

Tuesday, December 26, 2023  
 Issue 52 • Two sections • 14 pages  
 USPS 226480 • Petersburg, WV  
 \$1 (93¢ + 7¢ tax)

Proudly Serving Grant County for 127 Years

Inside this week's edition of the Press

Lots of basketball games this week, both high school and middle school, and wrestling. See the PHS calendar of events on Page 3A.

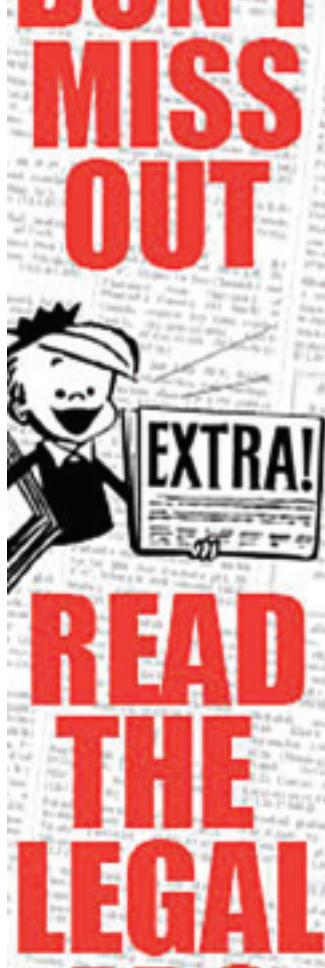
**Wreaths Across America** event at Maple Hill Cemetery. See Page 6B.

**Dolly Sods** road closing January 2. See page 5A.

**Hunters** ... there's still time to get your deer! See Page 2B.

**Hawse Health** Covid Booster Campaign registration. See Page 8A.

**Upcoming event** - Grant County "Strive to Thrive" Family Support Center will be hosting a hot coco and cookies event on Dec. 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Welton Park.



**COVID-19 UPDATES**

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

**Obituaries**

Laura Hunt  
 Ashley Kimble  
 Betty Mallow

**Index**

Local Flavor 2A  
 Opinion pages 4A-5A

Obituary 6A

Sports 1B

Classifieds/Legals 3B

**poll question**

What is your favorite holiday tradition that you and your family enjoy?

Let us know on our Facebook page



Barcode

0 94922 99537 7

## PHS student selected to represent state at U.S. Capital

The 62nd annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is a nationwide effort that, following



a rigorous selection process, chooses two high school students from every state to spend a week in Washington D.C., experiencing first-hand their national government in action.

According to the USSYP website, while at the capital, student delegates will hear ma-

jor policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies, as well as potentially participate in meetings with the president and a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

And this year, one of West Virginia's representatives will be coming right here from Grant County.

Petersburg High School senior Bryson Riggelman was one of only two West Virginia students selected to participate in the program - an honor that also comes with a \$10,000

scholarship provided by The Hearst Foundations.. The selection process for USSYP is a lengthy one, with judges basing their selections on demonstrated leadership skills through roles in student government, education, public affairs or community service.

Riggelman first heard about the program through a friend and while he was immediately interested, he knew the program was highly competitive.

"Before I was even able to apply I had to fill out a pre-qualifying questionnaire to see if I even qualified to submit a full

application," Riggelman explained. "There was that moment in time when I didn't even know if I would qualify, so during that time I was a little in the dark about if I would be able to move forward. But then Ms. Grago [the PHS counselor] came to me and asked if I would be interested and she helped narrow down what we had to get started for me to apply."

From there, Riggelman completed and submitted his qualifying paperwork and was quick-

See Riggelman, page 7A



## County hears updated timeline for internet projects

Over the past two years the county has begun approximately \$8 million in broadband projects. Of this \$8 million, around \$1.8 million have been county funds (primarily from funds received from the American Rescue Plan) and approximately \$5 million have been state grant funds that have been awarded to the county by the state. The remaining \$1.2 million is funds put forth by private internet service providers, such as HardyNet, Shentel and Micrologic, for the projects their companies will be overseeing.

Included in these projects are over 110 miles of new fiber that will provide high speed internet to more than 1,300 addresses.

"The Shentel project is in the Mount Storm area and they have another on Sunrise Drive," explained Jeffrey Hartley of Thrasher Engineering. "Micrologic has a project that comes down the Corridor and goes down near Maysville and through Cabins, and HardyNet has a project near South Mill Creek."

Hartley explained that the first project that was awarded

## Making the season bright

Mernie and Barbara VanMeter helped to light up the Christmas holiday for those traveling along Patterson Creek Road this season with a shining display of lights. For more Christmas scenes from around the county, see page 1B.

press photos



## Three vehicle accident requires medivac after patient is removed from vehicle over embankment

According to a report by the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC), a three vehicle accident that occurred last week along North Fork Highway required a medical evacuation.

The incident occurred in the early afternoon of Dec. 20, when emergency responders with the PVFC, Grant County Ambulance and the Grant County Sheriff's Department were dispatched for a three vehicle accident in the North Fork

Highway area with reports that some of the vehicles involved had gone over an embankment.

The PVFC dispatched Rescue Engine 400, with deputy chief H. Whetzel assuming command of the scene for the department.

Once on scene, it was quickly confirmed that two of the vehicles involved in the incident had gone over an embankment with one patient still inside the vehicle.

The patient was removed from the vehicle by EMS and fire personnel.

The patients were then transported by Grant County Ambulance and a landing zone was established at Grant Memorial Hospital with Healthnet 6.

The patients were then transported by air for treatment. At this time, further information on the accident and those involved is unavailable.

**Looking to Turn a Profit in 2024?**

The Press offers a weekly following of over 3,000 paid subscribers and in-store purchasers. If just one other friend or family member also reads their Press that week, YOUR AD COULD BE SEEN BY 6,000+ PEOPLE!

Call 304-257-1844 or email [ads@grantcountypress.com](mailto:ads@grantcountypress.com) and advertise your sales and goods for the holidays! We love local!

**By Camille Howard**

If you listen to or read the national news, you'll be sure to come across "the next big national health crisis." It could be anything from chemicals, tainted food, another virus or holiday stress.

In my opinion, many chronic health problems are caused by pants that are too tight. This is a direct result of someone being too tight with their money to buy new pants or the delusion that they are the same size they were 15 years ago, which is closely related to the "I'm going to lose 10 pounds" syndrome.

Most of us have this number in our heads about what "size" we wear, and absolutely refuse to move up. This is why stretchy pants, joggers and sweat pants are so popular.

Tight pants can also be held responsible for the medical conditions of high blood pressure, stress, depression, unhappy gut ailments and more. I read it on the internet so it has to be true (cough, eye roll).

I'd like to hear what the CDC has to say about people wearing clothing that is too small for them. Maybe something along the lines of restricting blood flow to the brain, causing a serious case of denial.

I have a magnet on my refrigerator that says "Not to brag or anything, but I can fit into the same earrings I wore in high school!"

As time goes on we've changed our hairstyles,

home decor, make and model of vehicle ... but we refuse to acknowledge that some things in our closet just don't fit anymore.

The truth is, most of us don't want to change our eating habits (guilty as charged).

I received a letter to the editor last week from a man in Connecticut who had an idea how to get meat on your table without hurting any cows and significantly reducing greenhouse-gas emissions (you decide what that means).

Here it is for your perusal:

"The upcoming federal farm bill should provide increased funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

"It has the potential to dramatically limit our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

"The government gives billions of dollars worth of subsidies to factory farms. We should redirect these funds toward the development of a more environmentally-friendly, healthy, and compassionate food system.

"Our leaders should back this effort by including further money for cellular-agriculture research in the farm bill."

Meat grown in a lab? How big of a facility would it take to grow the amount of beef consumed by Americans? In 2021 the amount consumed was 30 billion pounds. That doesn't include chicken, pork, seafood and wild game.

What about the amount of energy used in the production of cultivated meat?

Is its production more environmentally friendly than the methane and "fertilizer" that herds of cows emit?

Somehow I can't get excited about a big, juicy fake steak, if there is such a thing. I'll have to say reading that letter gave me a queasy feeling.

In the meantime, it won't hurt to work towards a more healthy 2024. Just think ... you could potentially keep wearing the same size pants that you've been wearing, but in more comfort.

You have one more holiday hurdle before you embark on the journey into healthy eating for 2024 — New Year's.

Readers Digest says the following are the traditional foods for good fortune in the New Year: Collard greens, black-eyed peas, cornbread, soba (Japanese noodle soup), grapes, pork, ring-shaped cake, fish, pomegranates, dumplings, mandarin oranges, sauerkraut, lentils, tamales and soft pretzels. I think you can find the makings of a good meal among those lucky dishes.

Best wishes for a happy New Year, and make this year's resolution to clear out your closet!

P.S. To get you started, check out the Healthy Saturday ad on this page. Reduced prices!

**IS YOUR CURRENT PHARMACY NO LONGER ACCEPTING YOUR INSURANCE?**

We accept most insurance including Blue Cross/Blue Shield

**LET US SERVE YOU!**

**Judy's Drug Store**

800-543-6780 • 304-257-1044  
24 North Main St., Petersburg

**Health Mart PHARMACY**  
Serving the community for over 50 years!

# HELP WANTED

Walters & Heishman, PLLC, an established law firm in Moorefield, West Virginia, is seeking candidates for a full-time secretarial position. Candidates must have proficient typing skills, along with additional basic knowledge working with computers, and candidates should be comfortable interacting with the public in a courteous and professional manner. Please send all resumes, with references, to Walters & Heishman, PLLC, Attn: James O. Heishman, P.O. Box 119, Moorefield, West Virginia 26836.

**PETERSBURG OIL COMPANY**  
DEPENDABLE SERVICE SINCE 1929  
PETERSBURG, WV

# SECRETARY

## SKILL SETS:

- customer service and interaction
- accounts receivable
- orders, scheduling, and account monitoring
- filing and general improvement in the day to day projects at Petersburg Oil Company
- basic computer skills, understanding of Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, Google Docs and Google Sheets, mathematical skills

This position is a 40 hour work week, Monday through Friday 8-5 and includes a full benefit package and competitive wages.

Please inquire at our Petersburg location at 112 South Grove Street or call 304-257-4440.

# Grant County Health Dept. schedule for January

**HOURS:** Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. but closed from 12 - 12:30 p.m.

**Phone:** 304-257-4922

**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 vaccine available for 60 and older or physician order.

• RSV vaccine available for 60 and older, and pregnant 32-36 weeks who are insured.

• Flu and Covid vaccines are still available.

• Shingles/Shingrix vaccine available for uninsured adults 50 or older.

**Covid-19 For Covid-19 information, visit the website dhhr.wv.gov/covid-19.**

**5 & 19 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.**

**CLOSED 1st - New Year's Day**

**CHANGE 15th - Martin Luther King Day**

**Food Handlers' Training:** Grant County Board of Health voted to accept any online ANSI Food Handler certified courses or a WV state approved food handler's card from other West Virginia counties. To access approved ANSI online courses, search **ANSI certified food handler certificate**. If you want your card to be used in any other county in West Virginia, make sure that the online course has a WV STATEWIDE food handler's card option.

**PATIENTS ARE TO BRING IN THEIR INSURANCE CARD(S) INFORMATION FOR ALL VISITS.**

View www.grantcountyhealthdepartment.com for clean air regulations, food inspection reports, etc.

