

Proudly Serving Grant County for 128 Years



## Easter Egg Hunts

• Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. both days at the Grant County Library. See page 3A  
 • Saturday, March 30, 3 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Church. See page 6A.  
 • Sunday, March 31, City Park, 1 p.m. See page 2A.



See page 4A.

## Viking Baseball team opens season

The Petersburg High School Vikings are starting their early season with a 1-1 record following a sturdy 16-2 win over Notre Dame High School but a tight 5-2 struggle against Southern... see page 1B.

## COVID-19 UPDATES

The Grant County Health Department now has the following immunizations. Call 304-257-4922 for an appointment.

## Support the Petersburg Food Pantry

As always, you may drop off your non-perishable donations to the Petersburg Interfaith Pantry at the Grant County Press. Monetary donations will also be forwarded to the food pantry.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

- Grant County Airport Bids
  - Town of Bayard Budget
  - City of Petersburg Budget
  - Estate Notices
  - WVDOH Bids
  - Hay Bids
- Pages 4B-5B



## Obituaries

Ruth Grapes  
 Reggie Kimble  
 Rosie Smith  
 Ervin Whetzel

## Index

Local Flavor	2A
Opinion pages	4A-5A
Obituary	6A
Sports	1B-2B
Classifieds/Legals	4B, 5B
Business Spotlight	8B

## poll question

Do you have any suggestions for possible offerings at the proposed Community Recreation Center in Petersburg?

Let us know on our Facebook page



# Communities unite to fight wildfires across four counties

Dozens of fire companies and hundreds of local volunteers banded together last week to fight multiple wildfires that rapidly spread across a reported 4,000 acres of land in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and across Virginia.

Prior to the fires being reported, the region was hit by a severe wind storm, with some Grant County residents reporting winds that exceeded 96 mph, scattering trees across roadways and overturning large vehicles.

The high winds even took the local radio station, WELD-FM and WQWV-FM, off-air on Wednesday night.

“We have a little tower that sends a signal to the big tower and she blew over,” said WELD DJ Chip Combs in an interview with Chris Lawrence of Metro News. “The winds were 50, 60, to 70 miles an hour and blew it down.”

Even though the station’s two FM channels were off, the station continued to broadcast

on their AM690 and all three stations were streaming online.

Power outages also affected the station but it was back on the air the next day.

While the exact causes of the fires are not yet known, the rapid spreading of the blaze has been attributed to extreme winds and low humidity.

While the fires heavily impacted Hardy, Hampshire and Pendleton counties as well, the main fire located in Grant County began in the early afternoon

of March 20, when the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company was alerted for a brush fire at the Spring Run Fish Hatchery.

“Engine Rescue 400 immediately responded with a crew of four due to our brush truck being on a call in Hardy County prior to arrival,” explained PVFC

See Fires, page 7A



# New rec center receives county funding

The Grant County Commission recently approved \$150,000 in funding towards a community recreation and sports center that has been proposed in Petersburg.

The funding approval came during the March 12 meeting of the Grant County Commission when the commissioners met with project leaders Jeremy Riggleman and Tyler Kuhn. Riggleman and Kuhn are the community members who initially proposed the project to county and city leadership earlier this year.

The two provided an update on the project, including that they had reached out to state delegates and officials to request funding and grant assistance, have applied for their 501c3 nonprofit status and have received support for the project from the Petersburg City Council.

Riggleman and Kuhn then requested that the commission allot the county funds already earmarked for a community center project to the nonprofit once its status receives

See County, page 7A

# Spring Mountain Festival pageant crowns queen

This past weekend, the annual Spring Mountain Festival pageant crowned Alaisa Martinez Toro as the 2024 festival queen.

The annual festival pageant is hosted by the Grant County Chamber of Commerce and held at the Landes Arts Center.

“The Spring Mountain Festival Pageant committee sends our thanks to all the ladies, young and younger, for being in our pageant, and to their families that supported them and the community who turned out to see a great pageant,” the host announced on social media following the pageant.

The Spring Mountain Festival will be held in the Petersburg City Park on April 26-28.



First runner-up: Madelyn Johnson; Queen, Crowd Pleaser and Miss Photogenic: Alaisa Martinez Toro; second runner-up: Chloe Weikle and Miss Congeniality: Haven Ratcliff

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# BOGAL FLAVOR

**By Camille Howard**  
 “Hippity, hoppity, Easter’s on its way!” Do you remember that little song about Peter Cottontail?  
 Some things that we don’t need to remember seem to be lodged in our brains and will never leave, such as songs we learned when we were kids.  
 Not only do I remember the words to “Here Comes Peter Cottontail,” I also remember Christmas kid songs, Mother Goose songs like “Jack and Jill”, a variety of Sunday school and camp songs, and jingles from television commercials.  
 The Oscar Mayer wiener song comes to mind and, of all things, the Winston cigarette song!  
 My sister and I also know some weird songs like “Sarasponda” and “Chickery Chick” - a song from the 1940s. Then there’s “Kumala Vista” or maybe the real title is “Flee Fly Flo”, I’m not sure.  
 I really need to remember where I left my coffee cup or my phone, but instead my brain is clogged up with silly songs.  
 And after typing those last two words, I now remember the Veggie Tales cartoon segment, Silly Songs with Larry, and “Oh Where is My Hairbrush?”  
 Really, having silly songs pop into my head at odd times is probably good for my sanity (as long as

I don’t sing them out loud in public).  
 So, back to Easter ... I’m planning on having Easter dinner for 20 this year, which could be interesting since our house is pretty small. Last year we started out at the kitchen table and extending two more tables into the living room.  
 I’m hoping for good weather so we can spend time outside on Saturday and have our annual egg hunt for the kids.  
 Early Sunday morning we’ll all be at church for sunrise service, enjoy breakfast together, then morning worship. I’ll have to say I like having a pew



or two packed with family, and we’ve got some good singers in the group so the harmony adds so much to the songs of praise.  
 Every year some of us try our hand at Easter and spring food, such as bunny cupcakes or ones decorated with colored coconut and jelly beans in the middle. One year I dyed the white halves of the deviled eggs in pastel colors and this year I found another egg-shaped treat.  
 It’s for Jell-O eggs and the recipe is to make several different colors of Jell-O (using the Jigglers recipe) and pour them into deviled egg holder slots. It’s

an easy dessert and you can make it with sugar free Jell-O, also.  
 Erin and I are making little bunny pretzel melts for a snack and I’ll be making pies; pecan as usual and I think a custard pie would be good.  
 My brother once called me to get my pecan pie recipe, so I said “Go to the grocery store, pick up a bottle of Karo light corn syrup, and look on the label. That’s it.” So much for a secret recipe!  
 I hope each of you has a wonderful week and a blessed Easter!

**BUNNY PRETZEL SQUARES**  
**Pretzel squares (Snyder’s brand)**  
**White candy melts**  
**Spring colored M&Ms**  
**Sort out the M&Ms by color: one whole and two halves for each pretzel. Cut some of the M&Ms in half for the ears.**  
**Lay pretzels on a microwave safe plate (a paper plate will work). Top each pretzel with one white candy melt. Microwave at 50% power for 30 seconds at**

**a time until the candy is soft and somewhat melted.**  
**Working quickly, drop a whole M&M onto each pretzel, then add two M&M halves to make ears. Gently press the M&Ms into the melty candy.**  
**Allow candy melts to set up completely – about 15 minutes.**  
**Do a test pretzel first to make sure the chocolate doesn’t melt through the pretzel. Work in small batches.**

**JELL-O JIGGLERS**  
**1 (3 ounce) package Jell-O gelatin, any flavor**  
**1 cup boiling water**  
**Dump the boiling water in a bowl.**  
**Slowly stir in the jello, add a little at a time.**  
**Stir well.**  
**Pour into small bread pan, Jell-O molds or a plastic deviled egg tray that has been sprayed with cooking spray or wiped lightly with vegetable oil.**  
**Refrigerate; will be firm in 1 hour.**  
**For Easter eggs, put a dollop or squirt of whipped cream on top.**  
*Jigglers are a handheld snack.*

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Sunday, March 31 • 1 p.m.  
**PETERSBURG CITY PARK**  
 Children ages 10 and under, divided into 2 age groups  
 Prizes! Visit the Easter Bunny!  
 Sponsored by Post 78 American Legion Riders

**WV DHHR**  
**Office Assistant II**  
 Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from a standard high school or the equivalent and the equivalent of 2 years of paid experience in routine office work.  
 Interested applicants may send their cover letter and resume  
**To: Megan Pugh, WVDHHR, 53 Kiess Drive, Petersburg, WV 26847 or call (304) 257-4211.**  
 Must apply online with WVDOP before being hired.  
 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**NOW HIRING!**  
**Kitchen Helper/Cook**  
 Pendleton Senior & Family Services has an immediate opening for a kitchen helper/cook. This is a part-time opening receiving up to 30 hours per week.  
 Qualified applicants must pass a background check and have a food handler’s card or be able to obtain one. The applicant must also be able to prepare and serve meals in a group setting according to nutritional guidelines.  
 Experience preparing meals for the public and large crowds is preferred!  
 Applicant must be able to work as part of a team but also able to work independently without direction or supervision when needed. Ability to get along with others, especially senior center participants, and have a positive attitude.  
 This is a part-time position. If interested, please pick up an application at our office at 365 Mill Road, Franklin, and return it there or visit our website at [www.pfsi.org](http://www.pfsi.org) and complete an application.

## Health department April schedule

**HOURS: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed 12 - 12:30 p.m. 304-257-4922**  
**2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Immunization Clinics: By appointment only on Tuesday afternoons.**  
**By Appt. Only Vaccines, blood pressure screenings and family planning supplies.** New patients, please bring your immunization records. All patients need to bring all insurance card information with them on every visit. Free or minimal charge for vaccines and family planning supplies.  
 • **PCV20/Prevnar, Shingles/Shingrix** can be given if your insurance does not cover for eligible adults.  
**Covid-19** For Covid-19 information, visit the website [dhr.wv.gov/covid-19](http://dhr.wv.gov/covid-19).  
**19 & 25 Women’s Health Clinics (Family Planning Program & BCCSP/Breast**

**and Cervical Cancer Screening Program)** - Free or reduced rates on pap smears and breast exams with Alicia VanMeter, FNP-BC.  
**By Appt. Only Confidential testing and treatment for HIV and STDs/Sexually Transmitted Diseases.**  
**CHANGE Food Handlers’ Training:** Any online ANSI Food Handler certified courses or a WV state approved food handler’s card from other W.Va. counties is accepted in Grant County. To access approved ANSI online courses, search **ANSI certified food handler certificate.**  
**BRING IN INSURANCE CARD(S) INFORMATION FOR ALL VISITS.** View [www.grantcountyhealthdepartment.com](http://www.grantcountyhealthdepartment.com) for clean air regulations, food inspection reports, etc.

