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Petersburg to host pup parade at town dog park

The Becki Alt Lanhardt Dog Park will be hosting a dog parade celebration on April 27 at noon... 4B.

2025 Viking Tennis Team Roster and Photos

Meet this year's Petersburg High School boys and girls tennis teams... 1B.



Support the Petersburg Food Pantry

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

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Obituaries

Dorothy Bolyard
Isabelle Spencer
John Stanton

poll question

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Student athlete charged with assault after injuring player during basketball game

A student athlete from Bowden, W.Va. is facing three felony charges after allegedly becoming violent during a high school boys' basketball game.

The investigation into the incident, which is being headed by an officer with the West Virginia State Police, began when the department received a phone call from a parent of the alleged victim. The parent told the officer that their son, a minor student at Union Educational Complex and a member of the school's

basketball team, had been intentionally injured during a February 26 game. The game saw the Union Tigers take on the Harman Panthers (out of Randolph County) in Mount Storm.

The parent told officers that their son had been elbowed in the face by one of the Harman players who they identified as Gage Ketterman, 18, of Bowden. The victim had been transported to Grant Memorial Hospital following the incident.

The injury to the minor's

nose had caused "profuse bleeding" that had lasted for at least four hours and had resulted in a broken nose and a small laceration to the bridge of his nose and eye area.

The parent reported that the injury had made it difficult for the minor to breathe and that they would need to attend an appointment with a medical specialist in the following days to determine the extent of the injury. The parent told officers that they had video of the inci-

dent and that they believed the actions were "obviously intentional" and that Ketterman "was trying to hurt people."

Following the conversation, the parent emailed the investigating officer several videos from the game.

According to the police report filed on the incident, the videos depict multiple incidences of violence during the game.

See Basketball, page 7A

County approves funding aid for MTPSD

The Grant County Commission has approved funds to assist the Mountain Top Public Service District (MTPSD) as they work to upgrade waterlines in the Mount Storm, Bayard and Elk Garden region of the county.

Representatives from the MTPSD board appeared before the commission during their regularly scheduled April 8 meeting to discuss not only the ongoing \$4.6 million project but also request some assistance as they move forward with providing water to the more remote region.

The waterline upgrades were initially estimated to have been completed in November, however, due to the year's severe winter weather, it was heavily stalled.

The representatives explained that the MTPSD had recently approved a rate increase that would assist their efforts in keeping up with the ever-inflating cost of running a PSD, which has ballooned nationwide over the past few years. This is a concern that has been expressed by not only the MTPSD, but also the Grant County PSD and the Petersburg PSD, who have also reported increasing costs of running their services.

However, while the rate increase has been approved,

See Water, page 7A



Union Educational Complex student Cheyenne Shillingburg learns Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) during the school's April 4 Heart Health Day. More photos on 1B.

UEC hosts heart health day to raise funds for the American Heart Association

School's BETA Club will hold a Blood Drive on April 23

Union Educational Complex hosted a heart health day earlier this month to educate students of the importance of healthy activities as well as raise funds for the American Heart Association. During the events, the students far exceeded their initial goal of raising \$1,500 and ultimately collected over \$5,000 for the or-

ganization.

The school will also be hosting a community blood drive later this month. The event is a partnership between the school's BETA Club and the American Red Cross. The Union High School BETA Club is an academic service club for senior high students at the school. The

club originated in 1970 and has been regularly hosting blood drives for American Red Cross.

The drive will be held on April 23 from noon to 5 p.m. in the UEC elementary gymnasium.

"The Union High School

See Health, page 7A



Owners Billy Keplinger and Marcus Sites, head of the kitchen Shawn Lender and head of wait-staff, Autumn Harrison.

Historic Hermitage Inn welcomes new restaurant

One of Grant County's most notable and historical sites, The Hermitage Inn, is welcoming a new business that is bringing good food and a good atmosphere to the community.

The Hermitage 1841 Restaurant has officially opened its doors along Virginia Avenue in Petersburg, located in the ground floor of the historical inn.

The family-owned business is operated by Billy Keplinger and his son-in-law, Marcus Sites, and is an extension of their other thriving restaurants, including three Fox's Pizzas (in Petersburg, Moorefield, Romney) and Mullin's 1847 in Moorefield, located in the historical Mullin's hotel.

See Hermitage, page 7A



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BOGGS FLAVOR

By Camille Howard
It's piling up and I can hardly keep up. We spent two days (really more than that) helping our daughter move: the packing, the loading, the driving, the unloading, the unpacking, the sad drive home.

And then back to work on Friday and more work on Saturday.

We finally finished up our second bathroom project and moved on to cleaning out the basement bedroom (which was a giant catch-all).

We sorted, tossed, boxed up and rearranged and still aren't done. We needed a mattress for the bed, so picked one up from Cline's along with a bed frame.

In all this moving and cleaning, I forgot that my Mom had given me several

bags of things from her house when she moved.

As I was cleaning out the basement bedroom I opened up the bags and found a treasure trove of things I needed: towels and rugs for the bathroom, and sheets, pillow cases and a very nice comforter set for the basement bedroom.

I'm all set up without having to make any purchases for linens! And, to top it off, everything matches the colors I picked out.

Now on to my next project which is getting ready for family coming on Easter weekend. That was the plan, but now I have company coming to



night (Monday), Wednesday, more on Thursday, some on Friday and the final group on Saturday. It should be interesting to say the least.

I'm not sure how much food it's going to take for all these people, so I might have to dig into my canned deer meat and make a giant pot of stew.

I've got a shopping list as long as my arm, but everyone brings food along with them, so we should be in good shape. I think I'll go with the Five Loaves and Two Fishes idea. Ryan picked up two huge cases of water and four pounds of butter, which should

give you an indication of the amount of food and drink consumption.