# TIGER



**WEST VIRGINIA Press FOUNDATION**

**Paid internships and college scholarships of up to \$4,000 available for 2024**

**Interested in being a journalist or working in the media industry?**

**The West Virginia Press Association Foundation is accepting student applications for 2024 Summer Internships and 2024 Scholarships**

If awarded, the WVPFA provides paid and unpaid internships at West Virginia newspapers and college scholarships up to \$4,000.

Programs are open to journalism majors and students in related fields such as business management, human resources, advertising, social media and marketing, with preference given to students in at least their sophomore year of college.

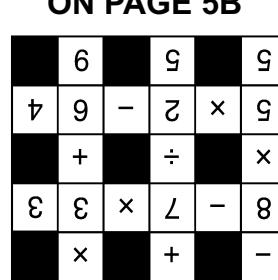
**Application deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.**

**Applications available on wvpress.org**

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director Betsy Miles at bmiles@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

Newspapers with a candidate for an internship or interested in having an intern should contact Betsy Miles.

## ANSWERS FROM PUZZLES ON PAGE 5B



Go Figure! answers

Answers

Radio, Ratio

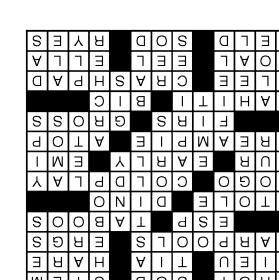
6. Member, Embroider

7. Thick, Think

8. Invert, Insert

9. Outlaw, Outlawy

10. Party, Putty



Answers

Go Figure! answers

Answers

Radio, Ratio

6. Member, Embroider

7. Thick, Think

8. Invert, Insert

9. Outlaw, Outlawy

10. Party, Putty

5. Heart, Health

4. Nation, Notion

3. Scene, Scene

2. Cruise, Cruise

1. Radio, Ratio

solution time: 23 mins.

# Healthy Saturday

**WVU Medicine**

GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

January 6, 2024

6:00 am – 9:00 am

- Limited to 200 people
  - Appointment Only - Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by January 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

# Cryptogram quote

— Bob Marley

better than silver or gold, lose your soul; wisdom is

Don't gain the world and

answer

— Cryptogram quote

# Petersburg Interfaith Pantry receives surprised visit and donation



Douglas Long presents a donation to Petersburg Interfaith Pantry workers who were working that day.

The Petersburg Interfaith Pantry received a call last week requesting information on picking up some free food from them.

The caller also stated he wanted to give the pantry something and was told he didn't have to give them

anything, the food was free.

After making sure someone would be at the pantry's Myrtle Avenue location, the caller turned up.

What a surprise when food pantry workers welcomed in Douglas Long, general manager of the

Winchester and Western Railroad Company, a division of OmniTRAX.

OmniTRAX recently purchased the South Branch Valley Railroad, which serves industries

Grant, Hardy and Hampshire counties and also the Potomac Eagle excursion train.

Long presented a check to the food pantry for \$6,000, a welcome gift during the busy holiday season.

A letter from Sergio Sabatini, president and CEO of OmniTRAX accompanied the donation:

"On behalf of OmniTRAX, we are truly honored to make a contribution to your organization this holiday season. OmniTRAX and our affiliate railroads care about the local communities we serve. We are proud to call these neighborhoods home and part of being a good neighbor is lending a helping

hand. As part of our Good Neighbor program, we would like to make a donation to help support the critical work your organization does each day ..."

"We sincerely thank you for the essential work your organization provides the community each year. We are proud to add our support."

The Petersburg Interfaith Pantry has served families and individuals for many years and is run on a volunteer basis by churches in Grant County.

If you would like to make a nonperishable food donation or monetary donation, you may drop it off at the Grant County Press for weekly pickup by PIP.



## Dorcas 4-H Club report

The Dorcas 4H Club met December 18, at the Dorcas Community Center for their club meeting and annual Christmas party.

Members discussed future club activities and their monthly club balance.

They had a science and health minute, made Christmas cards and fruit baskets for the local nursing home residents and participated in a sneaky snowman activity.

After the meeting was adjourned everyone enjoyed refreshments and gym time.

Meeting notes provided by club reporter,

**Daniel Moxon**



**NEW & USED HOMES**  
Manufactured & Modular Homes  
by Redman, New Era & Skyline  
Transporters / Large Parts Inventory  
Stop by either location!  
602 N. Main St., Moorefield, WV  
304-538-7066  
U.S. Rt. 50, Shanks, WV  
304-496-7777  
[www.judysmobilehomes.com](http://www.judysmobilehomes.com)

Connect Anywhere, Anytime.

Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- SSI
- WIC
- Veterans Pension
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- Tribal Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance

**maxsip**  
TELECOM

Get a subsidized 4G  
Android Tablet for \$20

CALL TODAY (833) 317-1335

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The **GRANT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY** is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance person. The duties of this position require knowledge in painting, carpentry, grounds, snow removal and other duties as required to maintain our units in good condition. HVAC experience is a plus but not necessary.

We offer health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave, and holiday pay.

Please submit your resume to the GCHA office located at 178 Clifftop Dr., Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than the end of our business day on January 5, 2024.

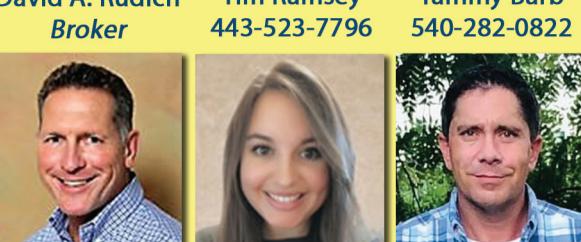
Grant County Housing Authority provides equal opportunities for qualified individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, nationality, origin or creed.



WE SELL MORE BECAUSE  
WE DO MORE!

8079 SR 259 | Lost River, WV  
304-897-6971

[www.LostRiverRealEstate.com](http://www.LostRiverRealEstate.com)



David A. Rudich Broker 443-523-7796	Tim Ramsey 443-523-7796	Tammy Barb 540-282-0822
Kevin Willner 410-340-2201	Julia Parks 304-703-9039	R.J. Vance 681-231-1044

<b>PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL</b>					
<b>JANUARY 2024</b>					
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
1 NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	2 NO SCHOOL PL Day	3 Girls JV B-ball (A) 6:00 Moorefield Girls V B-ball (A) 7:00 Moorefield	4 MS Wrestling (A) 5:30 East Hardy MS Girls B-ball (H) 6:00 East Hardy	5 MS Boys B-ball (H) 12:30 Moorefield MS Girls B-ball (H) 6:00 Marlinton Girls V B-ball (H) 7:30 Frankfort	6 V Wrestling (A) 9:00 East Hardy Boys JV B-ball (H) 6:00 & Boys V Ball (H) 7:30 Pendleton PHS Alumni will play
8 MS Boys B-ball (H) 6:00 Capon Bridge	9 Boys JV B-ball (H) 6:00 & Boys V B-ball (H) 7:30 East Hardy	10 MS Boys B-ball (A) 6:00 East Hardy MS Girls B-ball (A) 6:00 Capon Bridge	11	12 Girls B-ball (A) 1:30 Lincoln Wrestling (A) 1:00 Braxton Boys JV B-ball (H) 6:00 & Boys V B-ball (H) 7:30 Moorefield	13 Girls B-ball (A) 10:00 Mt. Mission Wrestling (A) 9:00 Braxton MS Girls B-ball (A) & MS Boys B-ball (A) 12:00 & 1:15 Aurora
15 NO SCHOOL MLK Day	16 Boys B-ball (A) JV 6:00/V 7:30 Tygart Valley Girls B-ball (H) JV 6:00/V 7:30 Hampshire	17 MS Girls B-ball (A) 6:00 Moorefield	18 MS Wrestling (A) TBA Elkins Girls B-ball (H) 7:00 Pendleton County Science Fair	19 MS Boys B-ball (A) MS Girls B-ball (A) 12:30 Union and 6:00 & 7:15 Harman Boys JV B-ball (H) 6:00 & Boys V B-ball (H) 7:30 Frankfort	20 MS Girls Cheer PVL Competition (H) 11:00 Wrestling (A) 9:00 Frankfort
22 MS Girls B-ball (A) 6:00 Romney	23 Boys B-ball (A) JV 6:00, V 7:30 Hampshire Girls B-ball (A) JV 6:00, V 7:30 Frankfort MS Boys B-ball (A) 6:00 Pendleton	24 MS Girls B-ball (H) 6:00 Pendleton	25 MS Boys B-ball (H) 6:00 Romney Girls B-Ball (A) 7:00 Pendleton County Math Field Day	26 Wrestling (H) <b>VIKING SMASH</b> MS Boys B-ball (A) 6:00 Paw Paw MS Girls B-ball (A) 6:00 Warm Springs No School, PVL Day	27 Wrestling (H) 9:00 <b>VIKING SMASH</b> MS Boys B-ball (A) 1:00 Wildwood
29	30 Boys B-ball (H) JV 6:00, V 7:30 Keyser Girls B-ball (A) JV 6:00, V 7:30 Keyser	31 MS Boys B-ball (A) 6:00 Moorefield	Jan. 20th Miss PHS Jr. & Sr. High 4:00 & 7:00 Landes Arts Center	Partners in Education Member FDIC	



PETERSBURG 304-257-4111 HARMAN 304-227-4104

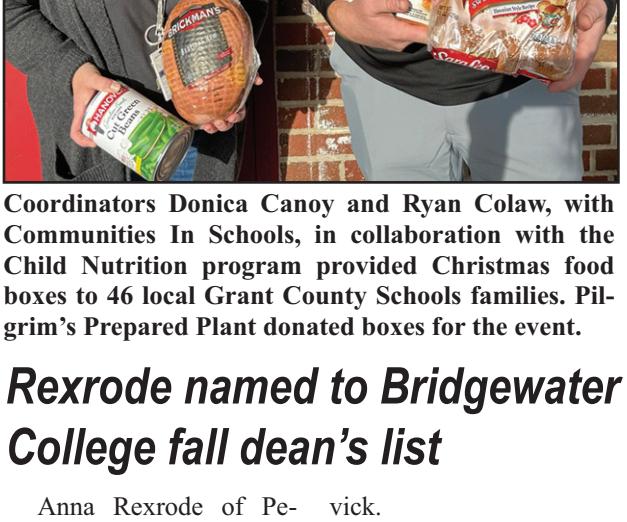
RIVERTON 304-567-2224 DAVIS 304-259-5201

KEYSER 304-788-8040 CANAAN VALLEY 304-866-4848

MOOREFIELD 304-538-6566 [www.grantcountybank.com](http://www.grantcountybank.com)



A Subsidiary of Highlands Bankshares, Inc.



Coordinators Donica Canoy and Ryan Colaw, with Communities In Schools, in collaboration with the Child Nutrition program provided Christmas food boxes to 46 local Grant County Schools families. Pilgrim's Prepared Plant donated boxes for the event.

## Rexrode named to Bridgewater College fall dean's list

Anna Rexrode of Petersburg, was named to the fall semester dean's list at Bridgewater College.

She is a health and exercise science major at Bridgewater.

Rexrode was among approximately 550 students named to the dean's list, which was announced by Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Leona A. Se-

vick.