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## Community Meetings & Events

**Job Fair for AWP, AWPI employees and contracted workers:** Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Michael Building, 39 South Main Street, Petersburg. Hosted by Work-Force West Virginia.  
**Civil Air Patrol:** The Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron is recruiting cadets (ages 12-18) and adults to become members. The squadron building is on the grounds of Grant County Airport, Johnson Run Road, Petersburg. Weekly meetings are Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Lt. John Banks at [john.banks@wvwcg.cap.gov](mailto:john.banks@wvwcg.cap.gov). [gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)  
**Convention of States** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Petersburg American Legion. Come join the group that will save our country. <https://conventionofstates.com>.  
**Grant County Adult Education** enrolls students for their High School Equivalency and does TABE testing for the DHHR every Friday from 8:30

am-12 noon. Call 304-257-1277 to schedule or request information.  
**Grant County Board of Education** meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the board office on Jefferson Avenue.  
**Grant County Commission** meets every month on the second Tuesday at 9 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room. For the agenda check [grantcountywv.org](http://grantcountywv.org)  
**Grant County Historical Society** board of directors meetings will be posted on the Society’s Facebook page. Members are welcome to attend.  
**Grant Memorial Hospital board meetings** are held the fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in the administrative conference room at Grant Memorial Hospital.  
**New Beginnings Community Outreach,** Thursday, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church.  
**Patterson Creek Ruritan Club** meets the second Thurs-

day of each month, 6 p.m. at Forman Community Center in Lahmansville.  
**Potomac Highlands Cancer Support Group** for cancer patients and caregivers, meets the first Monday of every month, 5 p.m. at Living Hope Baptist Church, 1 Veach St., Petersburg. Refreshments.  
**Petersburg City Council** meets the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at City Hall on Mt. View St.  
**T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meets at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Living Hope Baptist Church, North Fork Highway, Petersburg, (just after the post office on left). Call Wendy DeiCas at 304-257-2349. for more information.  
**GRANT COUNTY TIRE COLLECTION:** Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Maysville DOH garage, 157 Lower Knobley Access Road, Maysville. Only tires from state residents will be accepted. No tires from businesses. 10 tires per person limit will be strict-

**ANSWERS FROM PUZZLES ON PAGE 7B**

18 = 56  
 9 + 7 = 8 = 2  
 4 - 3 + 5 = 6  
 6 + 1 x 2 = 14

**Go Figure!**

6. Night, Fight  
 7. Lever, Level  
 8. Teller, Taller  
 9. Alive, Alike  
 10. Saint, Stint

**King Crossword**

1. Submit, Summit  
 2. Guest, Quest  
 3. Prude, Prune  
 4. Yankee, Yanked  
 5. Braise, Bruise

**Cryptoquote**

Reputation is often got without merit and lost without fault. — English proverb

**SNOWFLAKES**

**ANSWERS**

**Even Exchange**

**Healthy Saturday**  
**WVU Medicine**  
 GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION  
**April 6, 2024**  
 6:00 am – 9:00 am

- Limited to 200 people
- Appointment Only - Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by April 4th to register
- No walk-ins
- Masks are optional

Profile I - \$20 | Profile II - \$25 | Profile III (males only) - \$30

A1c Test (offered by Judy’s Drug Store) - \$20

Vitamin B12 Test \$10  
 Vitamin D Test - \$20

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ly enforced. Tires must be off the rim. Passenger car or light truck tires only.

# Grant Memorial Hospital AVP receives DAISY Nurse Leader Award

Elaine Geroski, RN, MSN, CNOR, CSSM (E), assistant vice president of patient services at WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital, received the DAISY Nurse Leader Award, which was presented to her at the recent Association of Perioperative Nurses (AORN) conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The DAISY Nurse Leader Award was created to shine a light on those who do not typically have direct patient care as part of their work and those who create an environment where compassionate, skillful care thrives.

The award recognizes nurse managers, directors, assistant managers, charge nurses, chief nursing officers, informatics nurses, and patient flow nurses.

"This award is well-deserved," Melanie Heuston, DNP, RN, NEA-BC,



Elaine Geroski is shown receiving the DAISY Nurse Leader Award from Arthur Shapiro, AORN member and secretary/treasurer of CCI.

chief nursing executive for the WVU Health System, said. "I'm so proud of our nurse leaders, like Elaine, who go out of their way

to create an environment where attributes, such as trust, compassion, respect, professional development, innovation, collaboration,

and ethical behavior, are modeled and supported."

The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by members of the family of J. Patrick Barnes, who wanted to do something positive to honor their son after he died from complications of an autoimmune disease in 1999.

They came up with DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System), an international recognition program that honors and celebrates nurses.

Geroski was also recognized at the conference for her outstanding service as the board president of the Competency and Credentialing Institute (CCI), the credentialing body for perioperative nurses, for the past three years. During her term, which ended in 2023, CCI added three new credentials for a total of five.

# Maysville Elementary School honor roll

Principal Megan DiBenedetto has released the names of those students attaining honor roll status for the third nine weeks of the 2023-24 school year.

## A HONOR ROLL

Chase Berg, Lucas Clark, McKenley Hedrick, Christian Herron, Chasity Jenkins, Tatem Keplinger, Evelyn Kochenderfer, Payten Lambert, Lillie Roberts, Kaylee Sutherland, McKenna Taylor, Camden Barger, Elovie Bogan, Qumaisa Cole, Savannah Goldizen, Audrey Hall, Myla Heare, Jameson Kessel, Carson Lambert, Ryleigh Layton, Paisley Moreland, Chase Nellis, Kai Rosser, Miley

Runion, Madilynn Sullivan, Viola Bradford, Orion Conrad, Kyler Evans, Maggie Evans, Jase Kuh, Aaralyn Martin, Paxton Miller, Josiah Morrell, Jemma Poore, Abigail Shirk, Rachel Shreve, Erik Takacs, Paxton Traub, Sawyer Welch, Alexa Conrad, Lonnie Cook, William Cook, Benjamin Dailey, Jace Evans, Faith Funk, Kaylee Goldizen, Lilly Hawk, Ezra Heese, Karley Kessel, Adilyn Law, Ella Riggleman, Callie Roberts, Reese Rohrbaugh, Elijah Simms, Nadia Swick, John Luke Watts, Jayla Bierkamp, Cambrie Cole, Braxton Heavener, Aubrey Kessel,

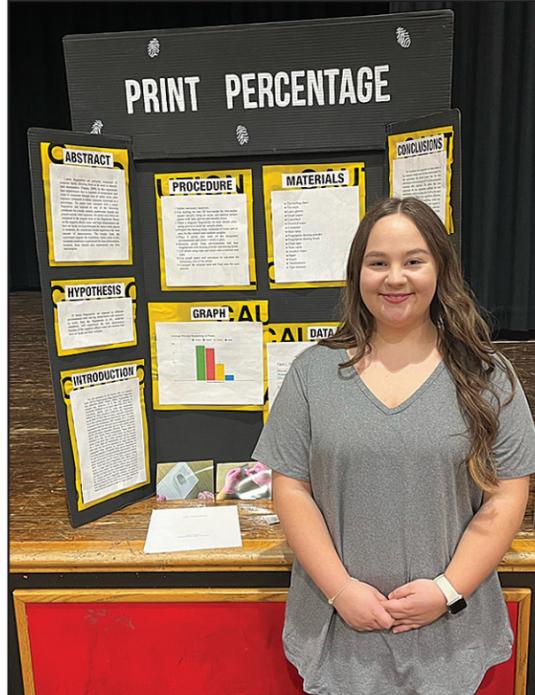
Remington Rohrbaugh, Tyler Sites, Cameron Brown, Fredrick Crocker, Ally Haggerty, Seneca Boddy, Chase Pletcher, Logan Nellis and Zander See.

## B HONOR ROLL

Josiah Beers, Orianna

Heavener, Leah Keplinger, Alexandria Redman, Klara Lambert, Jonnah Wilson, Madison Ketterman, Jayden Hedrick, Noah Rumpfelt, Anniston Ours, Gracelyn Crocker, Zoey Evans and Dominic See.

# Vance places first in regional science fair



Petersburg High School senior Sara Vance presented "Print Percentage" at the Eastern Panhandle Regional Science Fair on Feb. 15, at Potomac State College in Keyser. Her project tested the degradation percentage of fingerprints after exposure to various environmental conditions. This research is important to consider when collecting and analyzing fingerprint samples for forensic purposes. She was awarded first place in the category of microbiology.

# UHS regional social studies fair winners head to state contest



Union High School students Haley Judy (left) and Chanelle Sutton (right) placed first in their categories at the Regional VIII Social Studies Fair and will be moving on to the state social studies fair in Charleston.

# Mitchell represents WV Farm Bureau at national leadership conference



Earlier this month, Cody Mitchell of Petersburg, represented the West Virginia Farm Bureau and competed in the the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers collegiate discussion meet in Omaha, Nebraska.



## EASTER EGG HUNTS

### GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m.

## Maysville Volunteer Fire Company ANNUAL SPRING GUN BASH

Saturday, March 30

Doors open at 11 a.m. • Food served at 12 p.m.

Tickets \$10 each

For tickets call the station at 304-749-7731

Food will be served with admission

Guns provided by Tri-County Firearms and Archery

\$5.00 admission for non ticket holders.

Food will be served with valid admission.

ONLY 3,000 TICKETS SOLD. No take out food allowed.

Maysville VFC reserves the right to substitute any guns and prizes. MUST BE 18 TO CLAIM PRIZES.

Winner need not be present. Winners will be notified.

Prizes not claimed within 30 days will be forfeited. All guns are final. Maysville VFC is not responsible for state insta-check approval. Not responsible for typographical errors.

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2 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

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# PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

## APRIL 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tennis (A) 4:00 Keyser MS Softball (A) 5:00 Morgantown Softball (H) 6:00 Tucker County	2 Track (A) 4:30 Keyser MS Baseball (H) 5:30 Pendleton Baseball (A) 6:00 Tucker County	3 Tennis (H) Noon Notre Dame MS Baseball (A) 6:00 Tucker Valley MS Softball (A) 6:00 Pendleton County	4 Softball (A) 6:00 Moorefield	5 Baseball (H) 5:00 Allegany MS Baseball (A) 5:00 Philip Barbour Softball (H) 6:00 Bridgeport	6 MS Softball (H) Noon & 2:00 Buceton
8 Tennis (A) 4:00 Berkeley Springs MS Baseball (A) 5:30 Tygarts Valley Baseball (A) 6:00 Spring Mills	9 Track (A) 4:30 Keyser MS Baseball (H) 6:00 Tucker Valley Softball (H) 6:00 East Hardy MS Softball (H) 6:00 Tygarts Valley	10 Tennis (H) 4:00 Philip Barbour Baseball (A) 6:00 East Hardy Softball (H) 6:00 Pendleton County State Social Studies Fair	11 Track (A) 4:00 E. Hardy MS Track (A) 4:30 Elkins Baseball (H) 5:30 Hedgesville MS Softball (H) 6:00 Pendleton County	12 Baseball (A) 4:30 Calvary Christian Tennis (H) 4:00 Moorefield Track (A) 4:30 Elkins	13 MS Baseball (A) 1:00 & 3:00 Buckhannon ACT Testing PROM
15 Baseball (A) 4:30 Fort Hill Tennis (A) 4:00 Elkins MS Softball (H) 6:00 Mountaineer Middle	16 Track (A) 4:30 Keyser MS Baseball (A) 5:30 Pendleton County Softball (H) 6:00 Allegany	17 MS Track (H) 3:30 Baseball (A) 6:30 Moorefield Softball (A) 6:00 Tucker Progress reports go home SAT Testing	18 Track (A) 4:30 Keyser MS Baseball (H) 5:30 Tygarts Valley	19 MS Softball (A) TBA Westwood Middle Tennis (A) 8 a.m. Keyser	20 MS Softball (A) TBA Westwood Middle Baseball (A) 11:00 Martinsburg MS Baseball (A) 1:00 & 3:00 Rappahannock Track (A) 5:00 Philip Barbour
22 Track (A) 4:00 Moorefield MS Baseball (A) 5:00 Elkins Softball (H) 6:00 Frankfort	23 Baseball (A) 4:30 Southern Garrett	24 Baseball (H) Noon Hampshire Track (A) 3:00 E. Hardy MS Track (A) 3:00 Hampshire Tennis (H) 4:00 Frankfort MS Baseball (H) 5:30 Pendleton County Softball (A) 6:00 Pendleton County	25 Tennis (A) 4:00 Moorefield Track (A) 4:30 Keyser Softball (A) 7:00 Keyser	26 Baseball (A) 5:30 & 7:00 South Harrison MS Baseball (A) 6:00 Terra Alta/E. Preston Early Release FFA Banquet 6:30	27 MS Softball (H) 1:00 South Middle Morgantown All Class Open House 9-11 a.m. 5K Walk-Run
29 Baseball (H) 5:30 Fort Hill	30 MS Track (A) 4:30 Keyser MS Baseball (H) 5:00 Philip Barbour MS Softball (H) 5:00 Westwood Middle Baseball (A) 6:00 Tygarts Valley	Red Cross Blood Drive April 16 8:00 to 2:00			

NO SCHOOL Spring Break April 1-5

PETERSBURG 304-257-4111 KEYSER 304-788-8040  
MOOREFIELD 304-538-6566 HARMAN 304-227-4104  
RIVERTON 304-567-2224 DAVIS 304-259-5201  
CANAAN VALLEY 304-866-4848

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# Your chance to pay back our volunteer fire companies

We can't say enough about our Grant County volunteer fire companies and their "above and beyond the call of duty" mindset that kept them wrangling ever-spreading fires that started here last Wednesday.

