update was given by Roger Dodd of the The Grant/Hardy Recovery Group. Dodd explained that the Russ Hedrick Recovery Resource Center has started a new clinical research protocol measuring the effects

use. The program has been heavily discussed at previous PITAR meetings, with Raj Masih of the Potomac Highlands Guild explaining that students who lead healthful lives, including getting enough sleep and eating well, are statistically less likely to use drugs.

Another prevention program coming in February to Grant County Schools is SPORT Prevention Plus Wellness, a program focusing on encouraging healthful habits, such as exercise and nutrition, over drug

pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Boyles admitted to conspiring with others to distribute more than five grams of methamphetamine from December 2017 to March 2018 in Tucker and Randolph counties and elsewhere.

Donna Alyce Boyles, age 51, pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting maintaining a drug-involved premises.

She admitted to maintaining a residence located at 128 Main Street in Parsons, W.Va., to manufacture, sell or use methamphetamine.

John Boyles faces no less than five years and up to 20 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$5 million.

According to Masih, patients using Vivitrol in their rehabilitation are more likely to overcome their addiction than those not using the medication.

Masih said anyone who is considered a potential patient for Vivitrol needs to be referred to PHG for an intake to evaluate them for appropriateness and to set up wrap-around services including mandatory counseling, recovery coaching and 12-step meetings. The Potomac Highlands Guild will be adding Vivitrol services to the Hampshire and Mineral county clinics this year.

According to Masih, patients using Vivitrol in their rehabilitation are more likely to overcome their addiction than those not using the medication.

Masih said anyone who is considered a potential patient for Vivitrol needs to be referred to PHG for an intake to evaluate them for appropriateness and to set up wrap-around services including mandatory counseling, recovery coaching and 12-step meetings. The Potomac Highlands Guild will be adding Vivitrol services to the Hampshire and Mineral county clinics this year.

Tucker County residents admit to their roles in a methamphetamine distribution operation

Two Parsons residents have admitted to their roles in a methamphetamine distribution operation, United States Attorney Bill Powell announced.

John Luther Boyles, age 62,

pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Boyles admitted to conspiring with others to distribute more than five grams of methamphetamine from December 2017 to March 2018 in Tucker and Randolph counties and elsewhere.

Donna Alyce Boyles, age 51, pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting maintaining a drug-involved premises.

John Boyles faces no less than five years and up to 20 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$5 million.

Donna Boyles faces 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.



Dr. Theresa S. Rutledge

photo courtesy of gmcu

Grant Memorial Hospital welcomes new general surgeon to their campus

Earlier this month, Grant Memorial Hospital officially welcomed Dr. Theresa "Tracy" S. Rutledge to their general surgery staff. Rutledge started in the role on Feb. 1.

Dr. Rutledge is a Cumberland, Md. native and now resides in Morgantown.

According to a release provided by Grant Memorial Hospital, Rutledge received her

undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

She completed her residency at Ingham Regional Medical Center in Lansing, Mich. and now specializes in general surgery, endoscopy and advanced laparoscopic procedures. Dr. Rutledge is the daughter of

Dr. Richard L. Snider, who practiced general and vascular surgery in Cumberland for 25 years.

Dr. Rutledge and her husband have four children. Her hobbies include family time, raising horses on their farm and outdoor activities. To schedule an appointment, please call 304-257-4331.

Teachers across state vote to authorize possible work stoppage

By JoAnn Snoderly
The Exponent Telegram

West Virginia teachers and school service personnel voted in favor of authorizing their union leaders to call for a "day of action" if needed to send a message to the Legislature, according to union officials.

Teachers and service personnel in every county held votes last week on whether to give their union leadership the authority to call for action that could include a work stoppage.

The vote was taken as an education omnibus bill opposed by the unions makes its way through the House of Delegates after passing the state Senate.

Union leaders from across the state met in Flatwoods on Saturday to compile the votes.

"Today was important so that we could get sort of a pulse on how our members are feeling throughout the state, and it was an overwhelming authorization from them to plan the next steps when needed," said Fred Albert, president of the West Virginia chapter of the American Federation of Teachers.

"It was overwhelmingly supportive throughout the state. ... There were no outliers," he said.

Union leaders have expressed concerns about several provisions in the omnibus bill, including ones that would allow charter schools, set up

education savings accounts, implement "paycheck protection" that would halt automatic deductions for union dues and eliminate seniority.

On Friday, the House Education Committee approved a "strike and insert" amendment that changes some of the controversial provisions in the Senate bill. Albert said there are currently no plans for a protest by teachers and service personnel.

"We're not hoping to do any one-day action at this point. We're watching the Senate bill as it travels through the legislative session, and we're just staying in touch with our members," Albert said.

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, has called for public hearings on Senate Bill 451 to be held at 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday. Albert praised Hanshaw's action.

"That shows us that (delegates) really are interested in what teachers, parents and service personnel have to say about our schools and about public education. The reason we had this meeting (Saturday) before that was they didn't decide until Thursday to have these public hearings, and this meeting in Flatwoods had already been planned," Albert said.

"We're very grateful that the House has been very deliberate. They've taken time to move

through this bill, to look at it piece by piece and take out the things that they know were not really moving public education forward," he said.

West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee warned that the final format of the bill is still in question, however, as it has to make its way through the House Finance Committee, the full House and, if changes are made, go back before the Senate.

"We just want to be prepared for anything," Lee said. "We'll follow the bill ... and keep our members informed what's going on and make sure we're on top of things."

According to Harrison County American Federation of Teachers President Renee McClean, the union will hold an informational session for the community at 6 p.m. Monday at All Saints Catholic Church in Bridgeport.

After a brief introduction to start the meeting, Bridgeport High School AP government teacher J.D. Lister will give a PowerPoint presentation for attendees. Union representatives will then field audience questions on the bill, McClean said.

The session is open to "anybody who wants to learn more about the bill and how it will affect their tax dollars and schools," she said.

Mineral County man admits to federal firearms charge, faces up to 10 years in prison

Phillip Arnold Bennett, of Piedmont, W.Va., has admitted to a firearms charge, United States Attorney Bill Powell announced.

Bennett, age 30, pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful possession of a firearm.

Bennett admitted to illegally possessing a .380 caliber pistol in September 2017 in Mineral County.

Bennett faces up to 10 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$250,000. 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.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts.