It didn't used to be like this, mostly because there were around nine adults and nine kids, or thereabouts. Now we have 16 adults and six kids. More adults, more food. More tables and chairs. I'm praying for a nice weekend so we can spill out into the yard.

However it ends up, it will be good to be together. Family is such a blessing.

I hope each of you takes the time to celebrate the Easter season and the day of resurrection of Jesus.

If there was no Jesus, there would be no Easter or Christmas. He is the reason. Have a great week!

CARROT CAKE MUFFINS

1 cup milk
2 eggs
2 tablespoons applesauce, or more as needed
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup white sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup shredded carrots
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

Preheat the oven to 375°F.
Grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper muffin liners.

Beat milk, eggs, applesauce, and vanilla extract together in a bowl.

Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt together in another bowl. Stir carrots into flour mixture; fold in milk mixture and butter until batter is just combined.

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean, 18 to 20 minutes.

Cool in the pan for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

TWICE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES

2 medium sweet potatoes, scrubbed
1 teaspoon olive oil
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
2 teaspoons chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus a pinch
2 tablespoons honey
3/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 400°F.

Massage the olive oil onto the sweet potatoes and set them on a small baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour or until a knife glides through effortlessly.

ly. Let cool until safe to handle. Keep the oven on.

Halve the sweet potatoes horizontally and carefully scoop out the flesh into a medium bowl. Set the skins aside.

Add the butter, maple syrup, chili powder, cinnamon, and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt and use a potato masher to mash the filling until smooth.

In a small bowl, combine the honey, pecans, and a pinch of salt.

Place the skins side by side in a small baking dish. Spoon the filling in, dividing it evenly, and top with the honeyed pecans. Bake for 5 minutes. Serve warm.

Serves 4.

West Virginia WIC modernizes service delivery with groundbreaking in-hospital certification pilot

The West Virginia WIC Program is making strides in reaching more families who could benefit from the program through a groundbreaking in-hospital certification pilot project.

This initiative aims to connect with eligible families before they leave the hospital labor and delivery unit, ensuring they receive benefits and support without the need for immediate WIC clinic visits.

The pilot program was first launched as a part-time

effort in 2023 and later expanded to a full-time program in September 2024.

The program enables WIC hospital liaisons to utilize Electronic Medical Record (EMR) reports to identify and then certify participants directly in birthing hospitals, allowing families to leave the hospital already enrolled in WIC and giving them access to breastfeeding peer counselors and nutrition education.

These liaisons follow a structured process to cer-

tify applicants, including verifying incomes status, reviewing WIC system records, and securing permission before entering patient rooms.

Additionally, the program lays focus on breastfeeding support, with 91 mothers initiating breastfeeding and 68% continuing beyond six months, a significant improvement over the statewide WIC breastfeeding duration rate of 36.65%.

With promising early re-

sults, the program plans to expand to seven additional WVU Medicine hospitals across four local WIC agencies between FY2025 and FY2027, as funded with a WIC Infrastructure grant.

For more information about this program and its expansion, please contact: Office of Nutrition Services Director, Heidi Staats at Heidi.E.Staats@wv.gov or 304-558-0030.

Community Meetings and Events

Civil Air Patrol Potomac Highlands Composite Squadron is recruiting cadets (ages 12-18) and adults to become members. The squadron building is at the Grant County Airport, Johnson Run Road, Petersburg. Meetings are Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Lt. John Banks at john.banks@wvwc.gov. gocivillairpatrol.com

Grant County Adult Education enrolls students for their High School Equivalency and does TABE testing for the DHHR every Friday from 8:30 am-12 noon. Call 304-257-1277 to schedule or request information.

Grant County Board of Education meets the

second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the board office on Jefferson Avenue.

Grant County Commission meets every month on the second Tuesday at 9 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room. For the agenda check grant-county.wv.org

Grant County Historical Society board of directors meetings will be posted on the Society's Facebook page. Members are welcome to attend.

Grant County Family Support Center events Spanish classes, Wacky Wednesdays and tax prep held (by appointment). All activities are free at their

facility on 101 Alt Ave., Petersburg.

GRCC Helping Hands will meet April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center chapel, 127 Early Ave., Petersburg. Call 305-257-4223 ext 5242.

Grant Memorial Hospital board of directors meeting is set for Monday, April 21 at 6:45 p.m. in the administrative conference room at the hospital.

New Beginnings Community Outreach, Thursday, 6-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Virginia Ave.

Patterson Creek Ruritan Club meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at Forman Community Center in Lahmansville.

Petersburg City Council meets the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at City Hall on Mt. View St.

Potomac Highlands Cancer Support Group for cancer patients and caregivers, meets the first Monday of every month, 5 p.m. at Living Hope Baptist Church, 1011 North Fork Highway. Refreshments.

Region 8 Planning and Development Council will meet Thursday, April 17, at 12:30 p.m. at the Region 8 PDC office, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Living Hope Baptist Church, North Fork Highway, Petersburg, (just after the post office on left). Call Wendy DeiCas at 304-257-2349 for more information.

Answers to puzzles on Page 5B

Cryptopuzzle

What should you say when a young child falls at fastening his shoelaces? "Tie, tie again."

answer

G	R	I	P	S
R	I	N	G	S
G	R	A	I	N
O	R	G	A	N
A	L	O	N	G
T	A	L	O	N

Answer **Five Spot**

King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

- Diver, Dover
- Blank, Bland
- Reveal, Repeal
- Jelly, Jolly
- Wreat, Breath

10. Never, Newer

9. Limbs, Limbo

8. Badger, Bagger

7. Treats, Treaty

6. Moose, Moore

Even Exchange

ANSWERS

1. Diver, Dover

2. Blank, Bland

3. Reveal, Repeal

4. Jelly, Jolly

5. Wreat, Breath

10. Never, Newer

9. Limbs, Limbo

8. Badger, Bagger

7. Treats, Treaty

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ELECTIONS FOR AMERICAN LEGION POST 78

2nd Thursday in April: Nominations for Officers

4th Thursday in April: Final Nominations for Officers and Voting

2nd Thursday in May: Installation of Officers

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Petersburg Builders Center in Petersburg is looking to expand its team!