Day and night they were on scene as the fires jumped across the forest, mostly in the Spring Run area of Dorcas. Their voices across the scanner here in the office didn't tell the true story of the team effort made against the growing fires as they coordinated with Grant Com between fire companies as well as other volunteers.

The winds were wicked and the sometimes freezing night temps added to the difficulty of the fight, which turned into a community firefighting effort, not only here but in the surrounding counties.

Construction and excavating companies volunteered their heavy equipment, others hauled water, showed up with other needed equipment, and donated an amazing amount of food and drinks. Law enforcement and EMS were on hand to lend aid.

If you were on any social media accounts, you saw the pictures and the many thanks and prayers that have been offered on behalf of those on scene.

All those days and nights of continual usage of equipment have taken their toll. Just last month, all companies were present at the fire that consumed two buildings on Virginia Avenue, keeping the fire from spreading down the street.

The majority of you support our local volunteer fire companies - Petersburg, Maysville, Mount Storm and Bayard - through donations, purchasing bash tickets and attending fundraisers. That support enables them to keep going.

However, sometimes it's just not enough when it comes to financing the trucks and mandatory gear each company needs, plus other expenses it takes to maintain a firehouse and protect their members.

If you want to do something huge for our Grant County volunteer fire companies, you will have an opportunity in November.

There's no cost, just a moment of your time. The time it takes to vote for the fire levy. A push of a button or a mark on a ballot is all that's required to make a big difference in the service all four provide to this county.

None stand alone. They all must work together; back each other up. It's the only way to cover such a large area and all the property therein.

If you have never participated in an election, this is the time to make it happen. You must be registered to vote to put additional weight behind your contributions and thank-yous.

Do not let the words "my vote doesn't matter" enter your mind or roll off your tongue. In a county with a small population, local elections and levies matter down to the very last vote.

For those of you who have not registered, you can go to the Grant County Clerk's office in the courthouse and ask to be registered. It's painless.

If your schedule doesn't allow you to visit the clerk's office during regular business hours visit GoVoteWV.com. It's easy to do on your phone, tablet or computer.

You can also update your address or status, or check your voting precinct there.

The generosity of Grant County residents is one thing that makes this county a great place to live. Extend that generosity with your vote for the fire levy.

Where would we be if our volunteer fire companies didn't exist? If last week is any indication ... in ashes.

## LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters are subject to editing and those longer than 400 words will usually not be published. No more than one letter per month per person will be published.

Political endorsements as well as letters of opposition to any candidate, and thank you notes, are considered advertising, not subjects for letters.

This policy has been in effect for over 15 years.



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EDITORIAL..... Camille Howard, Managing Editor  
NEWS & SPORTS.....Erin Camp  
ADVERTISING.....Tara Pratt, Ad Manager  
CIRCULATION..... Mary Simmons  
BOOKKEEPING..... Peggy Hughes  
Published each Tuesday and entered weekly as periodicals at the Post Office at Petersburg, WV 26847. Subscription Price: \$36.00 (tax included) yearly in Grant County; \$39.00 (tax included) yearly elsewhere in West Virginia; \$41.00 yearly outside of West Virginia. POSTMASTER, send change of address to P.O. Box 39, 47 S. Main St., Petersburg, WV 26847.

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Lee Hamilton

Disagree Better. That's the name of an interesting initiative at the National Governors Association this year, spearheaded by the organization's current chair, Utah Republican Gov. Spencer Cox.

The idea, in a nutshell, is to "reduce partisan animosity and foster healthy debate by modeling a more positive and optimistic way of working through policy problems," as the NGA puts it.

It would be easy to scoff, of course. In this era of bitter political hostility, as we head into a presidential election that is likely to prove even more negative and divisive than the last one, talk of reducing animosity and boosting healthy and constructive debate seems like a nice dream that's got no chance of becoming reality.

But the thing about governors is that most are not dreamers. They're confronted every day by the nuts and bolts of making their states work. Unlike, say, Congress, they have no

choice but to tackle the issues challenging their residents, towns, cities, and counties. Or as Cox put it not long ago, "Potholes aren't partisan."

Which means governors are also in a position to make a difference. As the NGA writes on its page about Cox's effort, "We need to learn to disagree in a way that allows us to find

**"We need to learn to disagree in a way that allows us to find solutions and solve problems instead of endlessly bickering. An 'exhausted majority' of Americans want this ..."**  
— Gov. Spencer Cox, Utah

solutions and solve problems instead of endlessly bickering. An 'exhausted majority' of Americans want this, and the science is clear about interventions that reduce polarization. As doers and builders, governors are in a unique position to model what healthy conflict looks like."

And, in fact, there do seem to be "interventions" that reduce polarization. One example comes from Cox

himself. In the 2020 gubernatorial election, as he sought to move up from the lieutenant governorship, he and his Democratic opponent, law professor Christopher Peterson, cut an ad together in which they pledged to abide by the election results. "Win or lose, in Utah, we work together," Peterson said in the ad.

It was a nice, hopeful touch, but it was also more than that. That agreement between the two candidates was one of several dozen approaches noted in a Stanford University megastudy (basically, a study of studies) aimed at finding practical, real-world strategies for reducing polarization that might lead to violence.

Highlighting "endorsements of democratic principles by political elites," the study found—with the Cox-Peterson example front and center—was one of the most effective strategies for reducing public support for undemocratic practices.

So were correcting exaggerated stereotypes of supporters of the other

Division  
Continued on Page 5A

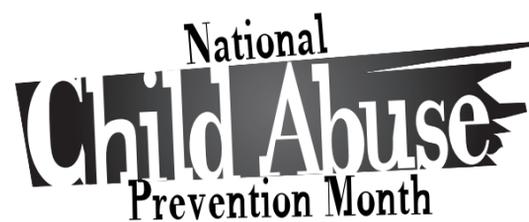
# Can we bridge division?

# Everyone can play a part in supporting families in their communities

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and MountainHeart Community Services Inc. encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making every community a better place for children and families.

By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources that they need to care for their children, you can help prevent child abuse and neglect by creating strong and thriving children, youth, and families in your communities.

Research shows that protective factors are present in healthy families. Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the large society that reduce risk and promote healthy development



and wellbeing. Promoting the following protective factors is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting skills and child/youth development
- Social connections
- Concrete support for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

April is a time to celebrate the important role the communities play in

protecting children and strengthening families.

Peggy Rittenhouse, community resource and outreach specialist, stated "Everyone's participation is critical. Focusing on ways to connect with families is the best things our community can do to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

In support of these efforts, the Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with its information

service, the Child Welfare Information Gateway, the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, and over 30 national prevention partners, has created the Prevention Resource Guide: Strong and Thriving Families, Prevention with a Purpose. The resource guide, designed for service providers who work throughout the community to support families is available online at:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/resource-guide/>

For additional information, please contact the Petersburg office at 304-257-9375.

# West Virginia Sen. Capito unsure why Manchin has moved to block judicial picks

By Charles Young  
WV News

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., said she doesn't know why her fellow West Virginia senator has decided to block President Joe Biden's judicial nominees.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., as first reported by Politico, has announced plans to vote against any of the president's judicial picks if the candidate does not have support from a Republican.

"Just one Republican. That's all I'm asking for. Give me something bipartisan. This is my own little filibuster. If they can't get one Republican, I vote for none. I've told (Demo-

crats) that. I said, 'I'm sick and tired of it. I can't take it anymore,'" Manchin said in an interview Wednesday.

Capito, speaking during her weekly press briefing Thursday, said she was unsure of Manchin's motivations.

"I can't explain, all of a sudden, why he's decided to vote against these," she said. "Because I think he's voted for some in the past.

She had voted against the president's nominees because she feels they lack the necessary qualifications, Capito said.

"A lot of the nominees that the president has put forward for our courts — and we know they are life-

time appointments — are very unqualified," she said. "And they are checking boxes of a liberal agenda, so there's going to be no Republican support for many of these."

Also last Thursday, Capito discussed the \$1.2 trillion spending package congressional lawmakers had to pass before Friday to avert a government shutdown.

"We are going to be voting here in the next several days to fund our government — again, finally," she said.

The package consists of six separate spending bills, Capito said.

"I believe they will

pass," she said. "It is more spending on defense, but overall less spending."

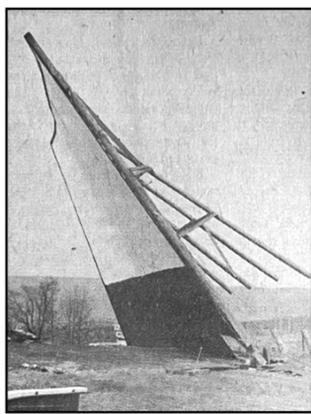
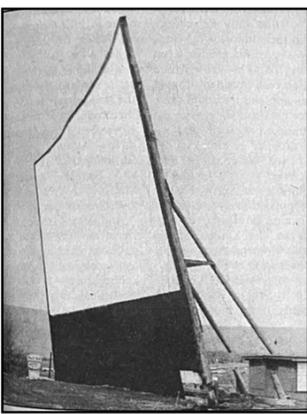
She was able to secure several West Virginia-specific priorities in the package, Capito said.

"(Like) trying to help Charleston Area Medical Center stand up a new neurosciences institute with Marshall, and also getting some help with their cybersecurity, an important new area of emphasis at Marshall," she said. "I'm very pleased."

Lawmakers needed to pass the package before 12:01 a.m. on Saturday to avoid a shutdown.



# Remember When



**GONE!** A 20-year tradition in Petersburg came crashing down in early April 1984, when workmen demolished the screen and speaker system at the Fort Hill Drive-In, owned by Trent Veach. Helping to cut down the towering screen were Dale and Marty Sites.

GOING ...

GOING ...

**March 31, 1954**  
Veach-Townsend Clinic births included: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Feaster of Maysville, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Berg Jr. of Petersburg, a daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warner of Circleville, a son.

County's oldest homes near the Spring Run Trout Hatchery. The house, believed to be between 150 and 200 years old, was occupied by Ervin Kesner and Ralph Vance.

and Mrs. Thomas Dawson of Arthur, a son, March 20; Mr. and Mrs. David Fulk of Upper Tract, a daughter, March 21; and Mr. and Mrs. Rembert Moyers of Doe Hill, Va., a son, March 23.

gional FBLA conference in Wheeling March 17. They were PHS seniors Sheila Rexrode, Pam Kimble, Melba Redman, Debbie Judy and Cecilia Beckwith.