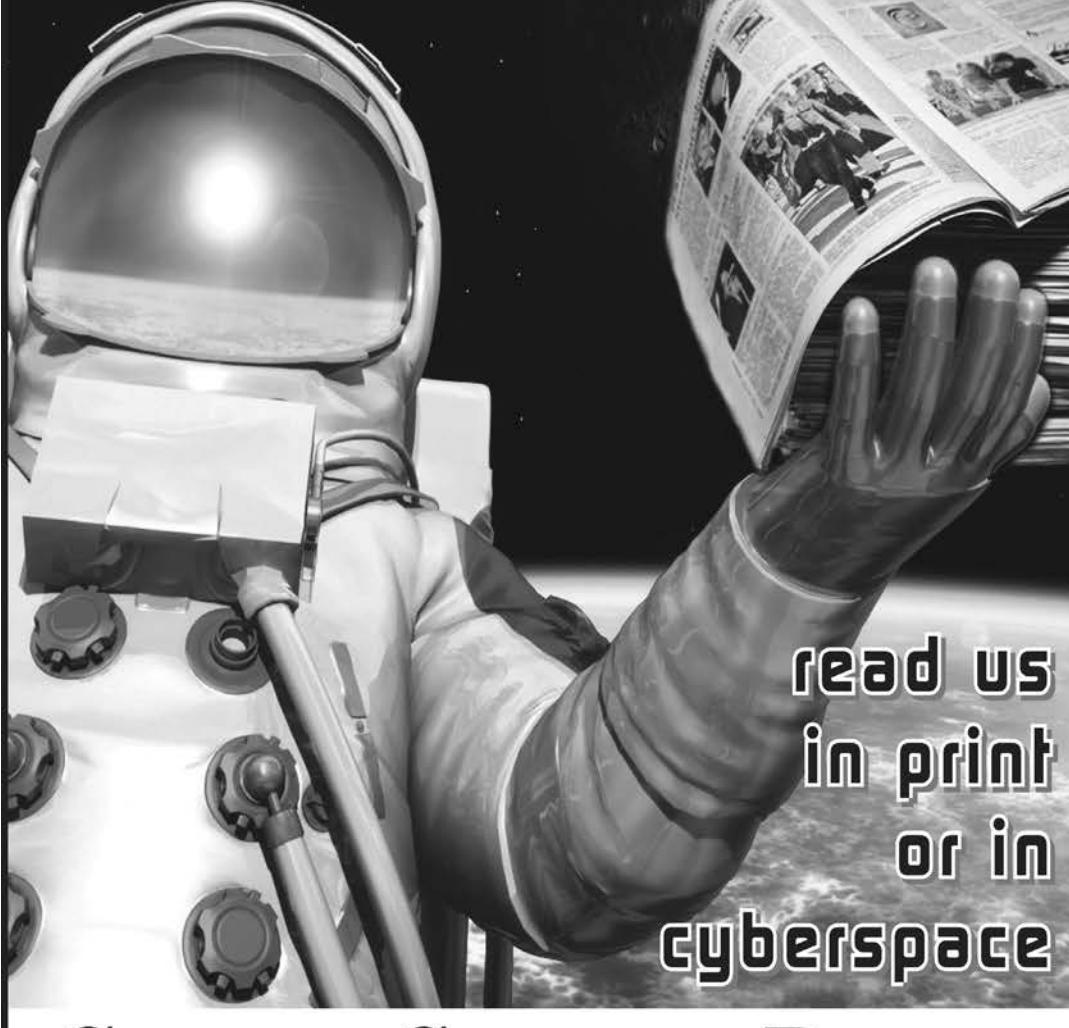
PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy,

PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara K. Ombs-Botteicher is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government. The Potomac Highlands Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force, a HIDTA-funded initiative, and the West Virginia State Police investigated.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert W. Trumble presided.

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Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center news

Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center launched its new rehabilitation unit, named in honor of board chairman Pastor Dick Longbon. As part of the celebration, Petersburg High School Art II and III students displayed their works, "Abstract A Flower." The center held an open house Nov. 29, to commemorate the event.

In November the staff participated in a "Best Pumpkin Recipe" contest with assistant director of nursing, Christina Thorne, selected as the winner for her pumpkin trifle.

Christmas parties were held in December and residents made their annual donation to Toys for Happiness. This time around, 60 toys were donated, purchased with money given by residents out of their game winnings. This is the 10th year of participation in this event.

The Nutrition Services Department stayed busy during the holiday baking and meal planning. The Residents' Council chose special meals for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and many guests were also served.

Residents were treated to a trip to see the lights of Welton Park, returning for homemade cookies and hot chocolate. Many community and church groups visited and brought gifts and cards for Christmas. The staff had an Ugly Sweater contest and winners were Felicia Miller - first, Angie Engle - second and Bonnie Dolly - third.

A holiday baking competition was held and winner was Jennifer Sites with her white chocolate cheddar popcorn.



Wendy Bennett

Employee of the month for December was Wendy Bennett.

Wendy has been employed at GRCC for seven years. She began in the housekeeping department,



Missy Strickler



Residents with their Toys for Happiness donation for Denver the elf.

ment, but has worked as a CNA for the past several years. She attends North Mill Creek Baptist Church, has one daughter, Makayla, and two dogs, Bear and Yappy. In her free time, she enjoys cleaning, horseback riding and hunting.

January's employee of the month was Missy Strickler. She is a CNA and has been employed at GRCC for 29 years.

She and husband Shane, have one son, Garrett, who is 14. They also have a cat, Sophie, and two dogs, Lily and Shadow.

Missy attends Moorefield Baptist Church. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors, watching baseball and traveling.

As always, volunteers of all ages are always needed, welcomed and encouraged at GRCC. For more information contact the activities department at 304-257-4233, ext. 5225.



Kari Evans awards Christina Thorne for her pumpkin recipe.



Jennifer Sites is the holiday baking champion.

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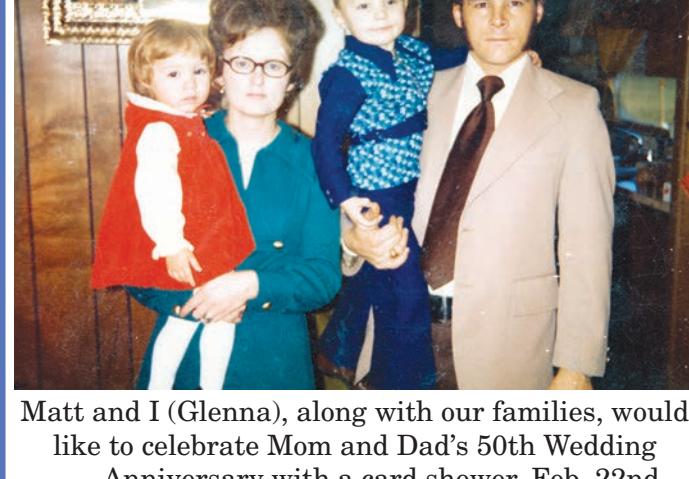


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Schedule,
see page, 3B



Lady Vikings pick up win over Bearcats

 The Petersburg High School Lady Vikings picked up another win last week against the Grafton High School Bearcats, 62-38. The win set the team at 11-7 for the season.

There were two standout athletes of the game for PHS, offensive shooters Jenna Burgess and Kayla Lantz, who grabbed a combined total of 34 points for the Vikings.

The season has been a strong showing for sophomore Burgess, who has maintained a nearly 14 points-per-game average and has picked up a total of 246 points for the season to date.