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Dr. Dewey Bensenhaver receives the Dr. Makani Provider Excellence Award



John Sylvia, CEO of Grant Memorial Hospital and Dr. Dewey Bensenhaver.

A new award has been established at Grant Memorial Hospital to honor physicians and advanced practitioners who exemplify quality, compassion, teamwork, and a commitment to prioritizing patients' needs.

This award, named the "Dr. Makani Provider Excellence Award," is in recognition of Dr. Anil Makani, a long-serving and highly respected surgeon at Grant Memorial Hospital.

The first recipient of this prestigious award is Dr. Dewey Bensenhaver.

Here's an excerpt from one of his nominations: "It

is extremely rare to find an individual who has dedicated greater than 50 years of service to a community ... I know that his care and compassion go above and beyond most provider standards ... Dr. Bensenhaver has educated (too numerous to count) students on the importance of quality of care, treating all patients with respect, and going the extra mile to make someone feel special, important and needed."

Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Bensenhaver, for your unwavering dedication to the residents of this region.

EASTER Worship & Celebrations

Petersburg Presbyterian Church
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6 p.m. Communion service in the fellowship hall with a light meal. Easter sunrise service, 6:30 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery. Worship at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Grove Street UMC
Pastor Robert Baer invites you to Easter Week Services at Grove Street UMC in Petersburg that include a Maundy Thursday (full table communion) service April 17 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall, Good Friday service April 18 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary and Easter sunrise service April 20 at 7 a.m. with breakfast immediately following. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Brake Covenant Brethren Church
Easter sunrise service, April 20, 6:30 a.m. Play, children's program and music followed by breakfast. Morning worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. The church is located at 176 North Mill Creek Rd. at the twin bridges near Dorcas.

Falls Assembly of God
Easter weekend events - Friday 6 p.m., film and prayer time; Saturday 1

p.m., fun for the kids, egg hunt and more; Sunday, 10 a.m. morning worship. See Page 6A.

Table of Grace Ministry
Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. at 859 Burgess Hollow Road, Petersburg, with Pastor Dreama Kelly.

Bethel Church
You are invited to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ at Bethel Church. Special Good Friday service at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. followed by breakfast and then Easter worship service at 9:30 a.m. Route 220 south, Franklin Pike.

Mt. Carmel Church
Holy week services are Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m., Good Friday prayer service, April 18 at 7 p.m. and Easter Sunday service, April 20 at 7 a.m. with outdoor sunrise service, breakfast to follow and an egg hunt for the kids. 2354 Patterson Creek Rd., Arthur.

Pool named middle school teacher of the year for GC Schools



Congratulations to this year's middle school teacher of the year, Janie Pool. She is a fifth grade teacher at Maysville Elementary School. Presenting the award was Superintendent of Schools Mitch Webster and MES Principal Megan DiBenedetto.

Anna Goldizen elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Anna Goldizen of Cabins, W.Va., was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at West Virginia University.

Goldizen is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also

qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines.

Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

Goldizen is the daughter of Bryon and Stephanie Goldizen of Cabins.

Carr is GRCC April Employee in the Spotlight



Jeanie Carr has been selected as Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center's April Employee in the Spotlight. She has been an LPN for GRCC for 18 years.

Highlands Bankshares Inc. reports first quarter earnings and declares quarterly dividend

Highlands Bankshares Inc. announced unaudited earnings of \$1,384,000 for the first three-month period ended March 31. This represents an increase of 55% from the \$891,000 earned during the same period in 2024.

On a per share basis, net income was \$1.04 for the first three months of 2025, compared to earnings of \$0.67 per share for the three months ended March 31, 2024.

On April 8, the board of directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.45 per share to be paid on May 2, to all shareholders of re-

cord as of April 25. Based upon the current market price and annualizing the dividends paid to shareholders this quarter, Highlands' current dividend yield is 5.29%.

Jack H. Walters, chairman and chief executive officer of the holding company, stated "Highlands is pleased to report increased earnings for Q1 2025 compared to the year ago period. Earnings were positively impacted by higher levels of net interest income due to growth in our loan portfolio, offset somewhat by higher levels of interest expense on deposits.

"We appreciate the continued trust of our customers and shareholders and will continue to do our best to serve all of our local communities with quality banking products and great customer service."

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. operates 12 banking locations in West Virginia and Virginia through its two wholly-owned subsidiary banks, The Grant County Bank and Capon Valley Bank, and offers insurance services through its wholly-owned subsidiary HBI Life Insurance Company.

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Applicant must have character that is respectful of students and teachers in a manner that shows leadership, honesty, integrity and consideration of others.

Further information on eligibility and criteria can be obtained by calling 304-567-2121, M-F from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by e-mailing jmiller@sksrt.com

Applications are available at the telephone office in Riverton or can be downloaded online at www.sksrt.com. Deadline for submission of application is April 18, 2025.

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Stock market roller coaster ... don't jump



By Dr. Glenn Mollette

You never undo your seat belt or jump from a moving roller coaster. Nor, should you when it comes to our current stock market.

Eight years ago, if you bought a share of VOO or Vanguard S&P 500 ETF stock, you may have paid about \$220 for the share. Today, as of this writing it's worth \$490.55. In other words, even with the fall of the stock market recently you have made good money on your investment. A couple

of weeks back it was up to \$560 which means you were flying high on your profit. Still yet, you have done well.