Students on the dean's list have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Coeducational since its founding in 1880, Bridgewater College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Rexrode was among approximately 550 students named to the dean's list, which was announced by Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Leona A. Se-

## Shared editorial

### DHHR re-organization accomplishes ... what, exactly?

The Herald-Dispatch - Huntington

It's close to impossible to kill a bureaucracy, and it's almost as difficult to change one. Members of the West Virginia Legislature received a reminder of that fact this week when they heard about progress on how the state Department of Health and Human Resources is dividing into three separate agencies in accordance with a legislative mandate.

Maybe that should be phrased as how management of the DHHR is getting around that mandate.

As reported by HD Media's Roger Adkins, the Legislature mandated splitting the DHHR into three separate agencies — the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health Facilities — after concerns over problems ranging from transparency and financial management to longstanding issues within the state's child welfare system.

The Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources Accountability on Monday heard a status update on the agency's division from interim DHHR Secretary Dr. Sherri Young. After the Jan. 1 split, Young will lead the Department of Health.

The plan to divide the DHHR includes creating the Office of Shared Administration to work with all three of the new departments. The office will include the Office of Finance, the Office of Human Resources Management, the Office of Constituents, the Office of Communications, the Office of Operations, the Office of Information Services, and a Liaison to Boards and Commissions, each branching into the three new agencies in varying ways.

The DHHR's administration could not be decentralized without putting each of the new departments at a disadvantage, Young told the committee.

Delegate Amy Summers, R-Taylor, asked, "So is it any different from what we currently do or is it exactly the same?"

Young replied, "It's very similar."

The split is less than three weeks away. It's difficult to believe that no one in either the Legislature or the Governor's Office knew of this plan to counter the Legislature's order to divide DHHR into three agencies.

The DHHR is the state's largest agency. It has a \$7.5 billion budget and nearly 5,000 full-time employees. Its size makes it difficult to manage, and that has brought about scores of problems in providing the services it is supposed to provide to West Virginians. Dividing the agency was to allow managers to focus more on specific services. Sharing the services in the various high-level offices defeats that purpose.

The legislative session begins Jan. 10. If this plan to divide the DHHR into three agencies with shared management isn't what the Legislature intended, then legislators need to step in and make their intentions clear. If their intent was to do something that looked like taking action but, as Young said, end up with something nearly identical to what the state had before, then they will take no action.

What happens or doesn't happen during the session will reveal how serious legislators and the governor are about solving DHHR's longstanding problems.

## W.Va. Secretary of State releases "2024 Running for Office Guide" for candidates and political committees

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner has released the 2024 Running for Office Guide, offering detailed guidance to political candidates for the upcoming state elections.

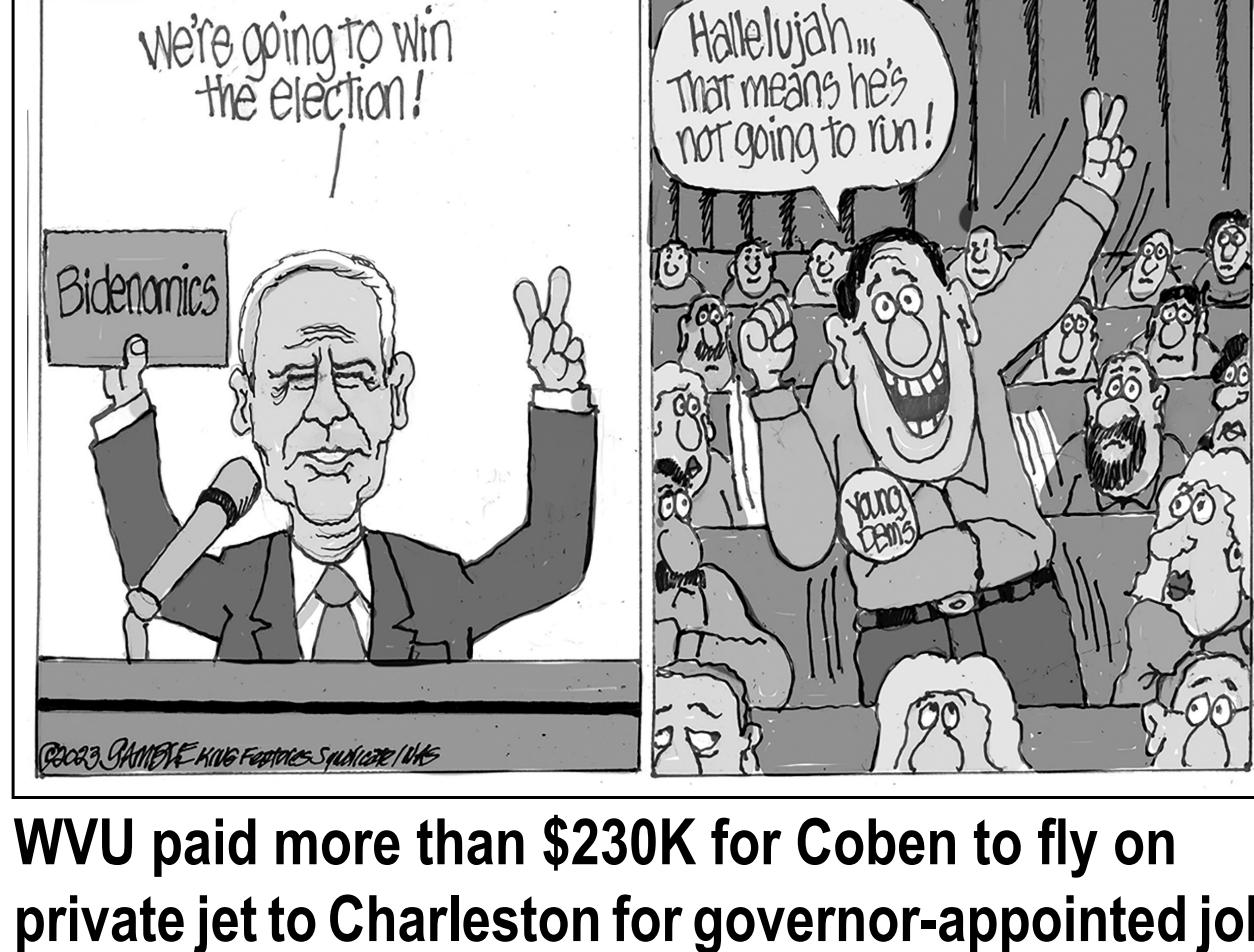
In addition to the guide, judicial candidates are encouraged to review the Judicial Investigation Commission's 2024 Judicial Campaign Ethics Handbook.

Warner said that candidates interested in running for office in 2024 should review the House of Delegates, State Senate and Congressional District maps located at GoVtowWV.com.

Candidates should contact their county clerk to confirm the district based on their legal residence.

In addition to residency requirements, candidates for partisan nominations in the May 14 primary election must not have been a member of another recognized political party for at least 60 days prior to filing to become a candidate. Candidate registration will take place January 8-27.

The guide also includes the financial reporting requirements for candidate committees. Warner said that the state's online Campaign Finance Reporting System is easy to use and provides greater transparency than ever before into West Virginia candidates' finances.



## WVU paid more than \$230K for Coben to fly on private jet to Charleston for governor-appointed job

By Amelia Ferrell Knisely

### West Virginia Watch

West Virginia University paid more than \$230,000 for employee Jeff Coben to fly on a private plane to Charleston and work for the governor's administration. University leaders, grappling with a budget shortfall, said the pay out was justified as they're fulfilling a "land grant mission" to serve the state.

Earlier this year, Coben, who is a doctor, served as interim secretary for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

Public flight records obtained using the Freedom of Information Act detailed how Coben regularly used WVU's chartered jet for reasons that included meeting with Governor Jim Justice, state health department leaders and lawmakers. Additional thousands of dollars were spent on flights where Coben joined others during his government work.

He often used the plane to travel from his home in

Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Charleston to perform his duties as secretary. His name was listed on private jet itineraries that included the Washington County Airport, which totaled more than \$76,000 from December 2022 through June 21, 2023. Washington County is approximately a three-hour drive from Charleston.

**"I'm surprised and kind of disappointed that's how they chose to spend money while we are scrutinized for every penny we spend."**

- WUV faculty member

jet, paid for by WVU, to travel from Washington County to Charleston "to meet with Gov. Justice as well as with all DHHR departments across the state to further implementation of various duties during transition of interim Secretary for DHHR," according to the flight reservation.

The trip cost \$7,030.58, according to records.

and create a "modern-day" university. The university has eliminated hundreds of jobs and slashed 28 academic programs. Amid the budget crunch, the university library system previously suspended purchases of new educational materials, including books.

Meanwhile, the Charleston Gazette Mail reported that while WVU leaders were addressing the budget shortfall, university payments to an aviation company for air travel have risen.

"I'm surprised and kind of disappointed that's how they chose to spend money while we are scrutinized for every penny we spent," said Christian Abildso, 47, a faculty member who was told his contract wouldn't be renewed after next May as part of the university's Reduction in Force.

Abildso teaches in the Department of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, which was previously under Coben's leadership

### WVU jet

Continued on Page 5A

## Attorney general's, auditor's offices, partner to ensure opioid settlement money used accordingly

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey is partnering with the state auditor's office to supplement the AG office's efforts to make sure opioid settlement money will be and is being used for its intended purposes as outlined in the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding.

The attorney general and auditor are sending letters to the state's cities and counties to provide information and guidance to assist them as they begin to receive and plan to spend their share of the opioid

settlement money.

"This is another layer in the checks and balances to make sure the money from settlements are used in the best possible way, to attack the opioid scourge head-on," Morrisey said.

"I am pleased to partner with the state auditor's office to bring its proven track record of transparency, accountability, and service to local governments to amplify the collaborative effort between the attorney general's office and local governments around the state."

The MOU created the first plan of action to address the opioid crisis, and was the first step toward healing the battered communities in this state; it details the allocation method for any settlement funds or judgments received as a result of the various lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors and other parties in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The newly-formed West Virginia First Foundation will receive 72.5% of all settlement and judgment dollars. Another 24.5%

will go directly to local governments, while 3% will be held in escrow by the state.

Local governments have broad discretion to decide which approved uses are best to spend their share of the settlement money.

This new partnership with the auditor's office will help ensure that not only the terms of the settlement are met but also provide additional resources for local governments as they put these money to use fighting the opioid epidemic.

## Federal judge dismisses lawsuit to keep Trump off WV ballot

By Steven Allen Adams  
The Parkersburg News  
and Sentinel

Unlike in Colorado, a case brought in federal court to keep former Republican president Donald Trump off the primary and general election ballots in West Virginia was dismissed.

In a memorandum opinion and order released Thursday evening, U.S. District Judge Irene C. Berger granted motions made by attorneys for Trump, Secretary of State Mac Warner, and the West Virginia Republican Party to dismiss a lawsuit brought in September by Texas resident and write-in presidential candidate John Anthony Castro.

Berger also ordered that

Castro's case be dismissed without prejudice, which would allow Castro to possibly file the case again during the candidate filing period in West Virginia beginning Monday, Jan. 8, through Saturday, Jan. 27.

"This is a big win for the integrity of our elections," said Attorney General Patrick Morrisey in a statement Thursday evening. "This lawsuit was frivolous to begin with and without merit — it had no basis in either law or fact. Any eligible candidate has the right to be on the ballot unless legally disqualified, and we will defend the laws of West Virginia and the right of voters and candidates to the fullest."

Castro was seeking a federal court order prohib-

iting Trump from being placed on the 2024 Republican primary ballot in West Virginia, arguing that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prevents Trump from holding future federal offices.