At nearly nine points-per-

game sophomore Lantz holds the second-highest average for the Lady Vikings.

Lantz has picked up 157 points for the team this season. Both Lantz and Burgess have played in all 18 games of the season.

During the game against Tucker, the score was consistently one-sided in favor of the Vikings, with PHS pulling ahead 23-7 in only the first period. This trend continued throughout the game, going into half-time at 30-13.

After the teams took back to the court, the score increased to 48-26 with the final count wrapping up in favor of the Vikings at 62-38.

Other Viking scorers during

the game were: Casey Watts with 10 points (four of which from two-point shots and two from free throws), Hannah Moyers with six points, MacKenzie Kitzmiller with three points, Mickala Taylor, Megan Kite, Reece Hedrick and Carley Turner each with two points and MacKenzie Weasenforth with one point.

Burgess picked up 18 points, all of which came from solid two-point shots (field goals) and Lantz picked up 16 points, five of which came from two-point shots, three came from free throws and one coming from a three-point shot.

Overall, the Vikings picked up 25 two-pointers, 15 at-

tempted free throws with nine made (60 percent) and one three-point shot.

For the Grafton team, the top scorer was Meridith Maier, who picked up 11 points for the Bearcats through five two-point throws and one free throw. Behind Maier was Bria Jacobs, who grabbed nine points, through two two-point shots, two free throws and one three-pointer.

The Bearcats' final score came from 14 two-pointers, 12 attempted free throws with 4 made (33 percent) and two three-pointers.

Following their game against the Bearcats, the Vikings next faced off against the Tucker County High School

Mountain Lions, losing that game in a close 63-54.

The game was a close match between the two schools, with the Vikings leading the game following the first period, 16-12.

The game went into half-time with a tied score of 29-29. From there, the Vikings fell behind, struggling to hold back the Mountain Lions defensively. The third period ended 47-40 in favor of Tucker, before ultimately ending 63-54.

Burgess also made her mark in the game against the Mountain Lions, picking up 25 points in total, including six two-pointers and 13 free throws (of 16 attempts).

Other Viking scorers in the game against Tucker County

were Turner with nine points, Watts with six, Lantz with four, Hedrick and Moyers with three and Kitzmiller, Taylor and Weasenforth with two points each.

This loss set their current record at 11-8 for the season, with two games left in their regular schedule.

The Lady Vikings will next face down the Moorefield High School Yellow Jackets tomorrow at PHS before wrapping up their regularly scheduled season on Feb. 14 against the East Hardy High School Cougars, also at PHS.

Three Vikings sign to play college football

PHS hosts signing events for:
Jacob Hartman
Tyce Wisnewski
Doug Morral

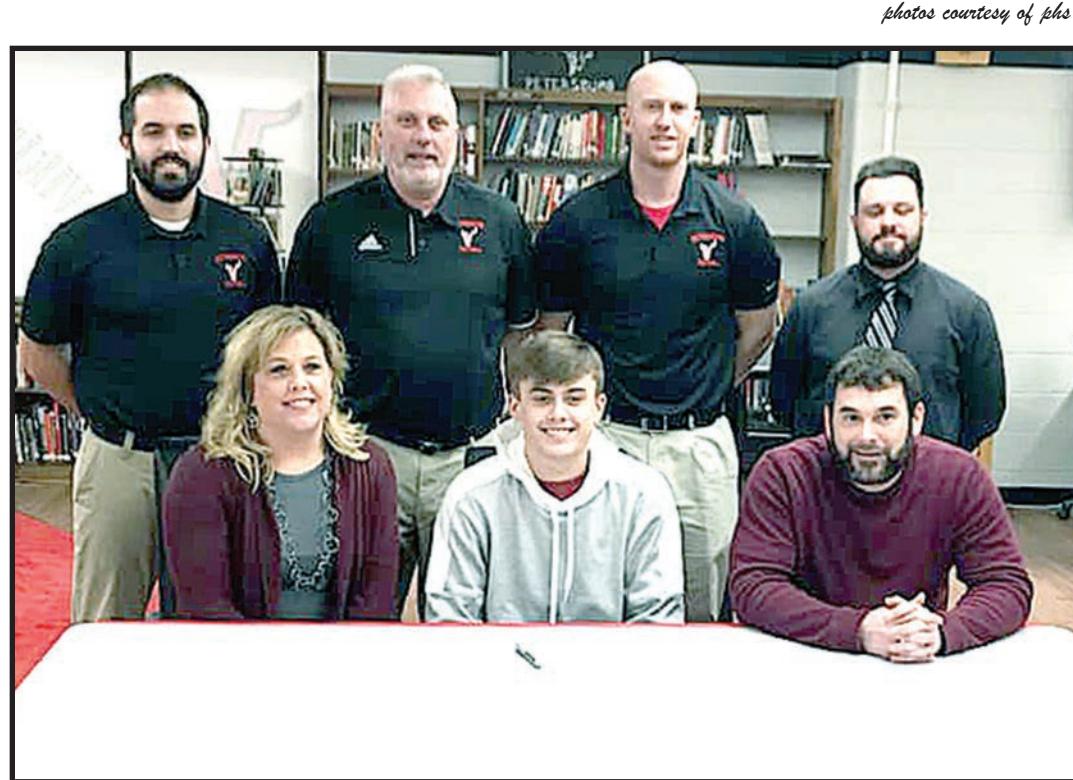


PHS football player Jacob Hartman signed to continue his football career at Glenville State College. He was joined at the signing by his mother, Shannon Hartman, his sister, Jadyn Hartman and his father, Jasper Hartman. His older brother, Jordan, who is also a former graduate of PHS and received a scholarship to play college football, attended the signing through video.

photos courtesy of phs



PHS defensive football player Doug Morral signed with Glenville State College to continue his football career. Joining him for the signing was his mother, Penny Morral, his father, Richard Morral, his coaches Seth Gordon, Bobby Jack Harman and Kevin Board and PHS principal Avery Anderson.



PHS' Tyce Wisnewski signed with Concord to continue his football career. Joining him for the signing was his mother, Angela Wisnewski, his father, Ed Wisnewski, his coaches Seth Gordon, Bobby Jack Harman and Kevin Board and PHS principal Avery Anderson.

WVU's cold shooting continues in loss to Texas

By: John Antonik
West Virginia University

Courtney Ramey's 19 points helped Texas to a 75-53 victory over West Virginia here at the WVU Coliseum on Feb. 9.

An announced crowd of 12,815 was looking for a bounce-back performance from the Mountaineers after they lost by 31 on Monday night at Texas Tech.

But West Virginia was unable to deliver.

WVU had no answer for Texas' zone defense, especially in the second half when the Mountaineers made just nine-of-23 field goals to finish the game shooting 35.3 percent.

In its last two games, West Virginia has misfired on 63 of 90 field goal attempts.

"I'm totally embarrassed that this is happening," West

Virginia coach Bob Huggins said on his postgame radio show. "I don't know what to say."