If you bought your share of VOO two weeks ago at \$560 then you have lost \$70, at least for now. You may lose some more but you have to hold tight. Don't panic and sell now or you will have a loss. Ride it out and give the market time to settle down and rise again. If you have to cash in your stock then cash in while they are high.

Don't invest your grocery money in stock. This is the money you need every week for food, shelter, travel and overhead. This is not the money you spend on stock. If you do, then in two weeks you will have to sell your stock to eat and risk losing some of the money you invested. Only invest in stock what you don't currently need for general living expenses.

Who knows how the market will perform over the next few weeks. It's going to be a few weeks or months before the tariffs really shape up as to what is really what. The reports are that numerous countries are coming to the table interested in making deals and playing fair with the United States. This will be good for us and them.

As these deals stabilize look for the stock market to become more stable once again. If Japan, India, South Korea, Canada and Mexico all level the playing field with the United States our stock market will level out. If there are more reports of industry manufacturing coming to the United States the stock market will begin to rise again.

Now may be a good time to buy but keep in mind the market may go down some more. If you bought VIG two weeks ago then you've already seen a significant drop. Keep in mind you only lose it if you sell it when the stock is down. I feel confident that the stock market will come back bigger and bolder than ever but it may take a few months or longer.

The stock market has averaged making about 10% over the last 50 years. This means it has had years when it made more and years when it made less. An average of 10% is about the best you can do on your money over the long haul.

Now is not the time to faint or jump from the roller coaster. Rely on your stable income such as Social Security, or any other stable income you may have. If you have a regular paying job you may want to stay with it a little while longer if you can and if you enjoy your work.

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

Why citizen involvement matters more than ever



Lee Hamilton

There was a time early in my career when I believed that the single most important thing an American citizen could do was vote.

But if a career engaging in politics and watching politicians at work has taught me anything, it's how much our country depends on people rolling up their sleeves and getting involved. And, increasingly, how much work this demands

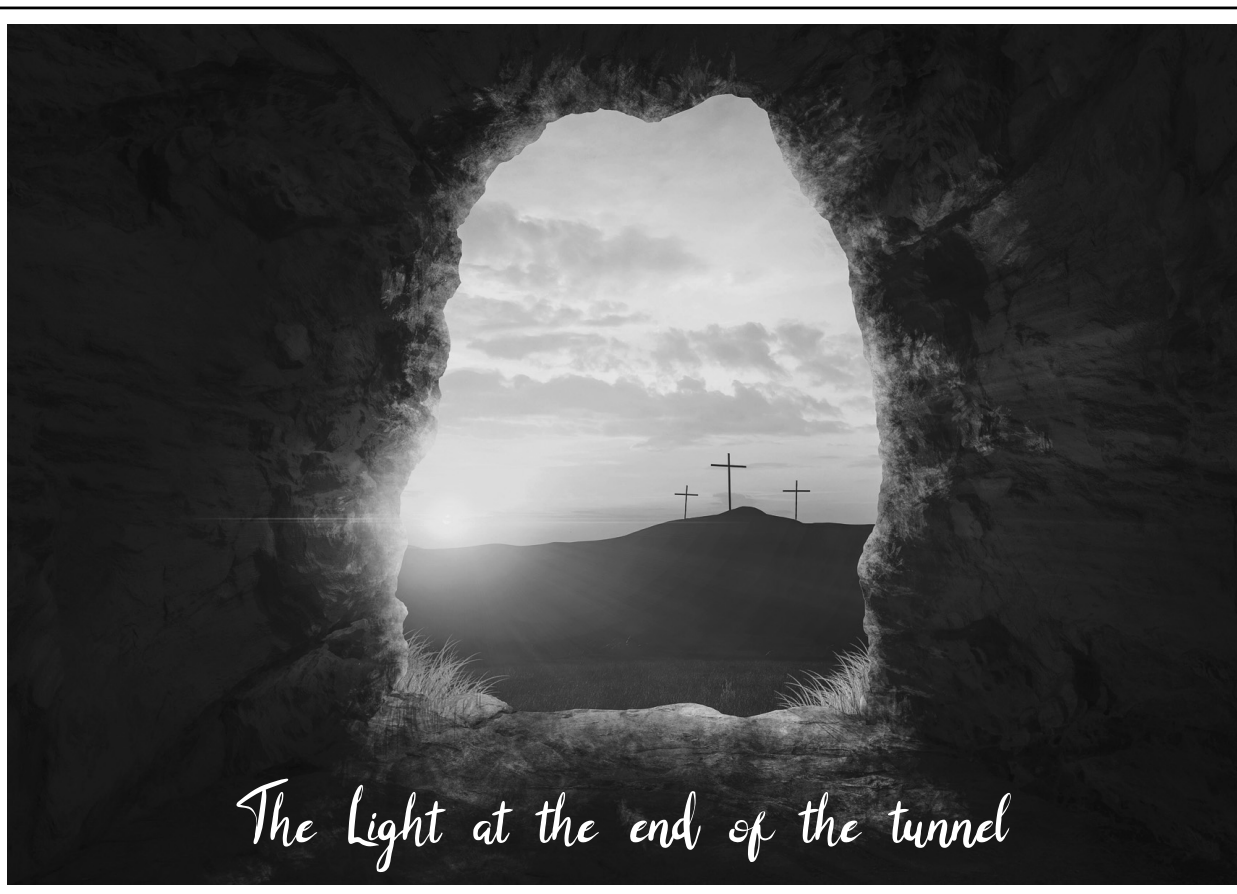
from all of us.