Castro believes that Trump's words and actions leading up to the certification of the 2020 presidential election by Congress on Jan. 6, 2021, helped fuel a riot at the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters attempting to stop the certification of President Joe Biden.

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 7 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, is one of two dozen lawsuits filed by Castro in other states attempting to block Trump's ballot access. Castro claimed that

allowing Trump on West Virginia's ballot next year will harm Castro's ability to campaign and fundraise, though Castro has reported no donations to date to the Federal Election Commission.

In her memorandum opinion, Berger said that Castro's lawsuit was disingenuous, considering that there were no signs that Castro had actively campaigned for president in West Virginia or had any campaign presence in the state at all.

The evidence establishes that he has no campaign offices, staff, or advertising in West Virginia, does not appear in polling, has little name recognition

### Lawsuit

Continued on Page 5A

# Remember When



This week there is no written column for this feature because in earlier years, the Press office was closed between Christmas and New Year's. We'll pick up with county history next week.



Grant County teachers' institute, about 1905

## WVU jet

**Continued from Page 4A**

while he served as dean of university's School of Public Health.

WVU also paid for employee Dr. Clay Marsh, who served as the state coronavirus czar, to use the chartered jet for his state government work. A flight record showed Marsh flew to Charleston on Sept. 20 to participate in the governor's press briefing at the cost of \$11,446.97.

In an email, Kaull said that the flights "were funded through WVU royalty and trademark licensing fees collected by the University."

"No state appropriations or student tuition or fees are used," she continued.

DHHR's communications department did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this story, including a question about whether the department had an agreement with WVU to pay for Coben's air travel.

WVU has paid around \$12.3 million to the company, L.J. Aviation, a Pennsylvania-based company, for chartering a private aircraft since July 2014, according to the Charleston Gazette-Mail. Flight records showed university

President E. Gordon Gee regularly flew from Morgantown to Charleston instead of making the two-and-a-half hour drive.

Austin Siford, who lives in Jefferson County, became curious about when and how university leaders were using private jets amid the budget issues. He obtained years of flight records from the State Auditor's Office, then verified the authenticity of the amount WVU spent through the auditor's state payment database. He compiled WVU's flight records into an online database.

"I had questions about WVU's usage of private charter flights," he said. "I compiled and published this data because nobody else was going to."

Records obtained by Siford showed an expensive trip where Coben joined Gee, Senate President Craig Blair and other state leaders "to promote West Virginia through investments and ideas to improve and enhance state education outcomes." The trip, which included flying to Seattle, Washington, cost \$69,327.

Siford noted that the cost of the flight was greater than the median household income in the state.

Coben wrapped up his work as interim DHHR

secretary in July as the department hired secretaries for its three new departments. Justice said Coben's leaving was a "planned departure."

In October, Coben's name showed up in court filings in an ongoing lawsuit against DHHR. The class-action lawsuit, filed in 2019, said that the department failed to properly care for thousands of foster kids.

Attorneys for the children revealed in October that DHHR failed to save emails from top former officials, including Coben and leaders who predated him. The attorneys are pursuing sanctions against DHHR over the missing evidence, while the state has blamed the Office of Technology for the fiasco.

Coben stepped down from his role of dean of the School of Public Health in November, according to a university press release. He will remain on faculty with the Schools of Public Health and Medicine, according to a university press release.

He will also continue to support the operations of the Health Affairs Institute in his role as associate vice president.

"Dr. Coben has been very involved with the administration of the Health

Sciences Center since his appointment as his associate vice president in 2015," Kaull said. "When he returned to the university, he decided he wanted to devote his attention there and to his associated leadership and faculty position responsibilities."

The Health Affairs Institute, housed at WVU, focused on improving health outcomes in Appalachia through research and strategy. Coben launched the institute in 2017 through a partnership with DHHR.

The institute received state funding this year, including \$16.9 million from DHHR to complete contracted work, according to Kaull. She said Summer Hartley assumed the role of associate vice president at the institute once Coben began his role as interim secretary for DHHR.

"Hartley was responsible for all strategy, finance and operations during that time period," Kaull said.

Financial reviews continue at WVU's Beckley and Keyser campuses. WVU recently announced 16 job cuts in its libraries.

"The restructuring will result in an estimated \$790,000 in personnel savings," according to the university.

## WV troopers recovering after trading gunfire with suspect who was killed, police say

(AP) Two West Virginia state troopers wounded in a recent exchange of gunfire with a suspect who was killed are recovering, police said last Wednesday.

Trooper A. A. Bean, who was shot four times, had to have his left leg amputated above the knee, but is doing well now, police said in the statement. Trooper C. D. Spesert, who was shot once in the side, has been released from the hospital, the statement added.

The exchange of gunfire happened Sunday in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle as officers were attempting to serve an arrest warrant. Tobias Ganey, 60, died in Martinsburg, said Maj. James Mitchell, West Virginia State Police chief of staff services.

The officers found Ganey at a home where they attempted to serve him a warrant for battery. He spoke to officers when they arrived but refused to open the door or come outside, police said.

The troopers forced entry into the home to make their arrest and both "immediately were struck by bullets" and returned fire, killing Ganey.

The investigation into the shooting is continuing.

## Lawsuit

**Continued from Page 4A**

among West Virginia Republican primary voters, and has extremely minimal campaign funds, vastly insufficient to run an actual campaign," Berger wrote. "If there were any question as to whether the allegations in the complaint are sufficient to overcome a facial challenge, the evidentiary submissions remove any doubt that Mr. Castro's purported 'campaign' exists as a vehicle for pursuing litigation, not votes."

Berger cited admissions by Castro in a similar lawsuit in New Hampshire where Castro admitted that he had no campaign activities beyond filing lawsuits to block Trump from the ballots in multiple states. Beyond that, Berger said Castro was unable to show how Trump being on the ballot would harm his write-in presidential campaign.

"The law is not well-developed with respect to standing based on political competition," Berger wrote. "However, the Court finds that Mr. Castro's complaint relied on supposition and speculation: that if Mr. Trump were removed from the ballot, his voters and contributors would default to other candidates, including Mr. Castro. But he supplies no specifics to support the conclusion that any Trump voters would become Castro voters if his suit was successful."

Berger's ruling is the opposite of a ruling made Tuesday by the Colorado Supreme Court, which decided that Trump was ineligible for the Colorado primary ballot because of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that "No person shall ... hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath ... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

According to Politico, the Colorado Republican Party and Trump plan to appeal the Colorado Supreme Court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court and seek an expedited ruling. The ruling has been stayed pending appeal.

## USDA Forest Service closing Dolly Sods roads for public safety Jan. 2

Monongahela National Forest officials will implement the annual winter road closures in the Dolly Sods area by closing the gates on Forest Roads 19 and 75 January 2, 2024, the first business day after the holiday.

These roads are closed to motor vehicle use from January to early or mid-April annually to provide for public safety due to variable road conditions in the winter months. Non-motorized use of the roads is allowed.

"The road closures are put in place to ensure the safety of both visitors and employees," said Cheat-Potomac District Ranger Jon Morgan. "Forest visitors and emergency responders are put at unnecessary risk without the road closures."

Both roads usually open again by mid-April or as soon as weather permits.

Staff from Monongahela National Forest work with local landowners and residents affected by the road closures to ensure they have access to their property.

Landowners and residents who need access behind the gates should contact the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District office in Petersburg for assistance at 304-257-4488.

Information about the status of roads and facilities is also available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf/>.



## 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 Com-

mission 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

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

Potomac Highlands

## Amber Waves

## Community Meetings & Events

## 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 Com-

## 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

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

Potomac Highlands

## Community Meetings & Events

## 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 Com-

## 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

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

Potomac Highlands

## Community Meetings & Events

## 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 Com-

## 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

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

Potomac Highlands

## Community Meetings & Events

## 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 Com-

## 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

# Local and area obituaries

ASHLEY M. KIMBLE

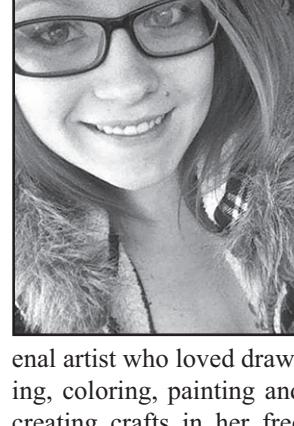
Ashley Michele "Aye Kay" Kimble, 27, formerly of Petersburg, W.Va., passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, as a result of an apartment fire in Parkersburg, W.Va.

Born Dec. 19, 1995, in Petersburg, she was a daughter of Pamela B. (Miller) Kimble of Petersburg, and Michael Trent Kimble of Cabins, W.Va.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by one son, Ryatt Bentley; two sisters, Caitlin Kimble of Petersburg and Bailey "Madison" Kimble of Cabins; one brother, Kylo Kimble of Petersburg; paternal grandparents, Trent and Deborah Kimble of Lahmansville W.Va.; and several aunts, uncles, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by one infant son, Carter James "Toodles" Bentley; and maternal grandmother, Susan M. (Bartos) Alt.

Ashley attended Petersburg High School in Petersburg, but received her GED later. She was a tattoo artist apprentice in Parkersburg, and also received her license in cosmetology to later work at Ulta Beauty. She was a carefree person who lived in the moment, as well as being a phenom-



enal artist who loved drawing, coloring, painting and creating crafts in her free time. She even picked up a hobby of crocheting stuffed animals and making necklaces.

Ashley was known to be pulling pranks, telling jokes and always had an infectious smile on her face. She loved spending time with friends and loved ones, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

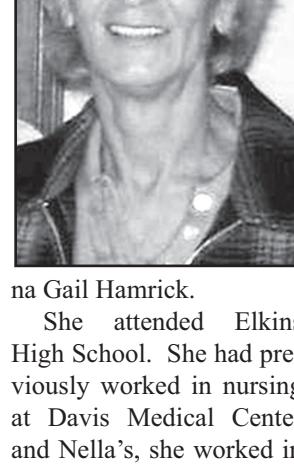
Respecting her wishes, she will be cremated.

A celebration of life ceremony will be scheduled at a later date.

Donations to the family to cover funeral costs may be left at <https://gofund.me/3c387938>.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg. Condolences to the family may be left at [www.schaefferfuneralhome.com](http://www.schaefferfuneralhome.com). (12-26-23)

## LAURA JEAN HOWELL HUNT



Gail Hamrick.

She attended Elkins High School. She had previously worked in nursing at Davis Medical Center and Nella's, she worked in retail management in Petersburg and Parsons. Laura worked in Labor Union #984 of Clarksburg. Laura enjoyed feeding her deer and turkeys and loved the beauty of the outdoors. She recently enjoyed watching Hallmark Christmas movies, was a very strong lady, always had a smile and was a joy to talk with.

Laura's request for cremation was honored. The family will receive friends at the Lohr & Barb Funeral Home of Parsons, on Wednesday, December 27, from 4-6 p.m. A memorial service will be conducted on Wednesday at 6 p.m. The Reverend Julie M. Davis will officiate.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.lohrbarbfuneral-home.com](http://www.lohrbarbfuneral-home.com). (12-26-23)

BETTY G. MALLOW

Betty Gay Ketterman Mallow, 88, of Franklin, W.Va., passed away Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at Pendleton Manor, Franklin.