Texas (14-10, 6-5) never trailed but did see its early eight-point lead whittled to one, 29-28, with 2:13 remaining in the first half. A Jermaine Haley 3 from the top of the key, a Chase Harler layup off a feed from Derek Culver and five straight points from Esa Ahmad forced Longhorn coach Shaka Smart to call timeout.

When play resumed, Ramey knocked down a triple, one of five he made for the night, and Matt Coleman III finished the first half scoring when he con-

verted a driving layup off of a Lamont West miss.

A 10-1 Texas run to begin the second half got the Longhorn lead to 15, 44-29, and soon it grew to 23, then to 27 and eventually to 29 points before Smart emptied his bench.

Kenvin Roach II added 14 points on six-of-10 shooting.

Texas made 29-of-64 for 45.3 percent (including eight second half dunks) and was nine-of-23 from 3-point distance for 39.1 percent.

The Longhorns had a 42-34 rebounding advantage and a 40-22 edge in paint scoring.

"We don't pass the ball and

I'm blown away with how bad we pass the ball and our unwillingness to pass the ball," Huggins said.

West Virginia (10-14, 2-9) got a team-best 14 points from forward Esa Ahmad. The senior now has 1,039 career points, moving him past Tony Robertson (1,026) and Lee Patrone (1,026) into 48th place in career scoring at WVU.

Culver added seven points and grabbed a team-best 11 rebounds. It was the sixth time the freshman has grabbed 10 or more boards in a game this season.

"Part of our problem is Derek doesn't know what he's doing. Derek deserves some of the blame for that but the reality is he wasn't here the first semester so it's not a reaction to him like it is to everybody else, so he hurts us in that regard,"

Huggins said. "But he helps us in so many other ways."

It was West Virginia's fourth straight game without injured guard Beetle Bolden and the 15th without injured forward Sagaba Konate.

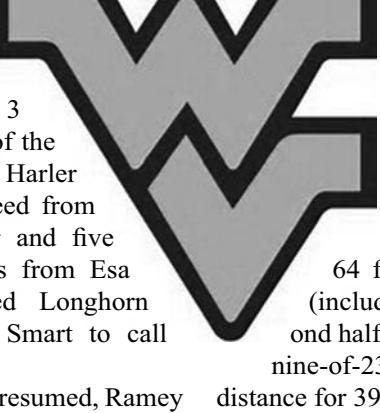
The 22-point loss tonight was West Virginia's largest at home this season. It's also the fifth double-digit loss in Big

See WVU, page 3B

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Tigers announce plans for this week's UHS Middle School Basketball Tournament

The annual Union Middle School Basketball Tournament will be held this week on Feb. 14 and Feb. 16 in Mount Storm.

The games for the event will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday and will pick up again on Saturday, Feb. 16 at noon.

Grades competing in the event will sixth through eighth.

Four teams will take the court to compete for the tournament championship: Davis-Thomas, Harman, East Hardy and Union.

Seven-person and all-tournament team winners will be named, including three from the championship team, two from runner-up, one each from third and fourth place teams and one championship team trophy as well as a runner-up team trophy.

Each match will feature at 10 minute pre-game warm-ups and a five minute half time.

Brackets:

Thursday, February 14

Game 1 (Girls)

Union (7th) (h) vs. East Hardy (v) at 5 p.m.

Game 2 (Boys)

Harman (h) vs. East Hardy (v) at 6:15 p.m.

Game 3 (Girls)

Davis Thomas (v) vs. Union (h) at 7:30 p.m.

Game 4 (Boys)

Davis Thomas (v) vs. Union (h) at 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 16

Game 1 (Girls)

Girls Consolation game 1 (v) vs loser game 3 (h) at noon.

Game 2 (Boys)

Consolation loser game 2(v) vs loser game 4 (h) at 1:15 p.m.

Game 3 (Girls)

Championship winner Game 1 (v) vs winner game 3 (h) at 2:30 p.m.

Game 4 (Boys)

Boys Championship winner Game 2 (v) vs winner game 4 (h) at 3:45 p.m.

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2019 WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THIS WEEK:

A panel look at the WV Senate's omnibus education bill; the foster care bill; improvements to Pipistem.

INDEPTH: WVPAC Executive Director Don Smith talks with West Virginia River Coalition's Angie Rosser.

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Petersburg High School junior varsity Vikings pick up two more wins for a 10-5 seasonal record

Last week, the junior varsity Vikings' basketball team picked up two more wins for their season. The first win was against

Moorefield, in which the Vikings scraped out a win in a tight game against their long-standing rivalry, the Yellow Jackets.

The second win was a 59-54 victory over Liberty.

These wins set the team at 10-5 season record with several games still left on their schedule.

Another recent victory for the young Vikings came earlier this month, when they picked up a 50-32 win over the Frankfort High School Falcons.



Union Educational Complex to host February WVSSAC coaching education courses

Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The instructor will be current UHS Athletic Director/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 and select the tab

"Coaches Education" or call 304-485-5494. Space for the class is limited to first come first served.

The class will be held on Feb. 21 and 22 from 5 to 10 p.m. and

Mountaineer Food Bank receives \$20,000 from Dominion Energy

Mountaineer Food Bank received a \$20,000 grant from Dominion Energy to help support Mountaineer Food Bank's Project Harvest.

"Through this grant, Dominion Energy is reaching across the state to support better access to nutritional food for community members in our service areas," Christine Mitchell, external affairs representative for Dominion Energy said.

"By their efforts, the Mountaineer Foodbank will reach 10,000 children and adults suffering from food insecurity in nearly every county in West Virginia."

Project Harvest will focus on decreasing hunger in West Virginia while increasing access of healthy foods in communities that do not have the capacity to regularly distribute them.

"Over the past couple years, Mountaineer Food Bank has placed a strong focus on the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables being accessible to our agencies to aid in improved health and more effectively meet the needs of their clients throughout all of MFB's existing programs," Becky Conrad Director of Development for Mountaineer Food Bank said.



Chad Morrison, executive director of Mountaineer Food Bank receives a check from Christine Mitchell, external affairs representative III - Dominion Energy Services W.Va. state and local government affairs and Jason Jackson, Dominion Energy Services.

"As a result of this focus, our produce distribution has grown tremendously and the number of programs we are sourcing produce through has increased as well. Those innovative programs include: school produce

markets, school backpack and pantry programs, just in time distributions, mobile pantry programs, drop and go's, Veterans Table programs, RX pantry programs, fresh start programs, silver lining senior feeding pro-

grams, and more. Adding fresh produce to each of these programs allows our agencies and programs to offer their clients fresh produce that otherwise may not be available to them."

Public meeting at PVTA office in Petersburg to focus on transportation needs of older adults, individual with disabilities and the general public

West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Public Transit is updating the coordinated human services transportation plans for the state's 11 planning and development regions.

A series of public meetings will be held to inform interested individuals about the possibilities of coordinated public and human service agency transportation and, more importantly, to listen to anyone who rides, would like to ride, and/or operates public, private or human service agency transportation resources.