Don't get me wrong: Voting is still important. So are taking the time to be informed about policy and politics and telling your representatives what's important to you.

But over the years, what may have impressed me the most has been watching how we make progress—as a community, a state, and even a country—when ordinary people get involved in making this a better place to live.

The thing is, being effective at any of this—from casting a responsible vote to addressing a neighborhood challenge to showing up at a town hall in your congressional district to air your concerns—means learning how to inform yourself about issues, explore and evaluate possible solutions, and maybe above all, tell the difference between fact and fiction. Taking responsibility for being informed truly matters.

Citizen - continued on Page 5A



The Light at the end of the tunnel

West Virginia Senate passes bills for one-stop permitting, banning cellphones in class

By Charles Young
WV News

The West Virginia Senate passed House Bill 2002 and House Bill 2003 during last Wednesday's floor session.

HB 2002, a bill requested by Gov. Patrick Morrisey, would create a system to expedite state-issued permits. HB 2003 would prohibit students from having cellphones and other electronics in the classroom.

Both bills previously passed the West Virginia House of Delegates, but changes were made in the Senate. The bills now go back to the House for lawmakers to consider the changes.

The permitting bill requires the the secretary of the Department of Administration to establish an online dashboard for permits for any construction, economic development, infrastructure or natural resource project issued by the departments of Commerce, Environmental Protection, Revenue with some excep-

tions, Tourism, Transportation (except for the DMV) and the secretary of state.

The permitting program will include a fast-track option for those willing to pay an increased fee to receive their permit more quickly and a money-back guarantee for all fees if the relevant agencies fail to grant or deny a permit application within the specified deadline.

Morrisey first described his idea for reforming the permitting process during his State of the State address in February.

"We must increase efficiency in the permitting processes so that our transportation, manufacturing and energy construction projects are not bogged down in a sea of red tape," the governor said.

"So when you want to expand a business or build a manufacturing facility — you come to one office to help to coordinate and expedite all the various permits you need to start your project."

The cellphone ban

bill would require county school boards to develop policies banning the use of personal electronic devices during instruction time by the start of the 2025-26 school year.

The legislation would ban the use of "any portable device capable of wireless communication or computing" including cellphones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches and portable gaming systems not provided by the school.

Sen. Amy Grady, R-Mason, chair of the Senate Education Committee and an elementary school teacher, said she was initially hesitant to support the bill but later changed her mind.

"Originally, when I had this bill sitting in committee I had mixed feelings about it because I felt like it was micromanaging. I thought it was a teacher's job to manage the classroom, and if they can't do that it's the principal's job to make sure they are," she said.

"But as I was reading research and looking at how

when other states have put this in place, the improvements they've seen in their academic instruction and the improvements they've seen in their schools in general has been great. I'm excited and interested for West Virginia to see some improvements as well."

Several counties in the state already enforce varying cell phone bans in classrooms to minimize distractions, with different rules for elementary, middle and high school students.

Berkeley County requires phones to be stored away all day for elementary students, with limited use for older students, while Ohio County allows phones during lunch and between classes for older students.

Monongalia County has implemented a strict phone ban using Yondr bags for older students, citing success and concerns about social media's impact on student well-being.

Scrambled Eggs: West Virginia House, Senate wrap up 2025 legislative session

By Steven Allen Adams
Parkersburg News & Sentinel

While children hunted for Easter eggs on the lawn of the Capitol Saturday, the West Virginia Legislature worked to get its remaining bills into the basket on the final day of the 2025 regular session, though the process on the bill eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion got scrambled.

The House of Delegates and Senate adjourned at midnight Saturday after first gaveling in on Feb. 12, finishing a 60-day session that saw 1,516 House bills and 944 Senate bills introduced. By the midnight chime, lawmakers sent 246 bills to the desk of Gov. Patrick Morrisey, 10% of the total bills.

MICROGRIDS AND DATA CENTERS

Among the bills that went back and forth between the House and Senate throughout the day Saturday was House Bill 2014, the Power Generation and Consumption Act introduced on behalf of Morrisey.

HB 2014 focuses on attracting high-impact industrial businesses and data centers to West Virginia along with microgrids to power the data centers using both fossil fuels or renewable energy generation. The legislation aims

to streamline development, offer regulatory exemptions within designated microgrid districts, establish a special valuation and tax distribution framework for high-impact data centers and create a fund for electric grid stabilization.

Instead of having data center property values assessed by the county, the bill as it came from the House required owners to file tax returns with the Board of Public Works by May 1 of each year cover-

ing the preceding tax year. The Senate on Friday night amended the formula for distributing the revenues from the tangible personal property taxes, with 50% going to the personal income tax reduction fund, 40% going to the county where the data center is located, 5% going to the remaining 54 counties based on a per capita basis using the most recent U.S. Census, 3% going toward low-income energy assistance and 2% going into the new Electric Grid Stabilization and Security Fund.

The House amended the

Senate's amendment to HB 2014 Saturday afternoon in an 82-16 vote, sending the bill back to the Senate. The House amended the tax distribution formula, with 50% going to the personal income tax reduction fund, 30% going to the county or counties where the data centers are located, 10% going to all counties on a per capita basis, 5% going to the state Economic Enhancement Grant Fund and 5% Electric Grid Stabilization and Security Fund.

HB 2014 would send a signal that West Virginia is a good place for data centers to locate and receive the electricity they need, House Finance Committee Vice Chairman Clay Riley, R-Harrison, said.

"The world doesn't know a lot of things about West Virginia. They look down on us. But again, we have the location, we have the energy, and we have the grit," Riley said. "And I'll say it again. Give West Virginia an opportunity to compete and West Virginia will win."