Those receiving their drivers' licenses were: Edith Wuerth of Petersburg; Donald Vance of Petersburg; Laura Crites of Moorefield; Virginia Hess of Maysville; Marietta Vance of Dorcas; Hilda Kimble of Arthur; Eston Kimble of Arthur; Ruth Keplinger of Maysville; Bruce Riggleman of Petersburg; Peggy Carr of Greenland; and Arvella Dolly of Lahmansville.

Carolyn Shobe was honored with a seventh birthday party given by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Shobe.

**March 27, 1974**

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Iman of Petersburg announced the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Eva Rosemary, to Lonnie Garrison Borrer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Borrer, also of Petersburg.

Emory Eye, owner of Eye's Quick Lunch, located next to Ebert's Five and Ten Store, moved into his new location under W.E. Harman and Son general merchandise store directly across the street by the local post office.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Archie Self of New Creek, a son, March 18; Mr. and Mrs. David Lipscomb of Petersburg, a daughter, March 20; Mr.

On March 29, the Town of Bayard celebrated its 81st birthday, as an incorporated town.

The 115 member staff of Rockingham Memorial Hospital elected Dr. James D. Evans as chief of staff for 1984.

Fire of undetermined origin leveled one of Grant

Carolyn Shobe was honored with a seventh birthday party given by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Shobe.

Carolyn Shrove of Smoke Hole had been accepted for enrollment in the WVU School of Dentistry.

The Vikings were defeated in the state championship tournament's semi-final round by Wheeling Central High School, 75-61. This was the third time in school history the Vikings made it to the state tournament. PHS had never advanced beyond the semi-final round.

**March 25, 1964**

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Archie Self of New Creek, a son, March 18; Mr. and Mrs. David Lipscomb of Petersburg, a daughter, March 20; Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Crites of Dorcas announced the birth of a daughter, March 20, at Grant Memorial Hospital.

Five FBLA members placed at the Northern Re-

## Highlands Bankshares Inc. announces year end 2023 results

Highlands Bankshares, Inc., the parent company of The Grant County Bank and Capon Valley Bank, posted year ended 2023 earnings of \$3,557,000 or \$2.26 per share of common stock outstanding (EPS), compared to \$4,427,000 or \$3.31 EPS for the same period of 2022.

terly dividend to shareholders of \$0.42 per share. The dividend was payable to all shareholders of record as of Feb. 26, and was paid on or about March 1.

sets (ROAA) decreased in 2023 to 0.65%, as compared to 0.84% in the same period of 2022. The return on average equity (ROAE) decreased to 6.41% at December 31, 2023, as compared to 8.05% at Dec. 31, 2022.

Dec. 31, 2022. Total liabilities increased \$20,246,000 as of Dec. 31, 2023 to \$492,645,000 compared to Dec. 31, 2022 as a result of deposit growth.

On Feb. 13, the board of directors declared a quar-

Based upon the current market price and annualizing the dividends paid to shareholders this quarter, Highlands' current dividend yield is 4.48%.

Total assets, as of Dec. 31, 2023, increased \$20,741,000 to \$548,163,000 compared to

Shareholders' equity at Dec. 31, 2023 was \$55,518,000 or \$41.53 per outstanding share, compared to Dec. 31, 2022 of \$55,023,000 or \$41.16 per outstanding share.

## Division

Continued from Page 4A

party — basically, providing hard evidence that people's worst fears about people on the other side of the partisan fence were unfounded—and showing them graphic evidence (including the storming of the US Capitol on Jan. 6) of the violence that can happen when democratic norms collapse.

far from the West Virginia line. "We can have our differences without being divisive or hateful," Moore says, to which Coburn responds, "We can listen to the other side, ask questions, have important conversations." The point, they go on, isn't that differences don't matter, but that, as Coburn says, "We're just saying there's a better way

to disagree." "And who knows," Moore adds. "In the end we might not be as far apart as we thought."

back to its old habit of finding common ground—they can agree. That would be political leadership worth pursuing.

There is good evidence that on the whole, Americans are closer together than we often think we are, even on some hot-button issues—and that some political leaders exaggerate division and play on our fears for political gain. The challenge, of course, is how to lower the temperature to the point where we can hear, and even sympathize with, one another.

Now, I don't know how much impact an ad like that can have on its own. But imagine what would happen if politicians all across the US reached across the partisan divide and agreed that on this one thing, at least—bringing America

As part of NRCS's locally led process of administering programs, public comments will be sought from attendees on how to best prioritize USDA dollars for your local area.

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

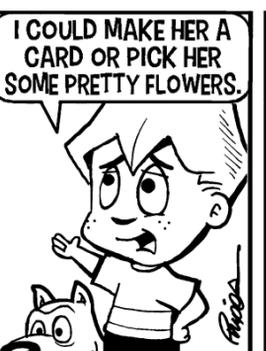
Utah's Cox isn't the only governor who's cut an ad trying to advance that cause. Maryland's Democratic governor, Wes Moore, recently made one with Jack Coburn, the Republican mayor of Lonaconing, a small town in western Maryland not

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at the Farm Credit Building, 550 South Main Street, Moorefield.

open to all farmers, agricultural producers, and forest owners/managers.

For more information contact Taylor-Goldizen at 304-703-8624 or Haggerty at 304-822-3020 ext. 101.

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## Compensation to exonerated people nearly doubled in five years

By Nadia Ramlagan, West Virginia News Service  
People wrongfully convicted of crimes in the United States have received around \$2.2 billion in compensation claims since 2019.

A new report by the National Registry of Exonerations said the amount nearly doubled in just five years.

Barbara O'Brien, editor of the registry, explained even if states saw fewer or no exonerations, it does not necessarily mean there are fewer wrongfully convicted people behind bars. She noted people in prison may not have access to the resources needed to prove their innocence.

"Since 1989, West Virginia's had 14 exonerations," O'Brien reported. "I always caution people not to read too much into the number of exonerations as some sort of indicator of how the systems are working."

Official misconduct is the reason for wrongful convictions in at least 77% of exoneration cases. West Virginia has a two-year time limit for filing compensation claims.

According to The Innocence Project, in 2020, the state changed the law to remove a clause requiring another person to be convicted of the same crime in order for the exonerated person to qualify for compensation.

Other factors leading to exonerations include perjury or false accusations, false or misleading forensic evidence, false confessions and mistaken witness identification. O'Brien pointed out it is not just taxpayers who end up footing the bill for bloated prisons and exoneration payments.

"Incarcerating people costs a lot of money," O'Brien outlined. "If we're incarcerating the wrong people, that's costing the taxpayers. And if it's a case where there is a real perpetrator out there who they didn't catch, they're committing more crimes."

She added cost cannot make up for lost time innocent people have spent behind bars. The report said exonerated individuals in 2023 lost more than 2,000 years collectively for crimes they did not commit, an average of around 15 years per person wrongfully imprisoned. Nearly 84% of exonerates last year were persons of color, and 61% were Black.

**THE CITY OF PETERSBURG  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
ZONING REQUEST**

Highland Park Rentals LLC, the property owner at 6 Highland Ave, requests two variances for this property, which is currently zoned C-3. The Variances are for an addition to the existing laundry mat building. The addition would require a reduced property line setback distance and a decrease in the number of parking spaces.

This will be described in more detail at the hearing.

Any objections to this request must be submitted in writing to the City of Petersburg, 21 Mountain View St., Petersburg, WV 26847 by COB on 04/02/24.

**Hearing: April 3, 2024  
at 6:30 p.m.**

The Zoning Board Hearing will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

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"I'll tell you the same thing my father told me.  
... Go ask your mother."

# Local and area obituaries

ERVIN E. WHETZEL

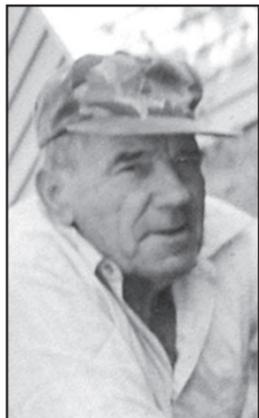
Ervin E. Whetzel, 87, of Arthur, died Tuesday, March 19, at his home.

Born Jan. 5, 1937 in Landes, he was the son of the late Isaac Harvey and Violet Leona (Nazelrodt) Whetzel. He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Herman, Lemuel, and Junior Whetzel; and two stepbrothers, Lawson Whetzel and John Shirk.

Mr. Whetzel attended the Edgewood School House in Landes and formerly went to Brake Brethren Church in Dorcas. He began working as a timberman, cutting pulpwood and picked up odd jobs as a farmhand and working in sanitation collection.

He is survived by one sister, Leoda Riggelman of Arthur; two brothers, Arthur Whetzel of Petersburg and Delmas Whetzel Sr. of Arthur; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were



Saturday afternoon at the Basagic Funeral Home chapel, Petersburg, with Pastor Craig Howard officiating. Interment was in the Whetzel Family Cemetery, Arthur.

Memorials may be made to Gideon's International at [www.gideon.org/donate](http://www.gideon.org/donate) or by calling 1-866-382-4253.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (3-26-24)

RUTH A. GRAPES

Ruth Ann Grapes, 78, of Petersburg, died March 21, at the Pendleton Manor, Franklin.

Born Sept. 28, 1945, in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late William Harvey Parker and Betty Jane Stevens. She was raised by her Aunt Janet P. Moltz. She was also preceded in death by one sister; and a half brother.

Ms. Grapes attended Jefferson High School in Washington, D.C. and was a member of the North Fork Baptist Church. She worked as a bookkeeper and secretary for North Fork Disposal Services and was a homemaker.

She is survived by two daughters; sons; one sister; two half sisters; several nieces and nephews; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.



In honoring her wishes, her body has been cremated with all services being private. Memorials may be made to the family c/o Sherry Pennington at 13417 Petersburg Pike, Upper Tract, WV 26866.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (3-26-24)

REGINALD W. KIMBLE

Reginald Wesley "Reggie" Kimble, 89, formerly of Petersburg, died Sunday, March 24, at Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

Born Aug. 7, 1934, in Upper Tract, he was the son of the late Olie Franklin and Viola May (Harman) Kimble. He was also preceded in death by one brother, Alvin Kimble; and one sister, Wanda Showalter.

Mr. Kimble attended school in Upper Tract, and formerly went to the Main St. United Methodist Church in Petersburg. He began his career as an entrepreneur with Kimble Home Improvement Services in Virginia and Maryland before moving back to West Virginia, where he was the owner and operator of the Arthur Mart, Arthur. He was also a member of the American Legion, Post 78.

He is survived by three daughters, Kay Simmons of Upper Tract, Sueann Marie of Gulfport, Miss. and Annabell Glaser of Hartford, Conn.; one son Reginald "Dannie" Kimble of Upper Tract; two sisters, Mildred Riggelman and Elaine Keplinger, both of Upper Tract; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.



Family will receive friends, Thursday, March 28, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Basagic Funeral Home chapel, Petersburg. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m., with Pastor Cheryl George officiating. Interment will be in the Kline Cemetery, Kline.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (3-26-24)

JUNE R. SMITH

June Rosalee "Rosie" Smith, 85, of Petersburg, W.Va., passed away Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Autumn Lake Healthcare of Crystal Springs, W.Va.

Born Nov. 30, 1938 in Riverton, W.Va., she was the daughter of the late Jesse James Thompson and Merlie (Maysell) Vandevander. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Smith on Sept. 17, 1995; one brother, George Thompson; and four sisters, Virginia Thompson, Bessie Turner, Ruby Thompson, and Dorothy Jean "Dot" Lantz.

Ms. Smith graduated in 1956 from Circleville High School and was a Christian by faith. She worked as a secretary for the Brooking Institute in Washington, D.C.