The meetings will begin with

a brief presentation of research conducted by RLS and Associates, Inc. about residents' needs for transportation to work, medical appointments, entertainment, or any other reason.

There will be an open discussion about gaps in available transportation service and strategies for increasing mobility. Public, private and nonprofit transportation providers, human service agencies, and any individual who needs transportation should attend.

The public is encouraged to attend the following meeting to learn more about the plan and share their input. Agencies

- 12:30 p.m. at Potomac Valley Transit Authority, 185 Providence Lane, Petersburg.

Residents are asked to provide their input through the public survey available online at: surveymonkey.com/r/WVMobility. Paper versions of the survey are available upon request by calling 800-684-1458.

For additional information, contact Christy Campoll with RLS & Associates at 937-299-5007 or Cindy Fish with West Virginia Department of Transportation at 304-558-0428.

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NOTICE

20189 Board of Equalization & Review meeting dates Per WV Code 11.3.24 are scheduled as follows:

February 12
1:00 p.m.

February 14
9:00 a.m. (Minerals)

All meetings will be held in the Grant County Commission Conference Room, 5 Highland Avenue, Petersburg, WV 26847.

If you have any questions please contact the Grant County Assessor's Office at 304-257-1050 or the Grant County Commission at 304-257-4422.

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Magistrates report

The following are cases heard in the Grant County Magistrates Court between January 1 and February 2.

Benjamin Ryan Hahn, 33, of 60 Terrace Place, Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$311 after pleading no contest to charges of driving on a suspended license.

Leah Lefaye Lebow, 28, of 50 Hyre Ave., Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$170.25 after pleading no contest to traffic violations.

Lucas Alexander, 22, of 706 South Mill Creek Rd., Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$176 after pleading no contest to charges of improper use of evidences of registration.

In separate charges, Alexander was charged with operating a vehicle without a certified registration. He also plead no contest to these charges.

Diana Lynn Dowd, 52, of

55 Spreer Dr., Petersburg, was charged with battery or making physical contact of insulting nature in an attempt to cause physical harm to another. Dowd's bond was set at \$500.

Michael James Redman, 20, of 9 Virginia Ave., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to battery or making physical contact of insulting nature in an attempt to cause physical harm to another. Redman's bond was set at \$500.

Timothy Ray Hewlin, 37, of 610 Bedford St., Cumberland, Md., was fined and assessed \$372 after pleading guilty to charges of driving too fast for roadway conditions and operating a vehicle left of center.

Justice Micah Steward, 24, of 604 High Point Dr., Maysville, was given a deferred sentence for knowingly or intentionally possessing a controlled substance without a valid prescription. He was also charged

operating a vehicle without a certified inspection. He was fined and assessed \$470.

Norris Junior Crites, 85, of 43 East Ave., Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$411 after pleading guilty to charges of failing to register.

Kerri Lynn Kisamore, 18, of 476 Vandevander Dr., Petersburg, was fined and assessed \$261 after pleading guilty to charges of unlawful acts of persons under 21 years of age.

Crystal Dawn Mauzy, 36, of 131 Wildlife Dr., Petersburg, pleaded not guilty to charges of distribution of private photographs (nudes). Mauzy's bond was set at \$15,000.

Aaron James Runion, 19, of 10120 Jordan Run Rd., Maysville, was fined and assessed \$261 after pleading guilty to charges of unlawful acts of persons under 21 years of age.

Scholarships available from Tucker Community Foundation

More than 35 scholarships from the Tucker Community Foundation are available for high school and college students in Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Preston, Pocahontas, Randolph and Tucker counties, W.Va. and Garrett County, Md. Scholarship awards will range from \$500 to \$10,000 with most in the \$1,000 range.

Students can go to www.tuckerfoundation.net/endowed-funds/scholarships/ to download an application. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 5.

Applications are also available at the foundation offices located in the Board of Education Annex at 100 Education Lane, Parsons, and at 737 William Ave, Suite 1, in Davis. High School guidance counselors throughout the foundation's service area also have applications for distribution to students.

More than \$75,000 will be awarded from endowed scholarship funds, pass-through donations, and unrestricted income to students throughout the foundation's eight county service area. A complete list of scholarships available is listed on the foundation's website. Also follow the Tucker Community Foundation's page on Instagram and Facebook for highlights on each of the scholarships offered.

Executive Director Robert Burns encourages all high school and college students to apply even if their educational needs do not align with a particular fund.

"Some of the Tucker Community Foundation's scholarships are designated for graduates of a particular high school or for a particular college while others are based on activities or intended college majors," Burns said. "Just because you do not qualify for one scholarship does not mean you would not qualify for another. We review all of the scholarship applicants and determine the student's eligibility for each different scholarship."

Don't miss a beat regarding women's heart health

Heart disease might be seen as something that predominantly affects men, but women are not immune to this potentially deadly condition. In fact, doctors and healthcare professionals advise women to take serious heed of heart disease, which claims more female lives than breast cancer, other cancers, respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease combined.

The American Heart Association indicates that more women are now aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death among females than they were 20 years ago. While just 30 percent of women recognized that in 1997, that figure had risen to 56 percent by 2012. However, the AHA reports that only 42 percent of women aged 35 and older are concerned about heart disease. Initiatives like Go Red for Women in February help shed light on the threat posed by heart disease.

Here are some facts to con-

The foundation will award for the second year a scholarship from the Randall H. Alt Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund provides an annual scholarship for a Petersburg High School graduating senior (male or female) who is attending a West Virginia school and who has participated in a varsity sport at Petersburg High School.

Another scholarship for Grant County high school, nontraditional and college students is the Kline, Allison, Evans Scholarship. This scholarship provides support for students who are furthering their education.

A \$500 White Grass Culinary

Strawberry Festival photography exhibit and contest

The Buckhannon Upshur Camera Club in concert with the West Virginia Strawberry Festival announces the 2019 photography contest guidelines. Amateur adult and youth photographers are invited to prepare photos to be displayed in the following classes: things or places, monochrome, nature, wild and wonderful WV, general and youth.

The entry fee for adult participants is \$5. Youth entry fees are being sponsored by the generosity of the Upshur Arts Alliance. The photos selected as "Best of Show", 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all classes will receive a ribbon and cash prize. Honorable mention ribbons are also awarded by the judges. These awards will be presented at the photographers'

reception on Wednesday, May 15.

Special ribbons will be placed for people's choice, queen's choice, strawberry teen's choice, king's choice, and president's choice. These ribbons are awarded during the contest and will be hung after selections are made by Strawberry Royalty.

The Record Delta will be sponsoring this year's contest. The deadline for entries is Friday, May 3.

For additional information and an entry form, visit www.wvstrawberryfestival.com or the Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/BUCameraClub/. The exhibit will be held as a part of the WV Strawberry Festival in mid-May.



burn, extreme fatigue, nausea, and shortness of breath.