"We want to be the most impactful place in the na-

tion to be able to put these data centers, and we want to be on the forefront of being able to get this construction done," Delegate Daniel Linville, R-Cabell, said.

But members on both sides of the political aisle continued to raise concerns about the bill stripping away local control from local zoning ordinances and other local rules.

"One of my concerns is still about the local control," said Delegate Evan Hansen, D-Monongalia. "It also prohibits counties and municipalities from imposing or enforcing local laws and ordinances concerning the creation or regulation of any certified microgrid district or certified high-impact data center therein. So, the cities and the municipalities and counties will no longer have any jurisdiction, and I think that's a concern for things related to setbacks and noise ordinances and things like that."

"There are significant concerns of taking away the local zoning," said Delegate Joe Funkhouser, R-Jefferson. "It's generally a good thing, but the devil is in the details, and I'm just sort of expressing the concerns that my constituents have with the details."

Wrap up
Continued on Page 5A

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Remember When



April 13, 1955

Cread Sions represented Grant County at the American Association of school administrators in Cleveland, Ohio.

A six-year-old Upper Tract girl was attacked and bitten by a rabid fox, while sitting in the doorway of her home and her mother was scratched while trying to defend the child. Treva Vandevander and her mother, Glenna Mae, were both given treatment for rabies.

Junior Wratchford, 28, of Moorefield, was in Potomac Valley Hospital suffering from a broken leg received while fighting a stubborn forest fire in a rugged section of Hardy County. Other firefighters rescued Wratchford as the flames crept close to him.

Nan Phillips and Wayne Barr were chosen queen and king of the Petro Schola yearbook. The two were chosen by students who purchased yearbooks.

The skeleton of a man, whom apparently no one missed when he failed to return from a deer hunting trip in 1953, was found in a remote section of Hardy County. The remains of William Walker were located only about 150 yards from the home of his brother, Amos. Walker had not been seen for 16 months, but no one had reported him missing until three weeks before and a search party was organized. Walker was known to go off for weeks at a time, without telling anyone where he was going.

April 14, 1965

State Director A. James



The leisure suit was high fashion in April 1975 as evidenced by this photo in Press featuring The Stewards of Shenandoah, Va. who were to give a benefit sing at Union High School to support the Mountaintop Health Services Inc.

Manchin of the Farmer's Home Administration announced that Harlan C. Yokum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Yokum of Petersburg, was promoted to the position of Economic Opportunity Specialist with the agency.

Joseph William Garber, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Garber, had been accepted for admission to WVU and was a recipient of the Claude Worthington Benedum Scholarship for freshmen.

The State Supreme Court upheld unanimously the validity of West Virginia's Sunday closing law.

A marked decrease in the number of forest fires during the 1955 season was indicated in forest fire statistics. In April 1964, 457

fires had burned an estimated 8,128 acres, compared with only 168 fires and an estimated 2,765 acres burned, as of April 1965. Part of the fire record was due to abundant rainfall in 1965.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coby of Moorefield, a daughter, April 7; Mr. and Mrs. Golden Schell of Petersburg, a son, April 7; Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Delawder of Moorefield, a son, April 7; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Tulin of Washington, D.C., a son, April 8; and Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Bruce Keplinger of Maysville, a son, April 11.

April 16, 1975

The PHS Band participated in the Region VIII

Band Festival at Potomac State College, April 12, and was awarded a superior rating.

Sixteen members of the PHS French Club was to leave from Kentucky Airport for a week's trip aboard to Paris. They were: Lisa Deneault, Lu Ann Goldizen, Terry Harman, Nicki Kesner, Maria Kessel, Carl Lerer, Richard Mathias, Marty Maxwell, Johanna Maxwell, Amy Moomau, Jenette Roby, Lois Shumaker, Tim Thorne, Sarah Veach, Sherwood Veach and Sue Vetter.

Mr. and Mrs. Monte Delawder of Cabins announced the birth of a daughter, April 12, at Grant Memorial Hospital.

The Vikings beat Union 23-7 and Keyser 15-4 and lost to Moorefield 14-6.

April 10, 1985

Matt Lough of Petersburg was awarded the American Simmental Association's Bronze Merit Award, for outstanding achievement in the state beef cattle programs.

Tammy Kesner, a sophomore at Petersburg High School, attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation West Virginia Leadership Seminar.

Raymond "Buck" Harr, forest ranger for the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, in Hardy and Grant counties, retired March 31, with over 29 years of service. He was employed full-time on Oct., 1, 1956, as county forest protector.

Wrap up

Continued from Page 4A

The Senate concurred with the House's changes to the bill Saturday night and passed it again in a 32-1 vote, sending the bill to the desk of Gov. Morrissey, who was present outside the Senate chamber just prior to the vote. In an interview after the vote, Morrissey commended the Legislature for passing the bill he called "historic."

"This legislation gives us an opportunity to lift up our standard of living, dramatically reduce our state's income tax, grow economically, and do it to prepare another generation, the next generation of West Virginians, for success," he said.

"This is the economic development bill of the session, and I applaud the Legislature for acting on it," Morrissey continued. "If you have a data center, West Virginia should be your location for a few reasons. We have abundant forms of energy, coal, natural gas, we have a lot of water. We're going to be able to move quicker than virtually any state in terms of building."

TRANSGENDER ISSUES

The West Virginia House of Delegates worked through two bills Saturday aimed at closing loopholes for medication gender affirming and ending state programs linked to diversity, equity and inclusion.

The House passed Senate Bill 299 modifying state regulations on pubertal modulation, hormonal therapy and gender reassignment in an 86-12 vote after two hours of debate on proposed amendments. The bill, once the Senate receives the message for the House, will be sent to the governor.