Born Sept. 23, 1935, in Petersburg, W.Va., she was a daughter of the late Kate Sites Ketterman. On June 22, 1956, Betty married E. Paul Mallow, who preceded her in death on Oct. 5, 1983.

Betty was a 1954 graduate of Petersburg High School and was also a graduate of the WV Business College. She worked in various secretarial fields from 1956 to 1997.

Betty loved to attend church at a young age. She recalled walking to church in the Ridges of Petersburg, and often said, "God has always been with me." Betty learned to sew and was known to sew her own clothing as well as her family's. She was an avid gardener and loved to bless family, friends and businesses with her beautiful flowers. She took pride in cooking and enjoyed sharing her homemade pies with her family and was always searching for new recipes to share. Betty's passion in addition to her hobbies was living on her farm and taking long walks, seeking to find a new rock for her collection.

After the death of her husband, Betty became involved in the beef industry. One of her proudest achievements was receiving the Potomac Valley District Farmer of the Year award. She was a proud member of the Republican Committee and she had served in various offices over the years.

Betty was the last surviving member of her immediate family and she

Place your  
*In Memory*  
ad for a  
loved one  
by calling  
304-257-1844  
or email  
ads@grant  
countypress.  
com  
Your color ad,  
this size,  
with photo,  
is \$25



leaves behind to cherish her memory: two sons, Jeff Mallow (Yvonne) of Brandwine, W.Va., and Brad Mallow (Kathy) of Cameron, N.C.; one daughter, Lori Raines (Rick) of Franklin; six grandchildren, Stephen Mallow, Alyssa Mallow, Abby Beecher (Justin), Katherine Matagi (Travis), Brett Raines (Danielle), and Logan Raines; three step-grandchildren, Brandon Baudin (Jennifer), Brett Baudin (Chelsea), and Breana Burgess; five great-grandchildren; two nieces, Joyce and Darlene Ketterman; a nephew, Roger Ketterman; and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her mother and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Bert Ketterman; one sister-in-law, Alice Ketterman; one nephew, LeRoy Ketterman; and one great-niece, Peggy Ketterman.

Graveside services were Friday afternoon at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church Cemetery in Upper Tract, W.Va.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made in honor of Betty to any Pendleton County Emergency Rescue Squad or the Mt. Hope Lutheran Church.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com) or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (12-26-23)

**TRI-STATE MEMORIAL COMPANY**

Compare our prices & **SAVE**  
Granite, Marble and Bronze  
Memorials for all Cemeteries

Main Office in Piedmont, WV  
1-800-924-6701

Final Date Engraving Service Available.  
Visit us at [www.tristatememorialcompany.com](http://www.tristatememorialcompany.com)

**Call today 304-355-8033**

*In Memory of Terry's Shop*

**Terry Dolly and Randy Stump during this holiday season**

**Missed by Family & Friends**

## NOW HIRING

**CLASS A CDL DRIVER  
FOR FUEL TRANSPORT**

Work Week:  
Monday - Friday  
7-9 Loads per week  
Home every night!  
No wait time to unload!



Salary paid by load. Benefits include: paid vacation and sick days, paid holidays, uniform allowance, 401K retirement, Blue Cross Blue

Shield health insurance for employee and family, short term disability, and life insurance. ALL FREE to employees.

**PETERSBURG OIL COMPANY**  
DEPENDABLE SERVICE SINCE 1929  
PETERSBURG, WV

If interested, please call 304-257-4440.

Applications can be picked up in the main office at Petersburg Oil Company.

112 S. Grove St., Petersburg, WV 26847

**Give Them Some "Home" for the Holidays**

**GRANT COUNTY PRESS**  
The preferred medium in Grant County since 1896

Hometown News  
Local Sports • State News  
Community Events  
Area Shopping • The Arts



**Let us protect what you value most.**

**AUTO | BUSINESS | HOME | LIFE | FARM**

Contact us today to get started.  
**Bobby Jones Associate Agent**  
**Jones Insurance Agency**  
701 N Main St  
Moorefield, WV 26836  
(304) 530-6225  
[www.jonesinsurancewv.com](http://www.jonesinsurancewv.com)

Like us on

Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and affiliated companies. Columbus, OH. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2007 Nationwide 5762950

<b>Home Delivery</b>	<b>Grant County Rate</b> <b>\$36.00 ONE YEAR</b>	<b>Elsewhere in West Virginia Rate</b> <b>\$39.00 ONE YEAR</b>	<b>Out-of-State Rate</b> <b>\$41.00 ONE YEAR</b>
<b>Online E-Subscription</b>	<b>All Areas Rate</b> <b>\$36.00 ONE YEAR</b>	Get the full edition of the Press online Tuesday mornings	
<b>Print &amp; E-Sub Combo</b>	<b>Grant County Rate</b> <b>\$49.00 ONE YEAR</b>	<b>Elsewhere in West Virginia</b> <b>\$54.00 ONE YEAR</b>	<b>Out-of-State Rate</b> <b>\$56.00 ONE YEAR</b>

**Give the gift that lasts all year!**

To subscribe Mail your check to: P.O. Box 39, Petersburg, WV 26847

Call 304-257-1844 or go Online

at [www.grantcountypress.com](http://www.grantcountypress.com)



# Riggleman

Continued from front

ly invited to submit a full application to the program.

"I just kept moving forward," Riggleman said. "I would complete one step at a time. I kept getting more involved and kept researching to make sure that I had the application as sound as it could be."

After moving from one in over 100 original applicants, submitting multiple essays, filling out questionnaires, writing a speech and even taking an exam to determine his existing knowledge, Riggleman arrived at the final hurdle of the program - being one of the only six applicants asked to participate in an interview with

be asked to speak on.

"You had to imagine you were a newly elected West Virginian senator and you had to discuss the different legislative initiatives you wanted to accomplish. It didn't really give you much to go on, in how they wanted the issues addressed. The way I handled it was looking at the initiatives I had presented and asked myself how I would fix those issues. So I proposed a bill for each issue and I was able to give a solution. I was able to defend my solution because, since I had prepared these bills, I had researched the topics and knew I could be knowledgeable on what I was being asked."

Nationally, 104 students were selected for the program, including two

**"I am most excited about meeting all the political leaders. We are supposed to be meeting with people from all three branches of government and then part of the bureaucracy, so a lot of your leaders from within the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education and similar roles. So it will be very unique to get to see how they do their job and how all of them working together make our nation run."**

the program judges.

Riggleman explained that the interview was conducted via online video call, something that he felt was both a blessing but also a new and unique challenge.

"It was a Zoom call, which was different," Riggleman said. "In some ways I do think that made it easier but in the same way, I also think it made it more of a challenge. For me, I like to read the situation but that is really hard when you are just looking at a screen. I could see their faces, for the most part, but you really don't get the same sense of how you are doing. But overall, I thought it went really well."

To prepare for his interview, Riggleman took a creative approach to handling the issues he would

from each state, two from the District of Columbia and two from the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The second student that was selected to represent West Virginia is Peyton Barker of Greenbrier County - someone Riggleman actually had met at a previous leadership conference he attended in Huntington.

"I am most excited about meeting all the political leaders," Riggleman said. "We are supposed to be meeting with people from all three branches of government and then part of the bureaucracy, so a lot of your leaders from within the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education and similar roles. So it will

In his (albeit limited) spare time, Riggleman enjoys spending his days out-

be very unique to get to see how they do their job and how all of them working together make our nation run."

In past years, Riggleman said USSYP representatives have toured the Pentagon and the White House, which he is hopeful he will get to do as well.

"When I found out I was selected, I didn't really know what to think because it just didn't feel real," Riggleman said.

Riggleman's interest in politics started during the Covid-19 pandemic, an experience that heavily impacted many young people and has had lasting effects on their education. Highly motivated but stuck at home, Riggleman began to watch the news. At first, he watched for updates on the pandemic, however, his interest quickly bloomed beyond that single issue.

"It started in eighth grade, that was a big year for me and, I guess, a lot of people," Riggleman explained. "That was the year Covid happened. All everyone was doing was staying home and watching the news because we all wanted to know what was happening. I was doing the same thing. Plus, it also happened to be an election year. So we were learning about West Virginia's government, but also how our whole country's political system worked. It was the perfect time to talk about it and I became very interested in it."

Since then, Riggleman has been very involved in his school and his community.

He is currently serving as the PHS student council president, historian for the PHS National Honor Society, president of the SkillsUSA program through the South Branch

Career and Technical Center, a member of his graduating class's adviser group, a member of the PHS student leadership team and is the 2023-24 Senior Class president.

In his (albeit limited) spare time, Riggleman enjoys spending his days out-

doors. He strives to focus on his health and finds joy in hunting, fishing, biking and running.

After graduation, Riggleman plans to attend Fairmont State University where he plans to major in political science with minors in history, journalism

and potentially criminal justice.

"Right now my long term goals are to attend law school and become a practicing attorney and I do hope to someday get involved in politics," Riggleman said.

Riggleman said he

## Rodney Whetzel named Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center Resident of the Week

By Ravenna Redman  
Social Services Director

The employees of Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center have chosen Rodney Whetzel as GRCC Resident of the Week.

Rodney has been a resident of our facility since April 20. He was born on Sept. 28, 1971, to Eugene and Betty (Jenkins) Whetzel. He is the baby of four siblings, Tammy Sites, Thomas Whetzel, and Timothy Whetzel. Thomas and Timothy have passed on.

Rodney's father worked various jobs. At the beginning, cut wood and then he worked at the Petersburg Tannery until it closed. His last position was with Southern States as a service technician, and served for 22 years.

Rodney's mother worked at Rockingham. She eventually became an in-home service person for the elderly.

The family lived up South Fork in Hardy County and Rodney went to Moorefield Elementary School.

He enjoyed getting up in the morning and going on the school bus. He loved being outside. When he was small, he liked pushing a wheelbarrow throughout the yard.

Rodney attended Moorefield High School where he was a member

of the Future Farmers of America, and proudly wore his FFA jacket. He did not graduate from school, due to his health condition.

Unfortunately, Rodney began having problems walking and was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

Muscular dystrophies are a group of muscle diseases caused by mutations in a person's genes. As the disease progresses, muscle weakness decreases mobility. It can run in families, or a person can be the first in their family to have it. Due to the progression of the disease, Rodney was never able to hold down a job.

Rodney enjoys music; hard rock is his favorite.

"The more head-banging the better," Rodney's sister, Tammy admitted. "I hated it, but he liked it," Betty Whetzel, Rodney's mother reported. His favorite band is Cinderella.

Betty's health also declined, and she became a resident at our facility, and requested Rodney to transfer to GRCC, which we were able to do in April. At the facility, he continues to watch videos on his tablet, and television. When the weather permits, he loves going outside. He also enjoys visiting with his mother and sister.

The picture shared is when Rodney was enjoying the lawn party this fall at GRCC, listening to good music with his mother beside him.

Congratulations Rodney on being GRCC's Resident of the Week!



his primary caretaker. "I liked to do his exercises. I just loved taking care of him. I did it until I could not do it anymore." His physical health deteriorated to the point that she was no longer able to care for him and was admitted into Keyser Healthcare.

Betty's health also declined, and she became a resident at our facility, and requested Rodney to transfer to GRCC, which we were able to do in April. At the facility, he continues to watch videos on his tablet, and television. When the weather permits, he loves going outside. He also enjoys visiting with his mother and sister.