- Roughly one female death per minute is attributed to heart disease.

- Heart disease affects women of all ages. In fact, the AHA says that the combination of smoking and birth control pills can increase heart disease risk in younger women by 20 percent.

- Mercy Health System says about 5.8 percent of all white women, 7.6 percent of black women, and 5.6 percent of Mexican American women have coronary heart disease.

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost two-thirds of women who die suddenly of coronary heart disease have no previous symptoms.

- When symptoms are present in women, they are not like the stereotypical clutching of the chest that men experience. Heart disease symptoms in women can include upper back pain, chest discomfort, heart-

burn, extreme fatigue, nausea, and shortness of breath.

Even fit women can be affected by heart disease. Inherent risk factors, such as high cholesterol, can counteract healthy habits.

Women are urged to take various steps to reduce their risk of heart disease:

- Lose weight
- Engage in regular physical activity
- Quit smoking
- Keep alcohol consumption to a minimum
- Get cholesterol and blood pressure checked regularly
- Make healthy food choices
- Lower stress levels
- Control diabetes

Taking charge of factors they can control can help women improve their overall health and lower their risk for heart disease. Women also should speak with their doctors about heart disease. Learn more at www.goredforwomen.org.

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Human Resources Department

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Oakland, MD 21550

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F: 301-533-4328

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Here are some facts to con-

Where are the SweetHearts?



By Clair Robins
candyshop.com

SweetHearts have gone missing. They are the most popular brand of the most popular Valentine's Day candy, and they're not on shelves this year. As a result, conversation hearts' reign as the top Valentine's Day candy will end this year - with sales falling by an estimated 80 percent.

Conversation hearts candies are the little hearts with cute sayings on them: Be Mine, Marry Me. They are the most popular candy for Valentine's Day season - which is estimated to generate over \$1.8 billion in candy sales.

If the biggest brand vanished, would conversation hearts still be the most popular candy? Not even close.

Sweethearts were made by the New England Confectionery Company, Necco, for short. And despite the Great Necco Wafer Panic of 2018, the company was not able to be saved. Necco is dead, and so are SweetHearts for now.

There are competing brands, but SweetHearts is the original, most recognized and most favored. SweetHearts' hold some level of sentimental value for most people in the US. Their nostalgia factor is strong.

Thus, when talking about conversation hearts, you're pretty much talking about SweetHearts. With over 19 million pounds sold each year, we estimate that over 80 percent of the conversation hearts purchased are SweetHearts brand.

It's not really possible to lose 80 percent and keep the throne.

So where does that leave overall conversation hearts sales this year. Down big time, we estimate.

Last year, we reported that, based on the number of pounds sold, conversation hearts were the new #1 Valentine's candy in America. Heart shaped boxes of chocolates had been overtaken after a slow and steady rise of the little sugar hearts with cute sayings on them.

Now that we have the full 2018 data, we can report that that trend increased slightly last year. As you can see in the chart above, we believe that trend will end sharply in 2019.

An 80 percent drop off in a

sales category that is over 23 million pounds seems like a lot of wasted profit potential. Why would anyone allow those sales to slip away, you ask?

Let's step back and take a look.

Why are SweetHearts missing? SweetHearts were made by the oldest continually operating candy company, Necco. They had been making SweetHearts since 1886.

Last year, Necco announced they needed to sell the company, and the fate of SweetHearts - as well as their other brands - was thrown into limbo. Would someone buy Necco, or buy the individual brands, or would Necco and SweetHearts just die?

On July 24, 2018 the factory was shut down. Factory workers were told not to show up to work the next day.

To give you an idea of why that matters to this year's crop, here are a few numbers.

- Necco produced about 100,000 pounds of SweetHearts every day.

- Necco produced about 8 billion conversation hearts each year.

- The full supply is sold within a six-week period, right before Valentine's Day.

- It took Necco 11 months to produce that many SweetHearts.

As you can see, unless the Necco factory was allowed to keep rolling, it was going to be tough to produce enough SweetHearts to meet demand come January. And if a new company was going to try and ramp up that kind of production that fast, it would be very difficult or very expensive.

In the end, Necco was bought in an auction by Round Hill Investments. They turned around and sold the SweetHearts brand to Spangler Candy Company in late September 2018. While all that time ticked away it became less and less likely that SweetHearts would be available for 2019.

Spangler has released a statement about the return of SweetHearts, "We wish we could have Sweethearts out for the 2019 Valentine season, but it's just not possible. We are committed to making sure these brands meet consumer expectations when they re-enter the market. Doing it right takes time."

So you'll have to find another way to share sweet noncommittal innuendo this year.

Stop by the Grant County Press
and choose from our selection of business cards or have your own custom-designed cards printed!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WANTED

The Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau is seeking resumes for the Executive Director position.

Strong skills in interpersonal communication, public speaking, writing and public relations are required. A Bachelor's Degree (or higher) is required. Resumes accepted through 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, at 126 South Main Street, Petersburg, WV 26847.

Looking for a career in healthcare?

You don't need a two year degree to start a rewarding career in healthcare. Grant Rehabilitation & Care Center Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program is starting in March 2019. The course program will be online with clinical training in the facility. You can begin your career in healthcare in only six weeks.



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Interested applicants can obtain an application from the front office or by visiting our website and applying online. Applications are being taken through February 22, 2019.

Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center is a non-profit facility and with respect to employment, provides equal opportunities for qualified individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, nationality, or creed.

www.grantrehabilitationcarecenter.com



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Petersburg, WV
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www.grantrehabilitationcarecenter.com

Beekeepers meeting

The Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA) will meet Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Bank of Romney Community Center, 165 E Main Street, Romney (across from Sheetz). All meetings are open to the public.

If you are interested in learning about beekeeping, are a beginner or are an experienced beekeeper, this is a forum where you will be able to learn and exchange beekeeping information. This will be the club's first meeting for 2019.

If Hampshire County schools are closed due to weather conditions, the meeting will be canceled.