She was always on the go, looking for her next adventure, traveling wherever the roads may lead. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading and offering a helping hand to friends and family. She was well known for her home remedies or just to give a piece of advice to anyone in need.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories two



sisters, Rebecca Kline of Waldorf, Md. and Betty Bennett of Cherry Grove, W.Va.; and several nieces and nephews, including a special great-niece, Kayla Lantz of Petersburg.

In honoring her wishes, her body has been cremated and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (3-26-24)

## Final Lenten lunch this Wednesday

Each year Petersburg Church Women United holds Lenten luncheons for the community.

The proceeds from these lunches go to aid charities within the area.

The final Lenten Lunch is March 27, with guest speaker Pastor Steven Noel of Petersburg Church of God.

All meals are at Petersburg Presbyterian Church at noon. Cost is \$5 per meal and carryout/delivery is available. Soup is \$10 per quart and \$5 per pint. Call 703-895-0580 for orders.

## Local church Easter services

**Main Street United Methodist Church**  
Service of Tenebrae, Friday, March 29, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary; Easter sunrise service, Sunday, March 31 at 7 a.m. in the church yard and Easter morning service at 11 a.m. the Dressing of the Cross in the sanctuary.

**Mt. Carmel Church**  
Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. with breakfast to follow. Dreama Kelly, minister.

**EASTER EGG HUNT!**  
Sat., March 30  
3:00 p.m.  
**MT. CARMEL CHURCH**  
2354 Patterson Creek Rd., Arthur  
*Everyone Welcome!*

Candy!  
Pizza to Follow!  
Prizes!

*Pastor's Wife Appreciation*  
**Jill Landis**  
wife of PJ Landis

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*Pastor's Wife Appreciation*

**Colleen Clark**  
~ wife of Coleman Clark ~  
You are a beautiful blessing.

We love and appreciate you very much!!

**Cabins AOG Church**

Please Join Us!

6:30 a.m.  
**Easter Sunrise with play & program**  
Full breakfast to follow.  
Morning worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**BRAKE COVENANT BRETHREN CHURCH**  
North Mill Creek Rd. at the twin bridges, Dorcas

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Print & E-Sub Combo	Grant County Rate	Elsewhere in West Virginia	Out-of-State Rate
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# Fires

Continued from front

Deputy Chief H. Whetzel in a community press release. "Heavy smoke was noted and additional resources were alerted."

When the PVFC arrived on the scene, Whetzel assumed command of the scene and confirmed a working brush fire that was approximately 20 to 30 acres in size and was spreading rapidly. However, the firefighters struggle to gain access to the scene was initially due to a downed power line. Once on scene, Whetzel explained that the firefighters began a quick attack in order to prevent the loss of any structures, including homes.

"Due to significant wind, the fire continued to spread rapidly," Whetzel said. "Due to steep and unsafe terrain, members were unable to perform much ground work. Working along with West Virginia Department of Forestry we determined the best option was to allow the forestry to burn and protect any structures."

On Wednesday night, the responders were able to partially establish doz-

er lines that stopped the fire's spread and crews remained on scene overnight to protect any structures in the area. Throughout the following day, March 21, the crews were able to keep the fire contained as they worked throughout the day covering fire lines and continuing to keep a careful eye on any nearby structures.

On March 21, Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency for Hardy, Grant, Hampshire and Pendleton counties due to "extensive forest fires." This declaration is a proactive measure ensuring the allocation of necessary resources and expedite emergency response efforts. The state of emergency allows state and local agencies to take swift and decisive actions to mitigate the impact of the fires and protect the lives and property of West Virginians in those areas. This would have an important impact in Hardy County, when the following day the West Virginia National Guard joined in battling the wildfires raging across the Wardensville area with two Blackhawk helicopters which flew into the Grant County Airport, equipped with

630 gallon buckets used to drop water onto key fire points.

The next day, March 22, the Grant County fire managed to breach a section of the established dozer line but was able to the contained again at only between one to two acres of spread.

"The goal of allowing the fire to burn through forest and to roads is to allow it to be controlled and not take the risk of members being in the woods in unsafe terrain," Whetzel said. "Once the forestry is burnt it typically burns itself out and won't reignite, preventing further fire."

An estimated 1,000 acres of land was burned in Grant County, with even more in Hardy County and additional land burning in Hampshire and Pendleton counties.

On Wednesday, one home, belonging to Brandi and Kurtis Braithwaite of Cabins, was reported to have been lost due to an unrelated house fire with several more homes reported to have been lost in Hardy County to the wildfires.

As of March 23, the PVFC has reported that the fire has been 100% contained but is currently

being monitored by the West Virginia Department of Forestry.

"There are still some smoldering spots, so you will still see smoke and possibly some flame throughout the next week or so," Whetzel advised. "As long as it's interior it's safe. If you notice flames close to a structure don't hesitate to contact 911."

All of the county's local responders, PVFC, Maysville Volunteer Fire Company, Mount Storm Volunteer Fire Company, Bayard Volunteer Fire Department, the Grant County Sheriff's Department and Grant County Ambulance responded to the fire, as well as Elk District VFC, Thomas VFC, Parsons Volunteer Fire Department, Fort Ashby VFC, Romney Fire Company, Valley VFD, Huttonsville VFC, Brookhaven VFC, Star City VFC New Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Burlington VFD, Capon Bridge Volunteer Fire Department, Elkins FD, Whitmer VFD, Beverly VFD, Davis VFD, Harman VFD, Mill Creek VFD, Barton VFD, Kitzmiller VFD, Deer Park VFD, Canaan Valley VFD and the West Virginia Department of Forestry.



The WELD-FM and WQWV-FM tower that was blown down during the recent wind storms. Without the tower, the station went temporarily offline on Wednesday night. Despite the loss of the tower, which is necessary for the station's signal, the station continued to broadcast on their AM690 and streamed all three stations online.

"The key to success was great communication and working very well alongside our WV Foresters," Whetzel said. "Huge thanks to Billy Whetzel, Chris Whetzel, and ALL Construction for providing dozers. A huge thanks to M&M Trucking for providing us with fuel. We were very well taken care of by the Spring Run Fish

Hatchery. Grant County OEM and 911 did an amazing job getting us the resources we needed and made sure we were in need of nothing."

Whetzel also thanked the community, who responded resoundingly to the call for aid. In both Grant and Hardy counties, businesses, churches, community members and citizen volunteers did everything from giving food to feed the firefighters, to in Hardy County, volunteers taking to the burning woods themselves when called on to help slow the fire's spread towards homes using rakes and leaf blowers.

"Now to our very gracious and caring community and businesses. There are literally too many to name individually, but please know that words will never be able to describe how appreciated you are. We can't do what we do without you. We are also gracious for the many calls from state and local government, churches, etc. God bless each of you, God bless Grant County, and God bless the great state of West Virginia."



Ronald and Anna Ours lost their camper in 96MPH + wind gusts in the Welton Orchard Road area last Thursday. Neighbor Alex Bosley attempted to control damage by securing the camper to his truck preventing further rollover.

# County

Continued from front

approval. In total, the commission set aside approximately \$136,700 for a community center project from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds they received during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When I was first elected, one of the things I really felt strongly about was supporting a community center project as well as creating deterrents for drug and alcohol use and abuse, especially among youth," said commissioner Kevin Hagerty. "And I am fairly certain my fellow commissioners feel the same. This project has the capability to be a 'two birds with one stone' situation. I definitely support this project and it means a lot to me as well."

Kuhn estimated that the facility would cost approximately \$400,000, however, clarified that this estimate is very dependent on the funds available and that additional monies would allow for more to be offered.

Riggleman also expressed hope that the center could eventually tie into the upcoming Petersburg Hike and Bike Trail that will encircle the city.

Bob McCauley, one of the key project leaders heading up the Hike and Bike Trail project, voiced his support for this effort. McCauley even expressed hope that, if the trail receives the expected \$600,000 in funds to complete the project, some of those funds could aid in connecting the two.

be able to use some of that to run the trail down to the center and maybe do other things in connection to the community center," McCauley said.

A representative from U.S. Senator Shelly Moore-Capito's office also spoke on this possibility, saying that it can be difficult to adjust the scope of projects once it has been awarded funds, as is the case with the \$600,000 set to be awarded for the hike and bike trail. However, she did say that since the change was minor, it could potentially be possible and that she would speak with the grant program leaders to find out.

"The exact cost is still up in the air, but our baseline or minimum to do it right, will be in the \$350,000 to \$400,000 range for the full project," Kuhn said.

Riggleman said the goal was to primarily work with local contractors and businesses to reduce costs.

"We are hoping to make this a community project," Riggleman said. "We want to meet with our local contractors who work in this area and really strive to get everyone on board and involved. I am talking from the building supplies, seeing if we can work with local distributors to get them at cost, same with the concrete. I also own some equipment and is available for free. I really want this to be a community effort."

Riggleman and Kuhn explained that the goal of the center was to create an athletic space that serve as a local hub for youth athletics, host tournaments, provide space for both

youth and adult fitness classes and act as a activity and wellness center for the community.

*Kevin Hagerty,  
Grant County Commissioner*

**"Opportunities like this don't come along every day, it is nice to have everybody wanting to be on the same page as far as the community goes, something where everyone can pitch in and everyone can see positivity grow in the community. And like I said before, the deterrent of negative activities I believe this will promote, is paramount."**

"I'd love to have two to three basketball courts in a row under the same roof," Riggleman said. "In the summertime this place is booming with baseball and travel ball tournaments. My dream would be for us to be able to hold basketball tournaments here in the wintertime. To get Petersburg on the map, in that sense."

Riggleman also said the center could host other youth tournaments and expand the activities locally, including gymnastics and

wrestling tournaments.

Hagerty agreed, saying the center would not only support local health and youth activity, but also help grow the local economy as outside teams visit.

The commission also clarified that the center will be a nonprofit community center and while it will strive to accommodate youth sports, it will be available to the entire community.

"I think this will help us grow as a city, get more active and build better teams," Riggleman said. "I do also want to address, I've heard a few people suggest there isn't really anything for our youth to do here, and there is. But things are changing, in our generation it was big for libraries and things like that. But now, we are having a big influx of kids into sports but we can't retain them."

"We have wanted to see something like this for a long time and that is why we put this money aside initially," said commissioner Scotty Miley. "My initial thought was the hope that the county and the hospital could combine and create a facility, a place for the community and a place for them to have things like physical therapy. But that hasn't transpired, but this is something I, and I think the other commissioners as well, is something we have wanted to see happen for a while."

The commission also thanked Riggleman and Kuhn for their continued volunteer efforts to help make the center a possibility.

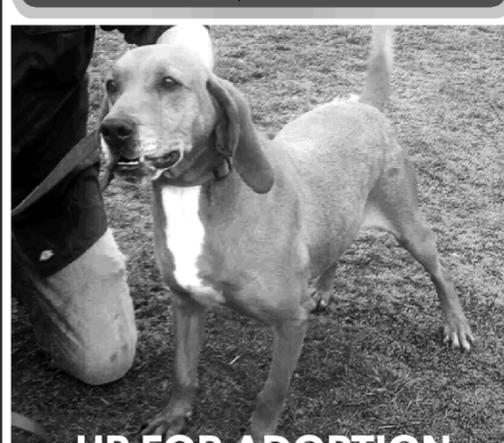
"Opportunities like this don't come along every day, it is nice to have everybody wanting to be on the same page as far as the community goes, something where everyone can pitch in and everyone can see positivity grow in the community," Hagerty said. "And like I said before, the deterrent of negative activities I believe this will pro-

mote is paramount."