The picture shared is when Rodney was enjoying the lawn party this fall at GRCC, listening to good music with his mother beside him.

Congratulations Rodney on being GRCC's Resident of the Week!

Bryson Riggleman

**"I am most excited about meeting all the political leaders. We are supposed to be meeting with people from all three branches of government and then part of the bureaucracy, so a lot of your leaders from within the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education and similar roles. So it will be very unique to get to see how they do their job and how all of them working together make our nation run."**

from each state, two from the District of Columbia and two from the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The second student that was selected to represent West Virginia is Peyton Barker of Greenbrier County - someone Riggleman actually had met at a previous leadership conference he attended in Huntington.

"I am most excited about meeting all the political leaders," Riggleman said. "We are supposed to be meeting with people from all three branches of government and then part of the bureaucracy, so a lot of your leaders from within the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education and similar roles. So it will

In his (albeit limited) spare time, Riggleman enjoys spending his days out-

doors. He strives to focus on his health and finds joy in hunting, fishing, biking and running.

After graduation, Riggleman plans to attend Fairmont State University where he plans to major in political science with minors in history, journalism

and potentially criminal justice.

"Right now my long term goals are to attend law school and become a practicing attorney and I do hope to someday get involved in politics," Riggleman said.

Riggleman said he

plans to stay in West Virginia, and someday, represent his home state on the national level.

Riggleman is the son of Amy Riggleman and J.R. Lambert, both of Grant County, and he is the grandson of Diane Gaskins and Vicky Lambert.

# Internet

Continued from front

went to Shentel and encompassed the Sunrise Drive and Corner Road areas. He said Shentel had completed the initial stages of the project but was currently stalled waiting for required pole permits from the power company.

A pole permit authorizes the installation, replacement, or attachment to a utility pole in the public right-of-way. These permits are overseen by electric companies, in this case, Potomac Edison.

"Without an approved pole permit they cannot begin construction," Hartley said. "They had the permit submitted around July and still haven't heard anything back. We have had some correspondence back from them but not the approved permit but we are hopeful that construction can start on that the first quarter of next year."

Hartley said the hold-up appears to involve the third party engineering company that works with Potomac Edison; however, he clarified that the issue went far beyond just this one project.

When asked by the commission if there was anything they could do to help speed up the permit process, Laura Brown, the director of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority, explained that Micrologic was hav-

ing a very similar issue in Pendleton County.

"It is a statewide issue right now," Brown said.

Hartley said currently the state was working to improve the process, including having more strict guidelines imposed on power companies for review guidelines.

"The cost related to these reviews has been astronomical," Hartley said. "It has really been a set back for some of the ISPs [Internet Service Providers] where they put these projects together and they had not planned for the amount of money and time it would take to get to the make-ready point. But we are working through it and we know the projects will still be successful."

Hartley said that Shentel is confident that the project can be completed in 90 days once construction starts.

"From the time they get the green light to start, it will be about 90 days and people will be eligible to start receiving their service," Hartley said.

The current projected timeline for service availability in the Sunrise Drive and Corner Road areas is April 1.

The second project Hartley discussed was HardyNet's project in the South Mill Creek area. He explained that HardyNet is in a similar position as Shentel with this project.

"Same issues," Hartley said. "They have their pole

permit submitted. They also had a delay due to a DOH right-of-way and there was an issue with one of the landowners in that area when getting one of the permits, but we found a workaround for that and they are moving forward."

After dealing with a Division of Highways right-of-way issue, they have submitted their pole permits and construction for the project will go to bid within the next month.

"I believe service in those areas will be up and going in the first quarter or near the end of the first quarter of 2024," Hartley said. "But that is where that project is sitting. It has been delayed by the pole permits too, but they should have service no later than that."

Next, Hartley discussed a second Shentel project that encompasses sections of the Gormania, Bismarck and Mount Storm areas.

While this project is not as far along as the other two, Hartley projected that this project should be completed and service available by the end of next year.

The final project underway in the county is being headed by Micrologic, a Buckhannon-based company that is installing fiber in the Maysville, New Creek, Gormania, Cabins, Scherr and Jordan Run Road areas of the county.

This project is also not as far along as the original HardyNet and Shentel projects, however, Hartley said.

"One thing I will say, you have three providers here who are eager to build into your county and that is just great," Hartley said.

Hartley said another round of funding will be opening for more broadband expansion; however, this funding is federal as opposed to state and does not include any county

permits.

"The county's position on these would be to support these projects and also find a way to market the area that you want to see expansion in," Hartley said. "Then to present those areas to the ISPs."

Currently, Hartley said there are 743 targeted addresses that still need coverage. These targeted addresses are some of the more rural sections of the county, requiring approximately 230 miles of fiber to be reached.

"When we started planning years ago we knew we would have these more rural sections to reach as well," Hartley said. "We knew phase one and phase two and then we knew phase three would be large, last-mile extensions.

And I think that is where we are at."

Hartley congratulated the commission for having the full broadband study completed two years ago, saying that decision has played a large role in their success so far.

"I think you are sitting in a really good spot having had your study done two years ago while the rest of the state is just having it done now," Hartley said.

"You guys understand the unique landscape your county sits in and you have a plan to accommodate that. So really, kudos to you for doing that early."

ing had your study done two years ago while the rest of the state is just having it done now," Hartley said. "You guys understand the unique landscape your county sits in and you have a plan to accommodate that. So really, kudos to you for doing that early."

Overall, Riggleman congratulated past commissioners for their work and said he and his current fellow commissioners were excited to help ensure that all Grant County residents have access to high speed internet.

"I think it is a wonderful thing," said commissioner Tyson Riggleman. "We were able to jump ahead of most counties by having that study done. When we began working with you and Thrasher, we were kind of guinea pigs, us and Pendleton, for these studies. And it has worked out pretty well. We have been able to see these grants and awards come to a small county... I know this is something that all three commissioners have wanted to see done. I know the previous commission also wanted to see it done and that's why they did the study. And I really want to give a hats-off to them for thinking futuristically on this and being able to get us into the spot we are in now."

"I think you are sitting in a really good spot hav-

Jeffrey Hartley of Thrasher Engineering

**"I think you are sitting in a really good spot having had your study done two years ago while the rest of the state is just having it done now. You guys understand the unique landscape your county sits in and you have a plan to accommodate that. So really, kudos to you for doing that early."**

funds.

"The county's position on these would be to support these projects and also find a way to market the area that you want to see expansion in," Hartley said. "Then to present those areas to the ISPs."

Currently, Hartley said there are 743 targeted addresses that still need coverage. These targeted addresses are some of the more rural sections of the county, requiring approximately 230 miles of fiber to be reached.

"When we started planning years ago we knew we would have these more rural sections to reach as well," Hartley said. "We knew phase one and phase two and then we knew phase three would be large, last-mile extensions.

And I think that is where we are at."

Hartley congratulated the commission for having the full broadband study completed two years ago, saying that decision has played a large role in their success so far.

"I think you are sitting in a really good spot hav-

ing the full broadband study completed two years ago, saying that decision has played a large role in their success so far.

"I think you are sitting in a really good spot hav-

ing the full broadband study completed two years ago, saying that decision has played a large role in their success so far.



# Boost Your Immunity, Boost Your Confidence!

Introducing the Ultimate COVID Booster Campaign  
Your Path to a Healthier Tomorrow!

Are you ready to take control of your well-being and  
strengthen your defenses against COVID-19?

Join our exclusive COVID Booster Campaign and embark  
on a journey to a healthier, more resilient you!

## WHY CHOOSE OUR BOOSTER CAMPAIGN?

- **COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION:** Our booster shots provide an extra layer of defense, enhancing your body's immune response against COVID-19 and its variants.
- **EXPERT GUIDANCE:** Led by experienced healthcare professionals, our campaign ensures that you receive the latest and most effective booster shots tailored to your individual needs.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** Join a community of like-minded individuals committed to safeguarding their health and the health of others. Share your booster journey, tips, and success stories!
- **PEACE OF MIND:** With the uncertainties of the world, give yourself the peace of mind that comes with a boosted immune system. Face the future with confidence and resilience.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Contact any of our clinic locations to secure your spot in the COVID Booster Campaign today!



**Locations:**  
**BAKER (304) 897-5915**  
**PETERSBURG (304) 257-2451**  
**ROMNEY (304) 822-3838**  
**WARDENSVILLE (304) 874-4012**  
**MATHIAS (304) 897-7400**  
**MOOREFIELD (304) 538-2331**

**LET'S UNITE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER, HEALTHIER FUTURE!**

December 26, 2023

# Christmas in Grant County

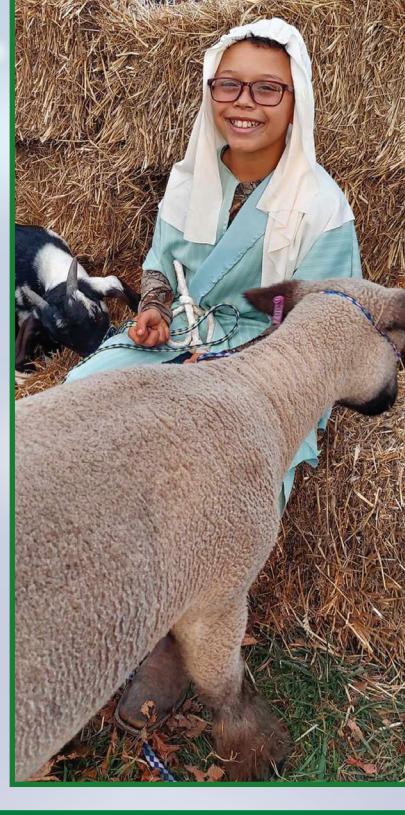
Union Educational Complex



American Legion Santa Ride



Petersburg Elementary School



Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad



Petersburg's Hometown Christmas



## WVDNR announces fall wild turkey harvest results

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has announced that hunters harvested 981 wild turkeys during the 2023 Fall Wild Turkey Season.

Due to the lower brood production this year, the 2023 harvest saw a slight decrease of 3% over the 2022 harvest of 1,012 birds.

Fall turkey harvest numbers are influenced by hunter participation but also depend on the current year's brood production and mast conditions.

Brood production in 2023 was lower than last

year. However, this season was 1% above the five-year average and 12% below the 10-year average.

Fall turkey harvest numbers are influenced by hunter participation but also depend on the current year's brood production and mast conditions.

Brood production in 2023 was lower than last

year. However, more counties were open for a two-week fall season due to a higher spring gobbler harvest than last year.

Districts one and four increased their harvest over 2022, with the others showing a slight decline. District four had the highest harvest (229 birds), followed by District three (215), Dis-

trict one (165), District two (142), District six (119) and District five (111).

Counties with the most harvests were Nicholas County (57 birds), Greenbrier (46), Monroe (43), Randolph (42) and Fayette (32). These counties, except Fayette, had a four-week season.

## West Virginia deer hunters harvest over 45,000 bucks during traditional firearms season

Preliminary data collected from the electronic game checking system indicated that deer hunters in West Virginia harvested 45,155 antlered deer during the two-week firearm season from Nov. 20 through Dec. 3, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced.

The 2023 harvest was 7.5% below the 2022 harvest, which totaled 48,810

bucks.

"The harvest during the 2023 traditional buck firearm season was expected to be lower than that of 2022," said Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section.

Average hard mast indices paired with bad weather during the opening few days of the buck firearms season probably hindered the success of many hunters this season.