SB 299 would further restrict certain medical

practices related to gender transition for individuals under age 18 beginning Aug. 1. The bill prohibits physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses from providing these interventions to minors, with specific exceptions for certain medical conditions unrelated to gender dysphoria.

SB 299 also mandates a legislative rule regarding telehealth to include a prohibition on prescribing or dispensing gender altering medication. Violations would be considered unprofessional conduct subject to license revocation and the bill outlines legal recourse and enforcement by the attorney general.

The bill closes an exemption that was included two years ago in House Bill 2007 prohibiting physicians from providing irreversible gender reassignment surgery or medication for gender-affirming care, such as hormones or puberty blockers, to a person who is under 18 with certain exceptions.

HB 2007 included guardrails to limit use of medication gender affirming care to adolescents who have been diagnosed with severe gender dysphoria by multiple physicians to address psychological issues and prevent self-harm and as long as the medication is limited to the lowest doses necessary.

"When (HB 2007) went over to the Senate, it was amended to preclude medications. So, anything that would not be surgery but would be a medication was still active," said Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh. This bill, Senate Bill 299, was the answer to that. The purpose of this bill was to go back to what the House had originally sent to the Senate in that original bill and ban the use of gender altering medications, for lack of a better term."

The House rejected the House Health and Human

Resources Committee's primary amendment to the bill that would have removed a new cause of action against a health care provider and included several provisions protecting physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses from employer discipline.

Another unsuccessful amendment offered by Delegate Bill Flanigan, R-Ohio, would have made the bill's provisions effective July 1, 2026. Opponents of Flanigan's amendment claimed that by allowing children an additional seven months to come off the medication gender affirming care would cause harm. Flanigan argued that the risk

The legislation addresses preferred gender pronouns in schools and mandates the reallocation of unspent DEI funds in higher education towards student aid or tuition reduction. The bill emphasizes equal treatment, nondiscrimination, and the protection of free speech, while allowing for legal compliance offices and the discussion of certain concepts in an academic context.

of attempted suicide by children with severe gender dysphoria outweighed those concerns.

"What I was trying to do, I thought, was helping kids. That was it," Flanigan said. "I heard somebody say something that (transgender children) might become sterile. They might not be able to have a child. And that is very unfortunate. I would never want to see that. You know what's worse? That kid being dead. Because I guarantee you they can't have children then."

Delegate Michael Amos, R-Wayne, is a board-certified family medicine physician and a member of the House Health Committee. He said the provisions of SB 299 would affect about 100 children receiving medication gender affirming care under the provisions of HB 2007.

"I get flummoxed by the

discussions that happen by non-medical individuals and how we can say that this is not what it is," Amos said. "We are taking them off and just need some time. If you wanted to poison pill this thing, then they could just say that they're doing it for the mental health of the kids. And that's a poison pill enough. This is the furthest thing from it."

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The House passed Senate Bill 474 ending diversity, equity and inclusion programs in an 87-12 vote, sending that bill back to the Senate for concurrence. But Republicans in the Senate pulled some parliamentary strings to get to bill across the finish line.

SB 474 aims to eliminate DEI programs and related positions across the state's executive branch, public schools and higher education institutions. DEI is defined as actions that influence hiring based on race, color, sex, ethnicity or national origin except through color-blind or sex-neutral processes, the promotion of special benefits based on these characteristics or the implementation of policies or training referencing these characteristics.

The bill establishes prohibitions on DEI offices, officers, preferential treatment and mandatory DEI training. It also outlines complaint and appeals processes for alleged violations in schools and requires reporting on DEI elimination efforts in higher education.

The legislation addresses preferred gender

Citizen Continued from Page 4A

I wish I could say that this was simple, but it's not—at least, not any longer. There's no shortage of information and opinion out there, but finding trustworthy sources of information has gotten harder, and the need to be on guard against misinformation and biased interpretations—and to recognize that in the online world in particular, false or slanted information is rampant—has become part and parcel of modern life.

So what's a citizen who wants to be involved do? I would argue that while mainstream news organizations have plenty of faults and sometimes go astray, day in and day out they're the most reliable source of news and information out there.

But it's not safe to rely on just one: Seeking a variety of sources will make you both more knowledgeable and better equipped to weigh in.

In recent years, several efforts to help people get out of their ideological bubbles have gained large national followings.

Every day, Isaac Saul's newsletter, Tangle, comes at a major issue in the news from both the left and the right, with Saul himself—or a member of his staff—adding his own take, which often helpfully puts things in perspective. Straight Arrow News, an independently financed website, tries to "report down the middle with facts. Our reporting is delivered to you without bias, filter, or spin," they write. And Allsides.com ranks media bias and offers a look every day at top stories "from the left, center, and right" as a way of helping readers parse how the media is approaching them.

There are other, similar endeavors, and it's worth exploring them to find what works best for you. But the key is that being an involved citizen at any level means taking responsibility for being knowledgeable and well-informed.

It's what's needed if you're going to engage with an elected representative—whose job, after all, often involves marshaling arguments supporting the position they've taken.

And it's what's needed if you're getting involved in community life: How reliable is the information you're basing your actions on? Is your involvement helping, or is it actually hurting because it's based on incorrect information?

Taking the time to study an issue and learn it from all sides makes you a more effective citizen, plain and simple.

This seems like a lot of work, and it is. But our democracy was built on the assumption that an engaged, well-informed electorate would participate constructively in driving it forward.

Things may have gotten a lot more complicated over the centuries, but that core idea—that all of us have skin in the game and that, no matter how modest the issue, all of us have the ability to improve the quality of life in our community—has been a constant.

Or to put it another way: If you want the system to work for you, you've got to participate in it.

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

pronouns in schools and mandates the reallocation of unspent DEI funds in higher education towards student aid or tuition reduction. The bill emphasizes equal treatment, nondiscrimination, and the protection of free speech, while allowing for legal compliance offices and the discussion of certain concepts in an academic context.