Ultimately, the commission approved to allot \$150,000 to the project, including the \$136,700 earmarked community center from ARP funds, on the conditions that they submit a final business plan for the center, that all ordinances and regulations are followed and there is a 503c status achieved.



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# W99 Grant County Airport busy with Civil Air Patrol glider operations

By 2nd Lt. Diana Layton

Civil Air Patrol's West Virginia Wing began their season of glider operations on the weekend of March 16 at Grant County Airport (W99) in Petersburg.

Glider operations occur there once a month, until November, hosting multiple states on the East Coast.

March's operations included the local Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron's Lt. John Banks serving as ground boss and Cadet Technical Sergeant Madisyn Porter serving as assistant ground boss.

They helped teach and guide cadets from North Carolina Wing 111 and Martinsburg, W.Va. achieve their glider orientation rides successfully.

In addition, multiple



A glider towed by a tow plane after taking off from the airport in Petersburg.

plane and glider pilots from different towns in West Virginia traveled to help cadet flying dreams come true.

Civil Air Patrol's glider program began in the 1960s but was mainly focused in the western part of the United States for a few years.

The primary purpose of

CAP's glider program is to give as many cadets as possible the opportunity to experience gliding and soaring through orientation flights.

Some goals of the glider program include maintaining a strong and effective ground and air safety program and promoting cur-

rent, proficient, and professional airmanship.

Around 1998, the glider program experienced explosive growth in planting the seed of aviation and aerospace education in the lives of young people.

When glider flight academies became more and more popular, the U.S. Air Force helped purchase and acquire nearly 60 gliders.

The program became a success and maximized the utilization and opportunity for increased cadet participation in flight training and orientation flights.

To find out more information about Civil Air Patrol, join them at the Grant County Airport Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm or visit [www.gocivilpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilpatrol.com).



CAP cadets from NC Wing, Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron and Martinsburg squadrons working together to get the glider turned around for another tow.

# Young Writers grades 5-6 winning story

Heartbeat  
By Noel Shreve, PES

An elderly woman lays sick in the hospital. Her daughter is coming to see her but is running late. As the nurses check on the elderly lady, she asks, "Has my daughter come yet?" The nurses told the elderly woman her daughter has not checked in yet but surely would soon.

Losing her breath, she pressed the help button. Nurses rushed in and placed an oxygen mask on her; it didn't help. The old woman started to go pale; she knew she was dying. She just wanted to see her daughter one last time. Then her heartbeat started to slow down.

11... She started seeing memories of when she was tiny. She was playing a game with her siblings; it seemed like hide-and-seek. She was counting, waiting to catch her siblings, she used to be so energetic.

10... She was in front of her elementary school. It was her first day, and she was nervous. Then, two other kids came to greet her and show her around. These would be her future bandmates.

9... She met up at the old gym to see her friends. They were all going to practice for their next "concert" at the arts center. She was going to sing. She never knew this upcoming concert would change her life.

8... She was in a stadium this time. The band had risen in fame. She had sold out all the seats. She was so excited, not knowing her downfall would soon await her.

7... She started to date this "cool" boy and thought it was going to last forever. That is how love works, right? She was around 21 when she got her heartbroken by him. She shrugged it off and continued her musical career. She didn't know this boy was the reason she would have to end her singing career.

6... While she was at one of her top selling concerts

signing autographs, the same boy came, and right as she noticed him he said, "You cheated on me for your stupid career!" Before she could say anything, everyone went silent and started to leave the audience. Her friends wouldn't listen and kicked her out.

5... She fell in love with somebody named Damien. This relationship basically lasted the rest of her life. They bought a home and decided to have a baby girl. They named her Lily. They were happy and never wanted anything else but each other.

4... Their daughter, Lily, was almost done with primary school; they could not believe how fast she was growing up! Lily wanted to be a doctor and go to medical school. She was hopeful for her child.

3... Her daughter had just finished medical school, and the woman was at her graduation. The woman was now considered "old". Her hair was gray, and wrinkles started to show. She wondered how her life just flew by in the blink of an eye. Her husband was diagnosed with cancer and was in the hospital. He was going to get surgery with a high chance of failing. Damien was willing to take that risk.

2... The surgery failed, and the woman was devastated. She was not sure what to do with herself now. She was getting sick and was too frail to drive. She called her daughter to drive her to the hospital. Lily was in the middle of an operation but came to get her mom afterwards. The woman had heart disease. The woman knew she didn't have much time left and accepted the fact she would have to stay in the hospital. There was one thing she could look forward to. Her daughter had a baby girl, and she would get to see it in a week.

1... The elderly woman looked around her hospital room; there were still no signs of her daughter. Today was the day, but she

was never going to see her grandbaby. She looked up at the doctor, and said with a quiet voice, "Tell my daughter I will be watching over her and her baby when I pass. Thank you for watching over me, doctor."

The doctor gave the elderly woman a smile as she drifted off to a forever sleep. Lily and the baby then piled into the room, and said, "Sorry I am late, but little Maria is here! I named her after you." The

young woman walked over to her mother's lifeless body and gasped. She held her baby tightly and broke down into tears. "Please hold my baby, nurse," asked Lily. Lily walked over to her mother and said, "I know you will be watching over me and my baby. I hope that the after-life serves you well." Then, Lily grabbed Maria and went out of the room, crying one last dreaded tear.



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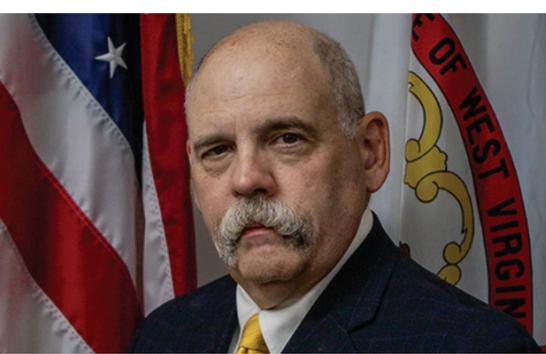
**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST** - This position is for our Petersburg Grove Street, WV location.

**CCMA** - This position is for our Mathias, WV location. CCMA Certification.

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# PRESS

B Section  
**Sports**

March 26, 2024

## Viking baseball opens with strong 16-2 victory over Notre Dame, falls 5-2 to Southern Garrett County



*photos courtesy of country charm photography*

The Petersburg High School Vikings are starting their early season with a 1-1 record following a sturdy 16-2 win over Notre Dame High School but

a tight 5-2 struggle against Southern Garrett County.

The team is led by head coach Mike Landis with support from assistant coaches Steve Arbaugh,

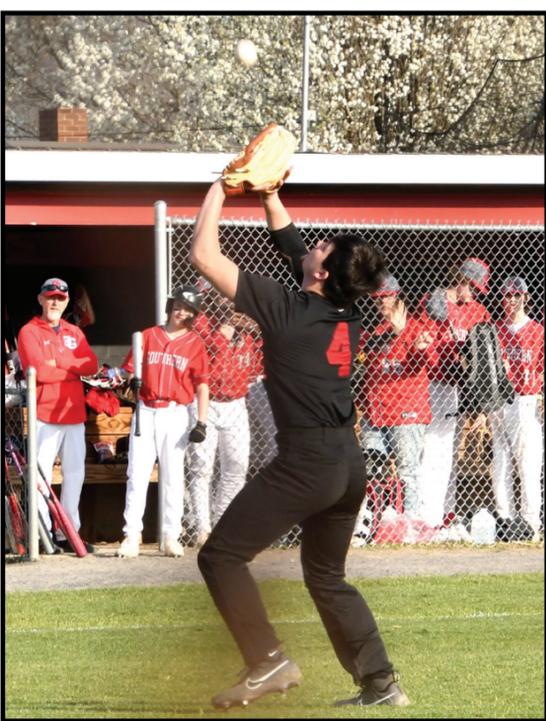
Parry VanMeter, Josh Harper, Brandon George and Chase Ault. The 2024 Petersburg Viking baseball players are: seniors: Jackson Berg, Elijah Kuykendall, Andrew Fleming, Ethan

Taylor and Lelund Feaster; juniors: Zalon Barrick, Luke Adkins, Trace Rohrbach, Peyton Tingler, Colin Mauzy and Caden Arbaugh; sophomores: Ethan Valkos, Owen Reel,

Kaleb Kuhn, Lukas Wolford, Payten Huffman and freshmen: Garrett Hamric, Ryan Kessel, Austin Kuh, Matthew McDonald and Wyatt Chandler.

The team is next set to take on Tygarts Valley High

School tonight at 5:30 p.m. in Petersburg and will face off against local rivals, the Moorefield Yellow Jackets, on Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Petersburg.



### Recognizing the 2023-24 UEC varsity basketball team

Union Educational Complex Varsity Sports Teams

RECOGNIZING THE 2023-24 UEC VARSITY ATHLETES - Boys basketball team - Head coach Walt Ward; assistant coaches Lee Evans and Bill Braithwaite; senior players: Joshua Burdock and Braxton Crites; junior players: Jacob Wolfe and Jacob Haynes; sophomore players: Kylar Lewis and Eric Linkswiler and freshmen players: Braylon Ward, Bladen Oberholzer and Bryson Fazembaker. Cheer squad - Lilly Pennington, Albert Taylor and Makayia Thomas.



# Grant County Little League A-String Champions



Girls A-String Champs and Boys B-String Champs- Goldizen Electric: Sponsors Charlie and Winnie Goldizen. Coached by Shawn Rohrbaugh, Alex Bosley and Nathan Ertel.



Girls A-String runners-up - Grant County Mulch. Coached by Ashley Riggleman and Kaitlyn Kesner.



Boys A-String Champs- Judy's Drugstore: coached by Derek White and Garrick Haslacker and cheer coach Chris Ludwig.

## PHS players named to all-state team

Girls Basketball Class AA All-State Team as selected by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association:  
Second Team - Nellie Whetzel, Petersburg (Sr.). Honorable Mention, Abby Alt, Petersburg and Sam Colaw, Petersburg.



### GOLDEN LANES ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE

March 12th

TEAM STANDINGS:  
Split Happens 72 - 44, WELD 69 - 47, Terminators 65.5 - 50.5, Vetter's Guns & Ammo 65.5 - 50.5, NKOTB 62 - 54, Country Cars & Trucks 60 - 56, Outlaws 56 - 60, Empire Strikes 54.5 - 61.5, Lucky Strikes 53.5 - 62.5.

HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Cohan Kesner 267, Terry Wratchford 255, Phil Crews 245, Jacob Wratchford 240. (HANDICAP): Auston Delawder 314, Josh Sullivan 293, Terry Wratchford 284, Phil Crews 280.

HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Cohan Kesner 735, Michael Hedrick 677, Jacob Wratchford 673, Terry Wratchford 671. (HANDICAP): Jerry Propst 795, Jacob Wratchford 790, Auston Delawder

773, Cohan Kesner 771.

HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 217.19, Evan Kesner 207.65, Richie Burgess 207.56, Michael Hedrick 201.69.

HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 216, Dee Anna McDonald 204, Teresa Sullivan 194, Rachel Stark 188. (HANDICAP): Teresa Sullivan 274, Rachel Stark 261, Carissa Michael 257, Dee Anna McDonald 254.

HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 606, Dee Anna McDonald 523, Rachel Stark 516, Denise McGreevy 483. (HANDICAP): Rachel Stark 735, Carisa Michael 729, Teresa Sullivan 696, Flecia Brockway 690.

HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 185.23, Dee Anna McDonald 174.53, Denise McGreevy 155.26, Emily Stark 155.04.

### THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE

March 14th

TEAM STANDINGS:  
Builders Center 76 - 40, American Classic 75 - 41, Petersburg Oil Company 65 - 51, Strikeforce 62 - 54, Golden Lanes 56 - 60, Vetter's Mini Mart 55.5 - 60.5, Country Cars & Trucks 54.5 - 61.5.