All areas of the state registered an average decrease of 11%, with the exception of the southeastern areas that had an increase of 19% from the 2022 harvest.

The top 10 counties for this year's buck harvest were Greenbrier (1,892), Randolph (1,604), Preston (1,413), Pendleton (1,413), Monroe (1,396), Braxton (1,394), Hardy (1,329), Kanawha (1,242), Poca-

hontas (1,236) and Fayette (1,226).

WVDNR reminds hunters that several days of deer hunting opportunity remain, including the remainder of the archery and crossbow season, which runs through Dec. 31.

The reopening of Class N/NN antlerless deer season is Dec. 28-31 in specified counties or portions of counties.

## Deer season for youth, senior, class Q opens today

The final segment of West Virginia's antlerless deer hunting season for youth and senior citizen hunters and Class Q permit holders opens Tuesday, Dec. 26.

During the special two-day season, hunting is permitted on private and public lands in the 51 counties with a firearms deer hunting season. Deer hunting with a firearm is prohibited in Logan, McDowell, Mineral and Wyoming counties.

Youth hunters ages eight to 17 may participate in this special season. Senior

citizens 65 years of age and older who have a resident Class XS lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing license may also participate.

Resident youth hunters ages eight to 14 don't need a hunting license, stamps or hunter safety education card, but must be accompanied by an unarmed, licensed adult who may not hunt. Resident youth hunters 15-17 years of age must comply with all licensing requirements but don't need a Class N stamp.

Nonresident youth hunters need a Class XXJ/Class

AAHJ license and a CS/LW Stamp or a Class DT license. All accompanying nonresident adults must have a Class E License with a CS/LE Stamp. Resident and nonresident hunting licenses and stamps can be purchased online at WVhunt.com.

All hunters participating in this season, including adults accompanying a child, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange.

The daily bag limit for this special season is one antlerless deer per day.

Deer harvested during this special season do not count toward a hunter's annual deer season bag limit. Class N/NN stamps are not required for this special season.

Each deer must be field tagged and electronically registered within 24 hours of the close of each segment of the split season and before pursuit of any additional deer. Deer can be checked online at WVhunt.com, at a license agent or by calling 1-844-WV-CHECK.

**HIGH AVERAGE:** Cohan Kesner 211.94, Zachary Arbaugh 208.50, Gary Leatherman 206.33, Terry Wratchford 205.58, Michael Hedrick 203.69, Derek Miller 201.67.

**SBV WOMEN**

**December 11th**

**HIGH GAME (SCRATCH):** Kathy Vance 193, Linda Helmick 182, Denise McGreevy 180. (HANDICAP): Kathy Vance, 232, Linda Helmick 230, Samantha Hesse 221.

**HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH):** Dee Anna McDonald 194, Penny Sites 172, Linda Kenyon 165. (HANDICAP): Linda Kenyon 223, Dee Anna McDonald 216, Helen Bell 212.

**HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH):** Carissa Michael 565, Sarah Earle 542, Ashley Day 540, Dee Anna McDonald 524. (HANDICAP): Ashley Day 774, Rachel Stark 736, Sarah Earle 731, Emily Stark 728.

**HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN):** Carissa Michael 179.29, Dee Anna McDonald 173.33, Sarah Earle 162.15, Tonya Keplinger 157.08.

**THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE December 7th**

**TEAM STANDINGS:**

American Classic 43 – 17,

Builders Center 37.5 – 22.5,

Petersburg Oil Company 37 – 23,

Strikeforce 31 – 29,

Country Cars & Trucks 29 – 31,

Vetter's Mini Mart 28 – 32,

Golden Lanes 24.5 – 35.5.

**HIGH GAME (SCRATCH):** Michael Hedrick 269, Tyler Halterman 268,

Cohan Kesner 259, Jeremy Vetter 237,

David Robertson and Charles

Keplinger 235. (HANDICAP):

Michael Hedrick 299, David Robertson 282,

Trey Wratchford 279, Jeremy

Vetter and Jeff Constable 277.

**HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH):** Tyler Halterman 743, Michael Hedrick 731,

Cohan Kesner 705, Trey

Wratchford 640, Bradley

Vetter II 627. (HANDICAP):

Tyler Halterman 836, Michael Hedrick 821,

Trey Wratchford, Jeff Constable

and Eddie Baldwin 728.

**HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN):** Carissa Michael 179.29, Dee Anna McDonald 173.33, Sarah Earle 162.15, Tonya Keplinger 157.08.

**THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE December 14th**

**TEAM STANDINGS:**

American Classic 47 – 17,

Builders Center 40.5 – 23.5,

Petersburg Oil Company 40 – 24,

Strikeforce 34 – 30,

Vetter's Mini Mart 29 – 35,

Country Cars & Trucks 29 – 35,

Golden Lanes 25.5 – 38.5.

**HIGH GAME (SCRATCH):** Michael Hedrick 290, Charles Keplinger 267,

Chris Kesner 244, Derek Miller 239,

Eddie Baldwin and Tyler Halterman 234. (HANDICAP):

Michael Hedrick 317, Charles

Keplinger 302, Chris Kesner 290,

Eddie Baldwin 277, Walter Barnes 271.

**HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH):** Michael Hedrick 741, Charles Keplinger 688,

Ricbie Burgess 641, Roger Earle 639,

Tyler Halterman 628. (HANDICAP):

Michael Hedrick 822, Charles

Keplinger 793, Roger Earle 774,

Edie Baldwin 747, Ricbie Burgess 728.

**K&B Tree Service**  
Licensed & Insured  
**Kurtis Braithwaite, Owner**  
**304-813-4632**  
**304-703-6772**



**TREE REMOVAL**  
**TRIMMING**  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
**ETC.**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**HANDYMAN Sam**  
1. Plumbing & Most General Repairs  
2. Door Repair & Replacement  
3. Floor & Wall Repair  
4. Backhoe Work  
5. Demolition & Hauling  
6. 47 Years Experience  
7. Licensed & Insured  
**304-851-4030**



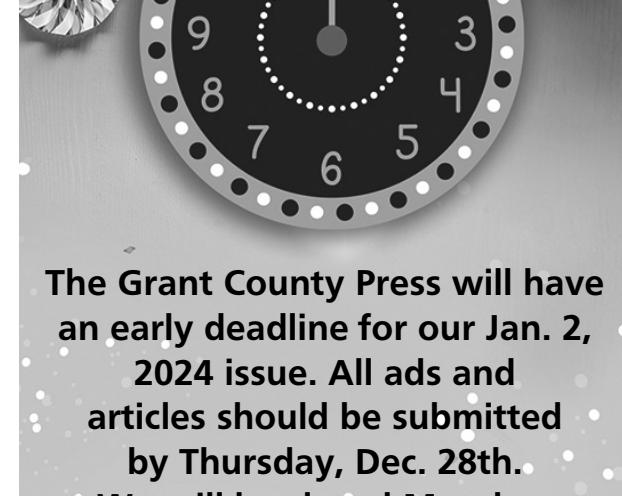
**DENTAL Insurance**

Get your **FREE** Information Kit  
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

**1-855-405-3412**

Dental50Plus.com/Press

Product not available in all states. Contact us to see the coverage and offer available in your state. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation including costs and limitations. This specific offer is not available in CO. Call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer. In WV: To find a provider in the network visit us at <https://www.physiciansmutual.com/web/dental/find-dentist>. Certificate C250A (ID: C250); Insurance Policy P50; Rider Kinds B43/B49. In CA, CO, ID, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MO, NV, NJ, NC, ND, VA: Includes Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Certificate C254/B465 (PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6323



**The Grant County Press will have an early deadline for our Jan. 2, 2024 issue. All ads and articles should be submitted by Thursday, Dec. 28th.**

**We will be closed Monday, January 1 and reopen on Tuesday.**

**POWER UP FROM ANYWHERE**

**DURACELL®**

**M150 Portable Power Station**



From Duracell, the #1 trusted battery brand, the M150 Portable Power Station enables you to work and have fun from anywhere—the kitchen table, the couch, the porch, airplanes, tailgates, coffee shops or wherever else you'd like.



When fully charged, the M150 provides:

Laptop	Phone	Tablet
1 Charge	6 Charges	3 Charges
Earbuds	Smartwatch	Drone
50 Charges	50 Charges	4 Charges

**ONLY \$199**  
Give the gift of portable power to friends and family this holiday season!

[portablepower.info/offer72](http://portablepower.info/offer72)

\*Order by December 15th for Christmas delivery. Battery purchase does not include phone.

**READY TO START THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?**

**Grant County Adult Education can help!**

**HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PREPARATION**

Free study materials, one-on-one instruction, online courses and practice testing.

To help individuals that

are trying to get a job

with online job search,

resume and cover letter

writing and job skills

certifications.

**CAREER READINESS TRAINING (CRT)**

To help individuals that

are trying to get a job

with online job search,

resume and cover letter

writing and job skills</p





Create in me a pure heart,  
O God, and renew a steadfast  
spirit within me.  
*Psalm 51:10*

**MARTIN'S  
ELECTRIC**  
423 Virginia Avenue  
Petersburg  
304-257-1707

**TRI-COUNTY  
COLLISION**  
Rt. 42 N, Petersburg  
304-257-2580  
We take the "dents"  
out of accidents!

**HARTMAN'S  
GAS & GO SUNOCO**  
428 Keyser Avenue  
Petersburg  
304-257-9300

**MIKE'S AUTO SALES**  
Keyser Ave., Petersburg  
304-257-2300  
Mike VanMeter, owner  
Great Selection of  
Vehicles

**GOLDEN LANES**  
Bowling, Leagues,  
Snack Bar, Pool, Games  
Potomac Ave.,  
Petersburg  
304-257-1770

**PEDDLER'S  
CROSSING**  
122 South Main St.  
Petersburg  
304-257-9282

**CLINE'S  
APPLIANCES & FURNITURE**  
17 S. Main, Petersburg  
304-257-1033  
GE & Maytag, Home  
Furnishings

**POTOMAC VALLEY  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
185 Providence Lane  
Petersburg  
304-257-1414

**KIMBLE  
CONSTRUCTION**  
Petersburg  
304-257-1356  
Dale Kimble, Owner  
WV#001647

**JUDY'S DRUG  
STORE**  
24 North Main Street  
Petersburg  
304-257-1044

**BASAGIC  
FUNERAL HOME**  
Junction Rts. 42 & 28  
Petersburg  
304-257-1511

**PETERSBURG  
SHOP N SAVE**  
304-257-2988  
442 Virginia Avenue

**GRANT COUNTY  
PRESS**  
South Main, Petersburg  
304-257-1844  
grantcountypress.com  
Advertising & Printing

# Prayer for the New Year

At the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you, and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