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Mary.Rader@AirMedCareNetwork.Com

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2016 FORD F-350 CREW CAB & CHASSIS 4X4, XLT pkg., 6.7 diesel, auto., loaded, white, custom built by us with only 41K miles, one of a kind truck. Call for details.....\$44,900

2015 FORD F-250 CREW CAB LONGBED 4X4, XL pkg., 6.7 diesel, auto., loaded, white, only 26K miles, exc. condition.....\$36,900

2014 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, Premium XLT pkg., 6.7 diesel, auto., loaded, white w/red accents, 61K miles, very sharp.....\$36,900

2013 FORD F-250 SUPER CAB L/BED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., loaded, white, 326K highway miles, good cond.. \$14,900

2011 FORD F-350 CREW CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., white, power lift gate, 231K miles, good condition.....\$19,900

2010 DODGE RAM 1500 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, Laramie pkg., hemi V-8, auto., loaded, pearl white & tan, 136K miles, very clean truck.....\$17,900

2008 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED 4X2, Lariat pkg., 6.4 liter diesel, auto., loaded, dark stone w/tan leather, rust free southern truck with 152K miles, exc. condition.....\$16,900

2006 FORD F-450 SUPER CAB FLATBED 4X4, V-10, auto., loaded, white, 188K miles, Texas truck.....\$8,995

2005 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC 4X4, XLT pkg., 4.0 V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 180K miles.....\$9,500

2005 FORD F-450 FLATBED 4X4, 6.0 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 157K miles, exc. condition.....\$19,900

2000 INTERNATIONAL S-4700 DUMP TRUCK, 7.3 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 176K miles.....\$17,900

1999 INTERNATIONAL S-4700 FLATBED, 7.3 DT 466E, 5-spd., air, etc., white, 264K miles.....\$10,900

CARS

2014 FORD FOCUS SE 4-DR. HATCHBACK, 4-cyl., 5-spd., loaded, silver, 82K miles.....\$8,995

2013 FORD FOCUS S 4-DR. SEDAN, 4-cyl., 5-spd., air, etc., silver, only 75K miles, great work car.....\$6,995

2008 FORD FOCUS SES 2-DR., 4-cyl., automatic, loaded, blue, 152K miles, sharp car.....\$3,995

VANS AND SUVs

2017 FORD EXPEDITION EL PLATINUM 4X4, Ecoboost, auto., fully ldd., pearl white, only 13K, exc. cond....\$39,500

2016 SUBARU FORESTER AWD, Premium pkg., 2.5, 4-cyl., auto., loaded, silver, only 55K miles, exc. cond....\$21,900

2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN R/T, 3.6 liter, V-6, auto., loaded, charcoal, black leather, very sharp pkg. Only 53K miles.....\$19,900

2016 FORD ESCAPE AWD, Titanium pkg., ecoboost, 4-cyl., auto., loaded, 91K miles, like new.....\$17,900

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE LIMITED AWD, V-6, auto., loaded, silver, only 66K miles, exc. cond....\$14,900

2010 FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMITED AWD, black, V-8, auto., fully loaded, 96K miles, exc. cond....\$17,900

2010 MERCURY MARINER AWD, Premier pkg., V-6, auto., loaded, blue, 138K miles, exc. cond....\$8,995

2010 FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER RWD, V-6, auto., ldd., leather, 96K, exc. cond.....\$PECIAL \$9,500

2004 DODGE DURANGO LIMITED 4X4, V-8, auto., loaded, blue, one owner with 122K miles.....\$7,995

WRECKED REPAIRABLES.....Call Ted at 304-567-2999 for more details on these

2017 TOYOTA TACOMA CREW CAB TRD SPORT 4X4, Runs & drives, charcoal, 20K miles.....\$21,900

2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER FWD, SV pkg., blue, 35K miles, clear title, drive home.....\$13,900

2015 JEEP WRANGLER 2-DR 4X4, Runs & drives, black, 29K miles.....\$13,900

2015 FORD F-250 SUPER CAB L/BED 4X2, Runs & drives, clear title, white, 118K miles.....\$7,900

2014 SUBARU IMPREZA AWD HATCHBACK, Runs & drives, teal, only 5K miles.....\$5,500

2013 SPARTAN GLADIATOR FIRE TRUCK, Drive home, clear title, red, 41K miles.....\$69,500

2012 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED 4X4, Runs & drives, silver, 44K miles.....\$9,500

2012 FORD ESCAPE LIMITED AWD, Runs & drives, silver, 133K miles.....\$3,900

2011 FORD F-250 SUPER CAB L/BED 4X4, Runs & drives, clear title, orange, 249K miles.....\$6,900

2010 NISSAN FRONTIER EX. CAB 4X4, Runs & drives, black, 81K miles.....\$9,500

2010 FORD RANGER S/CAB 4-DR 4X2, Runs & drives, 72K miles.....\$5,900

2001 FORD F-350 4X2 DUALLY UTILITY TRUCK, V-10, 6-spd., white, needs engine, 161K miles.....\$3,900

SALE

2017 FORD EXPEDITION EL PLATINUM 4X4, Ecoboost, auto., fully ldd., pearl white, only 13K, exc. cond....\$39,500

2016 SUBARU FORESTER AWD, Premium pkg., 2.5, 4-cyl., auto., loaded, silver, only 55K miles, exc. cond....\$21,900

2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN R/T, 3.6 liter, V-6, auto., loaded, charcoal, black leather, very sharp pkg. Only 53K miles.....\$19,900

2016 FORD ESCAPE AWD, Titanium pkg., ecoboost, 4-cyl., auto., loaded, 91K miles, like new.....\$17,900

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE LIMITED AWD, V-6, auto., loaded, silver, only 66K miles, exc. cond....\$14,900

2010 FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMITED AWD, black, V-8, auto., fully loaded, 96K miles, exc. cond....\$17,900

2010 MERCURY MARINER AWD, Premier pkg., V-6, auto., loaded, blue, 138K miles, exc. cond....\$8,995

2010 FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER RWD, V-6, auto., ldd., leather, 96K, exc. cond.....\$PECIAL \$9,500

2004 DODGE DURANGO LIMITED 4X4, V-8, auto., loaded, blue, one owner with 122K miles.....\$7,995

2001 FORD F-350 4X2 D

County middle school science fair results announced

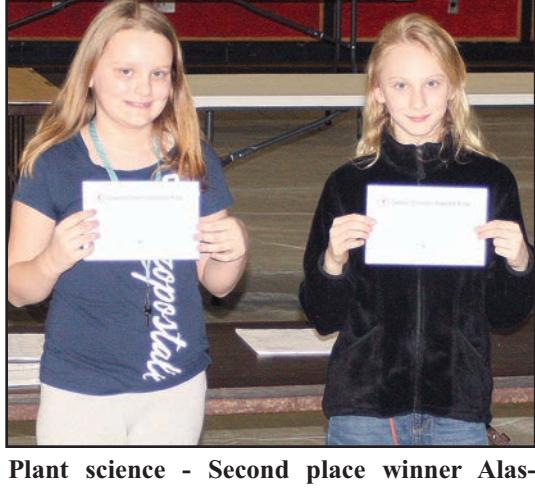
Middle school students from Petersburg Elementary, Petersburg High and Maysville Elementary competed in the county science fair, Feb. 5, at Union Educational Complex, Mount Storm.



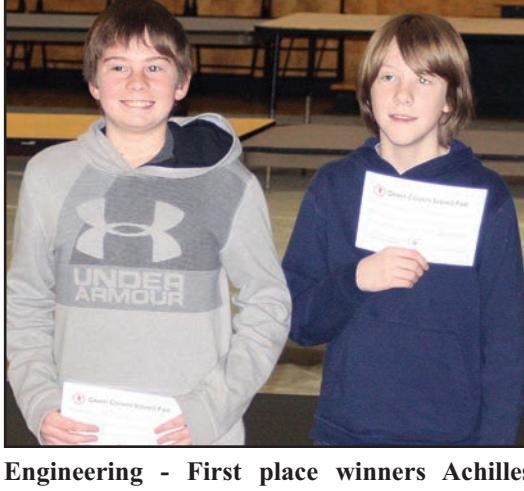
Physics and astronomy - Third place winners Kennedy Kaposy and Jailyn Cook, second place winner Clarissa Chapman and first place winner Cody Day.