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Don Himelright 269, Jon Hedrick 267, Jacob Wratchford 247, Evan Kesner and Derek Miller 236. (HANDICAP): Don Himelright 298, Jon Hedrick 295, Jacob Wratchford 287, George Halterman 271, Derek Miller 265.

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Don Himelright 696, Jacob Wratchford 669, Evan Kesner 657, Jon Hedrick 641, Zachary Arbaugh 622. (HANDICAP): Jacob Wratchford 789, Don Himelright 783, George Halterman 733, Evan Kesner 732, Troy McGreevy 729.

HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 207.06, Terry Wratchford 204.36, Richie

Burgess 204.11, Zachary Arbaugh 203.77, Michael Hedrick 203.68, Larry Walp 199.70.

### SBV WOMEN'S LEAGUE

March 18th

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Sheri Arbogast 219, Cherry Hammons 203, Kristi Weasenforth 197. (HANDICAP): Sheri Arbogast 272, Linda Kenyon 247, Kristi Weasenforth 240.

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Cherry Hammons 533, Kathy Vance 527, Sheri Arbogast 518. (HANDICAP): Sheri Arbogast 677, Linda Kenyon 655, Kathy Vance 646.

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Bergton, Va, shared to social media by David Ludeker

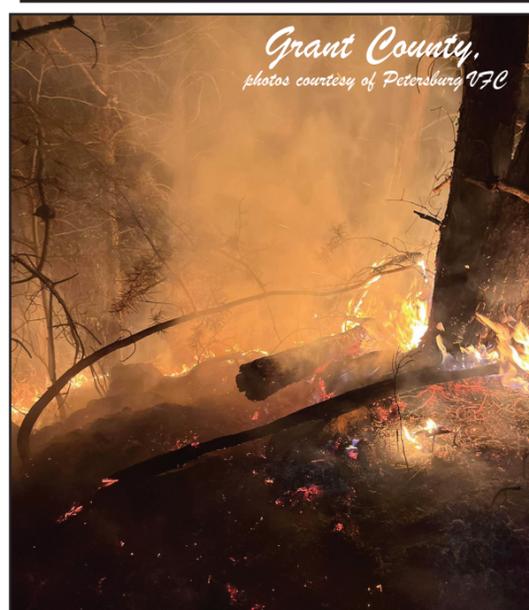
# Images from last weeks' wildfires, West Virginia and Virginia



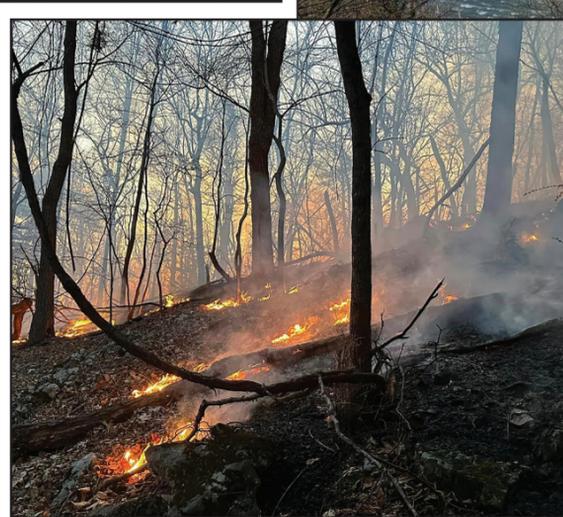
Hardy County, photo courtesy of Bittinger VFD



Hardy County, Kimsey Run Dam, shared to social media by Sarah Riggelman



Grant County, photos courtesy of Petersburg VFC



Grant County, photos courtesy of Kitzmiller VFC



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In response to questions regarding the recent national news regarding the lawsuit that was just won by the plaintiffs against the National Association of Realtors..... we first want to say that we are pleased to inform everyone that we ARE NOT, nor have we ever been a part of that organization. We believed there was no need to be obligated to keep paying the NAR so we could act like we had higher standards than others. We already adhere to the highest standards in answering to and honoring God in whom we trust.

Some thought that this lawsuit brought about new laws. The WV Real Estate Commission is the authority on laws governing real estate in WV and other states have their own Commissions. These lawsuits had nothing to do with the laws of each state but were against the NAR practices.

In order to do what is best for our clients, we will continue to offer compensation to other brokerages who bring buyers or referrals. We truly care about those who've decided to sell and those who are wanting to buy and we strive to make what can be an overwhelming process into an easier, orderly, joyous time of expectancy!



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# THE PROMISE OF EASTER

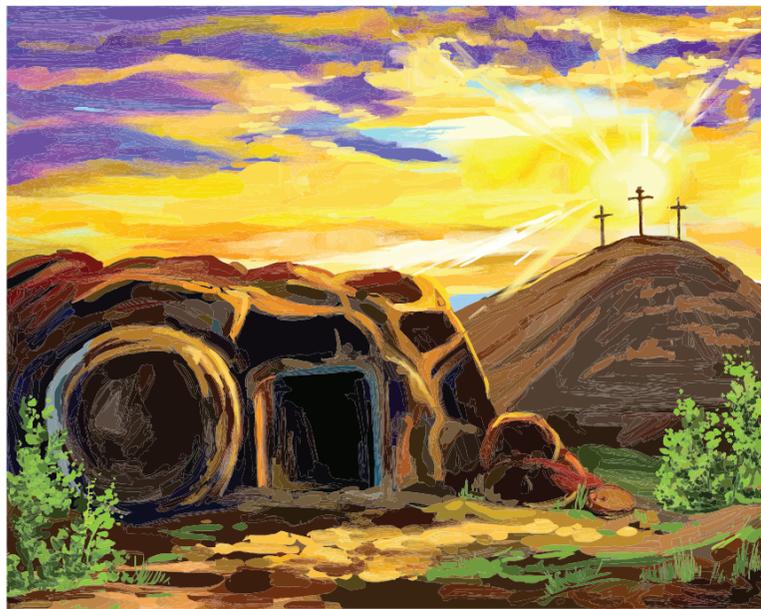
It is no coincidence that the celebration of Easter takes place each year in early spring, commemorating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For Easter is a celebration of rebirth, and what better time to celebrate this than when the earth is springing back into life.

The new life of spring reminds us that this world is eternally productive and creative. The apparent lifelessness of winter is only an illusion. Sleeping just beneath the surface, is life and more life, awaiting God's gentle touch to reawaken it.

In the same way, Easter reminds us that the death of our bodies is an illusion. Beneath it is life and more life. The Bible tells us that God so loved the world the He gave us His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. We will one day shed our bodies, as the trees shed their leaves and we will be reborn into life everlasting.

*And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

*New K.J.V. John 10:28.*



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**Bayard Church of God**  
Pastor Joey Thomas; Spruce St., Bayard; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday family training hour, 7 p.m.

**Bayard United Methodist**  
Rt. 90, Bayard; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11:15 a.m., Tuesday Bible study 7 p.m.

**Believers Mennonite Fellowship**  
Pastor Robert Weaver; Marvins Chapel, Fish Hatchery Rd. Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wed. prayer and Bible study 7:30 p.m. Fourth Sunday 7 p.m., third Wed. service at Grant Rehab and Care Center 6:15 p.m.

**Bethel Church**  
Pastor Brian Henson; Rt. 220 south of Petersburg. Sunday morning worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

**Bethel Pentecostal Church**  
Three miles south of Petersburg on Rt. 220; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., worship 6:30 p.m. and Thursday worship 7:30 p.m.

**Brake Covenant Brethren Church**  
Pastor Craig A. Howard; North Mill Creek Rd. at the twin bridges, Dorcas; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship & children's church 10:30 a.m. Live streamed on Facebook at Brake Covenant Brethren Church. Tuesday Zoom Bible study, senior and junior youth. Morning devotions Monday - Friday on Facebook. www.brakecbc.com

**Brick Covenant Brethren Church**  
Pastor Randy Cosner; Rt. 42 north, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. Tuesday family night at 6:30 p.m.

**Brushy Run Church of God**  
Pastor Phillip Marcum; U.S. Rt. 220 15 miles south of Petersburg; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday Bible study and prayer meeting 7 p.m.

**Cabins Assembly of God**  
Rev. Coleman Clark, Rts. 28/55, Cabins; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., worship 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.

**Calvary Temple**  
Pastors Eric & Gloria Georg, Rt. 50 west, Mt. Storm, Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday choir practice 7 p.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
Bishop James D. Kimble; Valley View St., Petersburg; sacrament meeting 9-10 a.m.; children's primary 10:10-11 a.m.; Sunday school 1st and 3rd Sundays; priesthood quorums and relief society 2nd and 4th Sundays; 5th Sundays - combined meetings.

**Church of the Lord Jesus Christ**  
Pastor Calvin Redman; 1 Hyre Ave., Petersburg; Sunday worship 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Corner United Methodist**  
Rev. Joseph Gerstell; Rts. 28/55, Cabins; Sunday school 10 a.m. Worship at 11:15 a.m. Bible study Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

**Cornerstone Family Fellowship**  
Pastor "PJ" Landis; 1 mile north of Petersburg on Rt. 42. Sunday worship 10 a.m.

**Crossroads Community Church**  
Pastor Charles Lomasney; 8013 Lunice Creek Hwy/Rt. 42 S., Maysville. Sunday worship 10 a.m.

**Davis Baptist Church**  
Rev. Paul Donaldson; Jordan Run Rd., Maysville; worship first and third Sundays 6 p.m.

**Dorcas Baptist Church**  
Pastor Steve Davis, South Mill Creek Rd., Dorcas; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.; Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

**Elkhorn Chapel**  
Pastor Glenn A. Vance Jr.; Elkhorn Road, Dorcas. Sunday worship 10 a.m., Thursday Bible study 6:30 p.m.

**Emoryville United Methodist**  
Hartmansville Rd; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., worship 11:15 a.m.

**Faith Assembly of God**  
Pastors Mark and Debbie Nicol; Rts. 28/55, Petersburg; Sunday worship 10 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 6:30 p.m.

**Falls Assembly of God**  
Pastor Matthew Noe; 5 miles off Rt. 42 on Knobley Road; Sunday morning 10 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
Lead Pastor Shannon Earle, Associate Pastor Frank Ketterman. Virginia Ave., Petersburg. Sunday school 9 a.m., worship 10 a.m., Sunday youth 6 p.m., Wednesday senior youth 6 p.m. and Bible study 6:30 p.m. Saturday men's Bible study 7 a.m. and Bible study 6:30 p.m.

**Gordon Chapel United Methodist**  
Pastor Dave Webb; off Rt. 220, Landes; Sunday school first & third Sundays 10 a.m., other Sundays 9:30 a.m.; worship first & third Sundays 9 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
5 Pine St., Petersburg; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m.

**Grove Street United Methodist**  
Pastor Robert Baer Jr.; Grove St., Petersburg; Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. (available on Zoom, link is at www.grovestreetumc.org), Sunday school 10:45 a.m., Wednesday prayer and share 6 p.m.

**Hedrick Chapel Church**  
South Mill Creek Rd., Rough Run; Sunday school 10 a.m. and worship 11 a.m.

**Harmony Baptist Church**  
Pastor Gary Crislip; 713 Country Road, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 7:30 p.m.

**Hillside Chapel**  
One mile south of Petersburg on Rt. 220; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**Jordan Run Union Church**  
Pastor Rick Bergdoll; Jordan Run Rd., Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.

**Knobley Covenant Brethren Church**  
Pastor Roger Leatherman; 8 mi. south of Rt. 50 on Knobley Rd.; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

**Lahmansville United Methodist**  
Pastor Mark Sprouse; Patterson Creek Road, Lahmansville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; worship every first and third Sunday at 11 a.m.