- Debbie McDaniel

## Join Us for Worship

- |   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Antioch Church of God</b><br/>Rev. Johnny Goldizen; 12 miles on Knobley Rd. from Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bayard Church of God</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Bayard United Methodist</b><br/>Rt. 90, Bayard; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11:15 a.m., Tuesday Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Believers Mennonite Fellowship</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Bethel Church</b><br/>Pastor Brian Henson; Rt. 220 south of Petersburg. Sunday morning worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bethel Pentecostal Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Brake Covenant Brethren Church</b><br/>Pastor Craig A. Howard; North Mill Creek Rd. at the twin bridges, Dorcas; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship &amp; 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</p> <p><b>Brick Covenant Brethren Church</b><br/>Pastor Randy Cosner; Rt. 42 north, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. Tuesday family night at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Brushy Run Church of God</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Cabins Assembly of God</b><br/>Rev. Coleman Clark, Rts. 28/55, Cabins; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., worship 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Calvary Temple</b><br/>Pastors Eric &amp; 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.</p> <p><b>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Church of the Lord Jesus Christ</b><br/>Pastor Calvin Redman; 1 Hyre Ave., Petersburg; Sunday worship 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Corner United Methodist</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Knobley Covenant Brethren Church</b><br/>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.</p> | <p><b>Cornerstone Family Fellowship</b><br/>Pastor "PJ" Landis; 1 mile north of Petersburg on Rt. 42. Sunday worship 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Crossroads Community Church</b><br/>Pastor Charles Lomasney; 8013 Lunice Creek Hwy/Rt. 42 S., Maysville. Sunday worship 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Davis Baptist Church</b><br/>Rev. Paul Donaldson; Jordan Run Rd., Maysville; worship first and third Sundays 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Dorcas Baptist Church</b><br/>Pastor Steve Davis, South Mill Creek Rd., Dorcas; Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.; Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Elkhorn Chapel</b><br/>Pastor Glenn A. Vance Jr.; Elkhorn Road, Dorcas. Sunday worship 10 a.m., Thursday Bible study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Emoryville United Methodist</b><br/>Hartmansville Rd; Sunday school 10:30 a.m., worship 11:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>Faith Assembly of God</b><br/>Pastors Mark and Debbie Nicol; Rts. 28/55, Petersburg; Sunday worship 10 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Falls Assembly of God</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>Lead Pastor Shannon Earle, Associate Pastor Frank Kettnerman. 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.</p> <p><b>Gordon Chapel United Methodist</b><br/>Pastor Dave Webb; off Rt. 220, Landes; Sunday school first &amp; third Sundays 10 a.m., other Sundays 9:30 a.m.; worship first &amp; third Sundays 9 a.m.</p> <p><b>Grace Lutheran Church</b><br/>5 Pine St., Petersburg; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Grove Street United Methodist</b><br/>Pastor Robert Baer Jr.; Grove St., Petersburg; Sunday worship 9:30 a.m., Sunday school 10:45 a.m., Wednesday prayer and share group 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hedrick Chapel Church</b><br/>South Mill Creek Rd., Rough Run; Sunday school 10 a.m. and worship 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Harmony Baptist Church</b><br/>Pastor Gary Crislip; 713 Country Road, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hillside Chapel</b><br/>One mile south of Petersburg on Rt. 220; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m., Wednesday, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jordan Run Union Church</b><br/>Pastor Rick Bergdoll; Jordan Run Rd., Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Knobley Covenant Brethren Church</b><br/>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.</p> | <p><b>Lahmansville United Methodist</b><br/>Pastor Mark Sprouse; Patterson Creek Road, Lahmansville; Sunday school 10 a.m.; worship every first and third Sunday at 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Landmark Holiness Tabernacle</b><br/>Pastor Wendell L. Everett; Patterson Creek Road, Arthur; Sunday school 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday service 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lighthouse Community Church</b><br/>Rt. 42 south, Maysville; Sunday school 10 a.m., evening worship 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Living Hope Baptist Church</b><br/>Pastor Matt Smith; Veach St., Petersburg. Sunday school 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Locust Grove Church</b><br/>Pastor Kevin Staggs; Bismarck Rd. off Rt. 93/50, Mt. Storm; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Potomac Valley Baptist Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Riverside Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>South Branch Baptist Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren</b><br/>Pastor Bill Johnson; South Mill Creek Road near Mozer; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. first four Sundays.</p> <p><b>Spirit of Life Church</b><br/>Pastor Brian Hipp; Rt. 28/55 west, Petersburg; Sunday worship 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m., Wednesday 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>St. John's United Methodist</b><br/>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. &amp; second Sunday 11:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>St. Mary's Catholic Church</b><br/>Fr. Dan Pisano; Grant St., Petersburg; Sunday mass 10 a.m. Daily mass Wednesday at noon.</p> <p><b>St. Paul United Methodist</b><br/>Pastor Cheryl George; Patterson Creek Rd., Lahmansville; worship 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.</p> <p><b>North Fork Mennonite</b><br/>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 &amp; third Wednesday at 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>North Mill Creek Baptist Church</b><br/>North Mill Creek Rd., Dorcas; Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Oakdale Christian Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Oak Dale Covenant Brethren Church</b><br/>Pastor Randy Cosner; Rt. 93, Scherr; Sunday worship 9:45 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Petersburg Presbyterian Church</b><br/>Rev. Kevin Channell; North Main St., Petersburg; Sunday worship 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Petersburg Church of God</b><br/>Pastors Stephen &amp; 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.</p> <p><b>Potomac Valley Presbyterian Church</b><br/>Rev. Kevin Channell; North Main St., Petersburg; Sunday worship 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Rough Run Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>South Branch Baptist Church</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren</b><br/>Pastor Bill Johnson; South Mill Creek Road near Mozer; Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. first four Sundays.</p> <p><b>St. John's United Methodist</b><br/>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. &amp; second Sunday 11:15 a.m.</p> <p><b>St. Mary's Catholic Church</b><br/>Fr. Dan Pisano; Grant St., Petersburg; Sunday mass 10 a.m. Daily mass Wednesday at noon.</p> <p><b>St. Paul United Methodist</b><br/>Pastor Cheryl George; Patterson Creek Rd., Lahmansville; worship 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.</p> | <p><b>SCHAFFER FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>11 North Main St., Petersburg<br/>304-257-4040</p> <p><b>PETERSBURG BLOCKS, INC.</b><br/>Keyser Avenue, Petersburg<br/>304-257-4848</p> <p><b>MID ATLANTIC GROUP</b><br/>Insurance<br/>6 Mt. View St., Petersburg<br/>304-257-4616</p> <p><b>FOX'S PIZZA DEN</b><br/>Charley Biggs' Chicken<br/>Pizza, Subs, etc.<br/>508 Keyser Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-4342</p> <p><b>HUFFMAN LOGGING</b><br/>3 miles south of Petersburg<br/>on Route 220<br/>304-257-4105</p> <p><b>COUNTRY CARS &amp; TRUCKS</b><br/>Cars, Trucks, SUVs<br/>408 Keyser Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-4114</p> <p><b>WEAVER'S MARKET</b><br/>Discount Groceries,<br/>Bulk Food, Deli<br/>Route 42 North,<br/>Petersburg<br/>304-257-4995</p> <p><b>PETERSBURG ELECTRONICS RADIO SHACK</b><br/>131 Keyser Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-4577</p> <p><b>FREEDOM AG &amp; ENERGY</b><br/>Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, LP Gas<br/>15 Potomac Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-1771</p> <p><b>PULMONARY ASSOCIATES</b><br/>Home Medical Equipment<br/>Keyser Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-9758</p> <p><b>KIMBLE FAMILY DENTISTRY</b><br/>211 Virginia Ave., Petersburg<br/>304-257-1759<br/>By appointment</p> <p><b>DETTINBURN TRANSPORT</b><br/>Route 55 West<br/>Petersburg<br/>304-257-1111</p> <p><b>CHARLES GOLDZEN ELECTRIC INC.</b><br/>5734 Franklin Pike<br/>Petersburg, WV<br/>304-257-1059<br/>Water Pump, Furnace Repair Service</p> |
|---|---|--|---|--|

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



# Petersburg's Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron takes part in National Wreaths Across America Day and honors fallen soldiers

On Dec. 16, Civil Air Patrol's Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron spent the day honoring our local fallen soldiers at Maple Hill Cemetery in Petersburg.

The wreaths that were laid upon the graves of the brave were sponsored by local residents, communities and organizations.

The event was made possible through the donations, time and participation of many to help National Wreaths Across America Day happen in Petersburg. The efforts given forth to show honor and remembrance of the fallen is just a portion of what was given by U.S. veterans.

The Civil Air Patrol's Wreaths Across America program began in 2006 as an assistant to the Arlington National Cemetery wreath project, which began in 1992.

CAP's goal in Wreaths Across America is to honor the sacrifices of veterans and to attract local and national publicity for Civil Air Patrol.

The local squadron's participation brings the hope of community aware-



A local cadet hands the USMC branch wreath to a local USMC veteran to hang on the fence.

ness of both CAP and WAA. This year, PHCS was able to lay 124 wreaths upon veteran graves at Maple Hill Cemetery. Eight additional wreaths are hanging at the cemetery's entrance, honoring all military branches.

The local small squadron and community are just another part of a tremendous program. This year, alone, included more than

3 million volunteers donating their time and effort in laying tens of thousands of wreaths.

Wreaths Across America's theme this year is "REMEMBER the fallen, HONOR those that serve and their families, and TEACH the next generation about the value of freedom." Each following year, Wreaths Across America numbers rise; and they

hope to double these numbers next year. With the help of our family, friends and community, Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron believes that is possible.

If anyone would like to find out more information about the local squadron, you contact them at WV114.cap.gov.



A wreath leans upon a veteran grave at Maple Hill Cemetery



PHCS cadets stand behind the military branch wreaths, which are still hanging at the cemetery entrance gate.



**HIRING STORE MANAGER FOR**  
**Central Tie & Lumber**  
send resume to:  
P.O. Box 69  
Petersburg, WV 26847



## Rescue Your New Best Friend!



**UP FOR ADOPTION!**  
Looking for a furr-ever home is this female mixed terrier. Brown and white, short hair, smaller size, weighs approx. 20-25 pounds. Loves attention and is very sweet.

### ALSO UP FOR ADOPTION AT THE GRANT COUNTY KENNEL ARE:

**Male-full blooded German Shepherd.** Black and tan, long hair, large size, 6 years old. Listens very well and friendly.

**Male-mixed breed dog.** Black, tan, white with one blue eye, short hair, medium size. Very outgoing.

**Male-Mixed breed dog.** Brownish-red in color, short hair, large size, approximately 6 years old. Very friendly.

**Female-Pit Bull/Shar Pei.** Brown, short hair, medium size, 8 years old. Very friendly.

**Female-Shepherd/Collie mix.** Black and white, long hair, medium size, 1-1/2 years old. Playful and loves to run.

If you are interested in any of the dogs, please contact 304-257-1725.

Any dogs that are adopted from the kennel **MUST** have an appointment at the vet before they leave the kennel. The appointment has to be confirmed by Grant County Parks and Recreation. If a dog isn't spayed or neutered, the person adopting the dog **WILL** be responsible for getting the dog spayed or neutered immediately. Also, the dog will require vaccinations. After you adopt a dog from the kennel, you **MUST** show proof of the above requirements.



**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**APPLY NOW**

**Pilgrim's®**

# NOW HIRING

## DRIVERS

Feed Mill  
Hatchery  
Live Haul

Call or apply online  
[www.pilgrims.com](http://www.pilgrims.com)  
304.538.5373

129 POTOMAC AVE  
MOOREFIELD, WV

EOE/Vet/Disabled

**Excellent Benefits!**

- Medical, dental and vision insurance
- Better Futures Program - 2 year Community College tuition paid for you or your dependents
- 401-K contributions
- Competitive wages
- Paid vacation and holidays



Job Opportunity

EMPLOYMENT

Inventory  
Logistics Admin  
Accounting  
Administrative Clerks  
107  
110