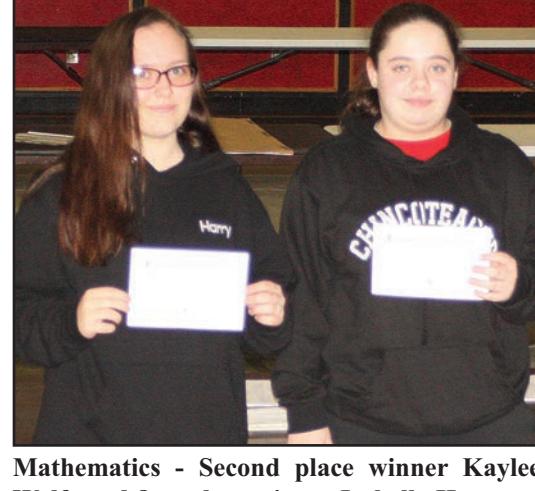
Chemistry - Honorable mentions Anna Waskey and Miranda Martin, third place winner Alena Droppleman, second place winner Breanna Funk and first place winner Emma Ludwig.



Plant science - Second place winner Alaska Kitzmiller and first place winner Cassidy Aronhalt.



Engineering - First place winners Achilles Judy and Aaron Roth.



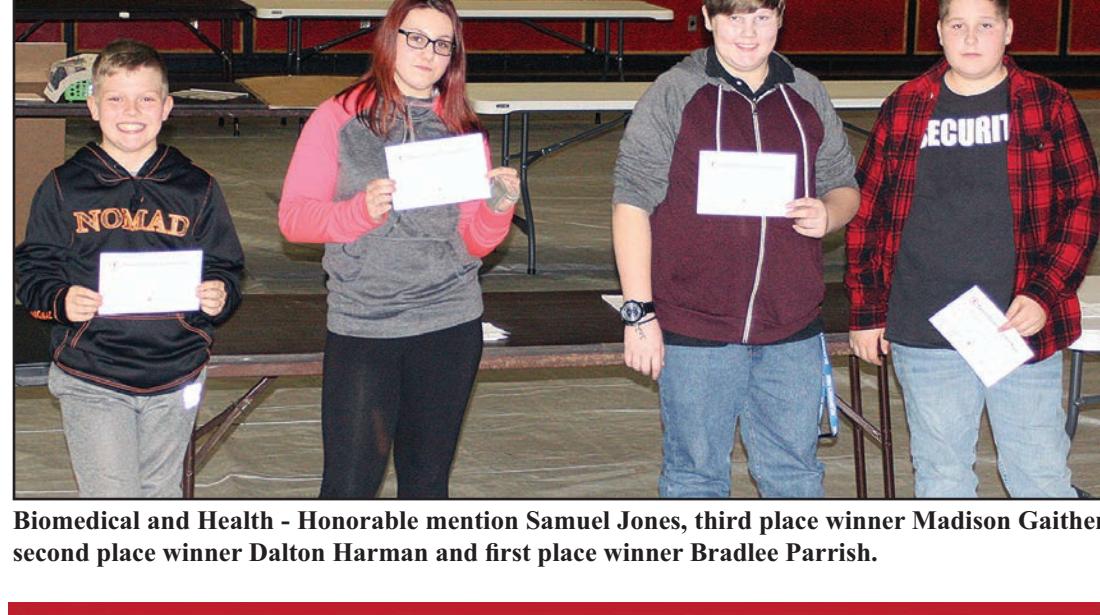
Mathematics - Second place winner Kaylee Wolfe and first place winner Isabella Harvey.



Animal science - Honorable mention winner Lexi Stahl and third place winner Alex Jones.



Behavioral and social science - Third place winners Andrea Murphy and Patience Moreland, second place winner Chanelle Sutton and first place winner Madison Kitzmiller.



Biomedical and Health - Honorable mention Samuel Jones, third place winner Madison Gaither, second place winner Dalton Harman and first place winner Bradlee Parrish.

Tree seedlings available

The Potomac Valley Conservation District is accepting orders for tree seedlings.

The seedlings may be used for windbreaks, forest products, erosion control, landscaping or wildlife cover.

The following varieties are available: Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Red Oak, White Oak, Sugar Maple, Black Walnut, Chinese Chestnut and American Redbud.

Most of the seedlings are of 3-year-old stock and range in size from 6-18 inches in height.

PVCD is also offering a variety of fruit trees. All will be bare root and approximately 3-5 ft. in height. Quantities are limited; it is suggested you place your order early to assure availability.

Orders will be accepted until March 22. The seedlings must be picked up at the Potomac Valley Conservation District office in Romney on Friday, April 12, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information or to obtain an order form, please call the District office at 304-822-5174, or email: pvcd@wvca.us.

Order forms are also available on the district web page: www.wvca.us/districts/pvcd.cfm



Energy - Second place winners Chris Hill and Noel Rochette and first place winner Xander Cummings.

Community calendar

Family Violence Support Group meets every Wednesday, 10 a.m. at the Family Crisis Center outreach office. 304-257-4606.

Grant County Democratic Committee meets the third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Petersburg. For further information call 3042-57-1487 or 304-257-4015.

Grant County Family Issues Task Force meets the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the conference room of the DHHR building.

Grant County Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Grant/Hardy Recovery Network meets every Monday at the Russ Hedrick Recovery Resource Center, 1812 Vandevander Dr., Petersburg. 304-668-6329. Meetings open to anyone dealing with substance abuse.

Landes Ruritan Club meets the third Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Landes Ruritan building, Rt. 220 S., Franklin Pike, Petersburg.

Petersburg Lions Club meets the first and third Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Kaposy's Great Room, South Main St., Petersburg.

Petersburg Order of the Eastern Star #146 meets every third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Practice very first Monday at 7 p.m.

Potomac Highlands Amateur Radio Club meets every third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Hardy County RRT building, Moorefield. Anyone interested in the radio hobby is welcome to attend. For more information go to www.pharc.org.

Potomac Highlands Shrine Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Landes Ruritan building, Franklin Pike. Social hour at 6 p.m., dinner/meeting at 6:30 p.m. Call Jack Hedrick for information 304-358-7773.

Suststance Abuse Prevention Coalition meets the third Thursday of every month, 11 a.m. at the Grant County DHHR conference room, Petersburg.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Tuesday, 5-5:45 p.m. (weigh-in), 6-7 p.m. meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church, South Main St., Petersburg. Call Janice Fritz 304-257-7893 or Bonnie McAllister 304-257-4970.

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