**Landmark Holiness Tabernacle**  
Pastor Wendell L. Everett; Patterson Creek Road, Arthur; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.

**Lighthouse Community Church**  
Rt. 42 south, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.

**Living Hope Baptist Church**  
Pastor Matt Smith; 1011 North Fork Highway, Petersburg. Sunday school 9:30 -10:30 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 6:30 p.m.

**Locust Grove Church**  
Pastor Kevin Staggs; Bismarck Rd. off Rt. 93/50, Mt. Storm; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.

**Love Christian Assembly**  
Pastor Justin Murray; 3 miles north of Petersburg on Rt. 220; Sunday worship 10 a.m., kids church 10 a.m.

**Main Street United Methodist**  
Pastor Cheryl George; 102 North Main St., Petersburg. Services at 11 a.m. on YouTube, Facebook or in person (when available).

**Maysville Bible Brethren**  
Pastor Lynn Durbin; Rt. 42 south, Maysville; Sunday school 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Wed. Bible study and prayer meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Maysville United Methodist**  
Rev. Joseph Gerstell; Rt. 42/ Cemetery Rd., Maysville; Sunday worship 10 a.m.; Sunday school 11 a.m.; Bible study Tues., 7 p.m.

**Memorial Covenant Brethren Church**  
Pastor Shawn Champ; Highland Ave., Petersburg; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.

**Mount Carmel Church**  
Dreama Kelly, Minister; Patterson Creek Rd., Arthur; Sunday worship 8:45 a.m., Sunday school 9:45 a.m.

**Mount Hebron United Methodist**  
Pastor Mark Sprouse; Ridge Rd., Petersburg; worship every Sunday at 10 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m.

**Mount Storm Presbyterian**  
Rt. 50 east, Mt. Storm; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.

**Mount Storm United Methodist**  
Rt. 50 east, Mt. Storm; Sunday school 9 a.m., Sunday worship 10 a.m.

**North Fork Mennonite**  
David Miller, Pastor; Sunrise Drive, 2/10 mile on right, Petersburg. Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., fourth Sunday evening 6 p.m., prayer meeting and Bible study first & third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**North Mill Creek Baptist Church**  
North Mill Creek Rd., Dorcas; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

**Oakdale Christian Church**  
Pastor Lynn Rohrbaugh, Rig Road, Rig; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. p.m., Wednesday prayer and Bible study 7 p.m.

**Oak Dale Covenant Brethren Church**  
Pastor Randy Cosner; Rt. 93, Scherr; Sunday worship 9:45 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m.

**Otterbein United Methodist**  
Pastor Mark Sprouse; Jordan Run Rd. & Rt. 42, Maysville; Worship every Sunday 9 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.

**Petersburg Church of God**  
Pastors Stephen & Yvette Noel; Myrtle Ave., Petersburg; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., morning worship and Kid's Zone 10:30 a.m., Wednesday FTH 7 p.m.

**Petersburg Presbyterian Church**  
Rev. Kevin Channell; North Main St., Petersburg; Sunday worship 11 a.m.

**Potomac Valley Baptist Church**  
Pastor Ted Anderson; Rt. 42 south, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m.

**Rig Assembly of God**  
Pastor Bradley Taylor; Rig Road; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer and Bible study 6:30 p.m.

**Riverside Church**  
Pastor Tommy George; Rts. 28/55, Dolly Town Road, Cabins; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., evening service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

**Rough Run Church**  
Pastor Randy Mongold; South Mill Creek Rd., Dorcas. Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wednesday prayer meeting / Bible study 7 p.m.

**South Branch Baptist Church**  
Pastor Matt Perrine; 496 Veterans Lane, Petersburg. Sunday services 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday prayer and Bible study 7 p.m.

**South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren**  
Pastor Bill Johnson; South Mill Creek Road near Mozer; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. first four Sundays.

**Spirit of Life Church**  
Pastor Brian Hipp; Rt. 28/55 west, Petersburg; Sunday worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m., Wednesday 6 p.m.

**St. John's United Methodist**  
Pastor David Webb; Rt. 220 south, Petersburg; Sunday school first and third Sundays 11 a.m., second, fourth and fifth Sundays 10 a.m. Worship first and third Sundays 10 a.m. & second Sunday 11:15 a.m.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
Fr. Dan Pisano; Grant St., Petersburg; Sunday mass 10 a.m. Daily mass Wednesday at noon.

**St. Paul United Methodist**  
Pastor Cheryl George; Patterson Creek Rd., Lahmansville; worship 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.

If there are changes to any church listing, call 304-257-1844 or email news@grantcountypress.com

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I make sure he has plenty of water, but I'm not sure what else to do. It doesn't seem to be getting better. -- Faye H. Hartford, Connecticut

**DEAR FAYE:** This is a perfect time to take Barnsey to the vet. Chronic hoarseness when barking can have several different causes, and the veterinarian can better evaluate him to see what's happening.

I'll go over some of the reasons for a barker suddenly getting hoarse. Laryngitis is a common diagnosis, but it's important to figure out the cause.

A bacterial or viral infection may be the culprit, or gastroesophageal reflux (where stomach acid flows up into the esophageal tract, causing irritation and inflammation).

Less common causes are masses or tumors growing on or near the dog's larynx, or other conditions affecting the larynx. These may require surgery, and the vet will discuss this option with you.

The vet will evaluate Barnsey to see if he has an infection, acid reflux, or if the hoarse barking has another cause. They'll then be able to recommend an effective treatment.

For example, a bacterial infection would likely be treated with antibiotics. A viral infection has to run its course, but Barnsey would be treated with medications to make him comfortable and reduce inflammation.

If acid reflux is the suspected culprit, the vet may recommend changes to his feeding schedule and the amount of food at each meal. You can also try different varieties of dog food.

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## DAD JOKES

What do you get when you pour hot water into a rabbit hole? *Hot cross bunnies.*

What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like best? *The ones with hoppy endings.*

How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur in place?

*With hare spray.*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? *A receding hare-line.*

## A Scratchy Bark?

**DEAR PAWS:** My little dog Barnsey is quite a barker for a terrier, but for the past several days his bark has been very hoarse. He sometimes snorts or sneezes, too.

## The Spats



## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Weighing device  
6 Sitar tunes  
11 Fearful  
12 Using the Internet  
14 Eagles' homes  
15 Julianne and Demi  
16 Away from SSW  
17 Auto style  
19 Wager  
20 Food regimen  
22 Cariou of Broadway  
23 Visibility hindrance  
24 Cancel  
26 Journeys  
28 Head of st.  
30 Animal doc  
31 "Lolita" author  
35 Summary  
39 Plow pullers  
40 Felon's flight  
42 Sitarist Shankar  
43 Soccer's Hamm  
44 Prom duds  
46 Heavy weight  
47 E-business  
49 Boring type  
51 New citizen, perhaps

**DOWN**

1 Picturesque  
2 Life's work  
3 Onassis nickname  
4 Cask sediment  
5 '50s Ford  
6 Peter the Great, e.g.  
7 Shortly  
8 Day- — paint  
9 Car safety feature  
10 Allergy season sound  
11 Hourglass fillers  
13 "Melrose Place" actor  
18 "Lion" star  
21 Yank at  
23 Misanthrope  
25 — choy  
27 " — outta here!"  
29 Library array  
31 — plume  
32 Wise sayings  
33 "Scram!"  
34 Preventive shot, in slang  
36 40 winks  
37 Sidesteps  
38 Lipstick shades  
41 Repairs  
44 Rent  
45 Foolproof  
48 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)  
50 Ruby or Sandra

## FUN & PUZZLES

PUZZLE ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 2A

### SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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### GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x	=	14			
-		+		+				
	-		+		= 6			
x		x		x				
	+		÷		= 2			
=		=		=				
18		28		56				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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### CryptoQuote

**AXYDLBAAXR** is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

XBUMSJSOCQ OR CVSBQ  
LCS KOSGCMS IBXOS JQE  
NCRS KOSGCMS VJMNS.  
— BQLNORG UXCZBXY

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## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Put forward	___ B ___	Pinnacle	___ M ___
2. Visitor	G ___	Mission	Q ___
3. Stuffed shirt	___ D ___	Trim the shrubs	___ N ___
4. New York player	___ E ___	Tugged	___ D ___
5. Simmer	___ A ___	Black-and-blue mark	___ U ___
6. Evening	N ___	Box	F ___
7. Machinery arm	___ R ___	Steamroll	___ L ___
8. Bank employee	___ E ___	More statuesque	___ A ___
9. Existing	___ V ___	Similar	___ K ___
10. Canonized one	___ A ___	Stretch of activity	___ T ___

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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Neck opening of undershirt is lower. 3. Pocket is different. 4. Cabinet door is wider. 5. Bottle on counter is moved. 6. Watch is added.



### top ten

**PODCASTS IN THE U.S., 2023**

- The Joe Rogan Experience
- Call Her Daddy
- Crime Junkie
- This Past Weekend w/Theo Von
- The Daily (New York Times)
- Huberman Lab
- Armchair Expert With Dax Shepard
- SmartLess
- NPR's Up First
- Anything Goes With Emma Chamberlain

Source: Spotify

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## EASTER WORD SEARCH

E	Y	O	Y	O	P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	A	J	N	P	O	U
G	A	R	D	E	N	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	B
C	M	M	F	F	C	U	Y	R	D	E	T	N	I	A	P	N	G	F	R
Y	Y	N	N	U	B	P	D	C	K	X	N	K	F	K	T	O	O	S	E
E	Y	P	S	I	A	P	D	S	R	O	M	K	T	B	M	A	L	W	A
C	X	A	E	Y	D	E	Y	U	I	U	F	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	D
L	X	S	C	C	R	H	S	E	J	C	E	S	I	R	P	R	U	S	
E	W	C	L	O	H	T	N	E	G	N	X	I	N	W	W	H	T	T	V
N	B	H	R	Y	I	E	U	J	B	K	C	V	F	E	F	R	D	W	M
T	R	A	U	A	C	O	S	A	R	C	P	H	A	I	G	W	B	H	W
C	T	L	F	S	K	V	P	X	V	A	K	S	I	C	X	G	J	U	I
E	U	X	A	Y	E	B	O	B	N	B	T	E	R	C	Y	I	S	N	N
J	Y	M	A	A	R	T	H	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	K	E	O	T	E
G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	R	H	S	U	T	Y	N	S	H	N	P
N	P	I	K	E	C	R	B	L	X	S	T	E	M	I	K	N	U	F	H
B	Y	H	J	W	D	R	N	A	O	C	T	H	H	Y	D	N	U	A	M
D	M	X	Y	A	D	N	U	S	S	C	U	S	V	S	W	E	Y	C	C
H	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	G	D	K	O	U	A	D	A	Y	A	D	E
F	A	O	T	P	A	L	M	L	U	C	E	H	H	T	R	I	B	E	R
M	T	K	E	V	O	R	H	S	F	G	J	T	C	U	X	S	T	F	V

- ASCENSION
- ASHES
- BASKET
- BREAD
- BUNNY
- CHICK
- CHOCOLATE
- CROSS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DECORATE
- DYE
- EASTER
- EGGS
- FAITH
- FLOWERS
- GARDEN
- GATHERING
- HUNT
- JESUS
- LAMB
- LENT
- MAUNDY
- MIRACLE
- PAINTED
- PALM
- PASCHAL
- PASSION
- PENTECOST
- REBIRTH
- RESURRECTION
- SHROVE
- SUNDAY
- SUPPER
- SURPRISE
- TOMB
- WINE



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