"This concept regarding elimination of DEI and DEI offices has been taken up in other states across the country," said Delegate Joe Ellington, R-Mercer, House Education Committee chairman. "Of note, there are 12 states that have already adopted this language and there are another 10, including West Virginia, with pending legislation."

More than 20 amendments were rejected to the bill, many offered by members of the nine-member House Democratic caucus. Debate on amendments was limited to an hour, but debate stretched more than two hours before debate on the main bill began. The House's only three Black lawmakers rose to speak against the bill.

"We just keep going back to this and I'm just asking you when is it going to stop," said House Minority Leader Sean Hornbuckle, D-Cabell. "What is it that you're seeking? Because there is no problem. Diversity, equity and inclusion has never and will never be about somebody who is not qualified, skipping the line. It is always and will always be about qualified people just getting an opportunity."

"Diversity, equity and inclusion matters," said Delegate Anitra Hamilton, D-Monongalia. "If we don't embrace these principles, we don't have a bone in the race of this Backyard Brawl. We'll continue to lose every year. I just pray that we can not only abolish this legislation, we can

abolish the mentality and ideology that goes along with it, and the energy."

"Bills like this will inhibit our students from knowing our history," Delegate Hollis Lewis, D-Kanawha, said. "We have a beautiful, great history...but now possibly our students won't get to know about it, because our teachers and educators and administrators will say the risk isn't worth the award."

Sen. Joey Garcia, D-Marion, had 15 amendments to SB 474 pending. But with less than 30 minutes until the midnight deadline, the Senate adopted a motion to suspend Joint Rule No. 3 that governs the process for how disagreements over bills are resolved between the House and the Senate to quickly concur and pass the bill in a 31-2 vote without considering Garcia's amendments.

"I don't understand what the motion is," said Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell. "People are watching us all around the state and I would like to know what is going on."

But after further consideration, the Senate reconsidered the vote on SB 474 then moved the previous question, closing off debate on the reconsideration motion. Sen. Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, then withdrew the motion to suspend Joint Rule No. 3 and moved to concur and pass SB 474. Another motion to move the previous question was called, to which Garcia objected.

"I have amendments in the system to the concurrence, so those amendments need to be taken up," Garcia said.

The Senate then passed SB 474 again in a 31-2 vote 10 minutes prior to the midnight deadline, sending the bill to the governor. SB 474 codifies an earlier executive order issued by Morrissey in January

Local and area obituaries

JOHN STANTON

John Stanton, 89, of Petersburg, W.Va., passed away at his home on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Born December 7, 1935 in Cawood, Ky., and was a son of the late George Stanton Sr. and Grace (Browning) Stanton.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years and 18 years in the U.S. Army. He retired in 1997 from Williamsburg Sheriff Department. Locally John retired from Potomac Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). He enjoyed motorcycling, Kentucky Wildcat basketball, Nascar and his furry family.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by three brothers, James Stanton, George "Chic" Stanton Jr. and Sankey "Sam" Stanton; six sisters, Mildred Shackelford, Bernice Green, Vera Whitehead, Gertrude Blanton, Sandra Simpson and Mary Baker.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Lisa Stanton; two sons, Joseph (Carolyn) Stanton and Gabriel Stanton; three daughters, Monica (Mark) Goltare, Sandra (Jerome) Kyle and Glenda (Stuart) Frantz; 13 grandchildren, Katelyn (Clint) Riggleman, Matthew (Brittany) Twyman, Jesseca Thompson, Colton (Kiley) Thompson, Page Frantz, J.T. (Becka) Gibson, John (Samantha) Gibson, Joseph Gibson, Sallie



(Nick) Ujlaky, Randall (Brittney) Gibson, Daniel (Nicole) Goltare, Michael (Morgan) Amos, and Samantha (Michael) Farmer; 26 great-grandchildren; four sisters, Esther Teilmann, Georgia Zuckerman, Helen (Van) Gillum and Ruth James; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were Saturday afternoon, April 12, at the Schaeffer Funeral Home, with Pastor Larry Hakes officiating. Interment followed in the Lahmansville Cemetery, Lahmansville, W.Va. with military honors by the Grant County Veterans Honor Guard and United States Army Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Promise Foundation, c/o Grant Memorial Hospice, 100 Hospital Drive, Suite 2, Petersburg, WV 26847.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.schaefferfuneralhome.com (4-15-25)

DOROTHY E. BOLYARD

Dorothy Earlene (Evans) Bolyard, 80, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2025, at E.A. Hawse Healthcare Center in Baker, W.Va., surrounded by the warmth of her family's love.

Born January 8, 1945, in Kitzmiller, Md., she was a daughter of the late Leslie Carl Evans and Hulda Jane (Stark) Evans.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death one brother, Paul Evans; and one sister, Mildred Evans.

Dorothy is survived by one son, Harold W. Bolyard and wife Glenda of Petersburg, W.Va.; two daughters, Sarah E. Boyce and husband Dwayne of Keyser, W.Va. and Tammy J. Mongold and husband David W. of Baker; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Emma Jean Harris of Petersburg and Nancy Evans of Baltimore, Md.; three brothers, Ronnie Evans of Southerland, Va., Roy Evans of Jefferson, N.C. and Carl Evans of Cumberland, Md.; and several nieces and nephews.

Dorothy's love for gardening, canning, and tending to flowers was not just a hobby but a testament to her connection with the cycles of life and growth. Throughout her life, Dorothy's loving heart found



its truest expression in her devotion to her family.

Family gatherings were a highlight for Dorothy, where her presence was the cornerstone of many cherished memories. Her memory will be cherished and kept alive through the stories her family share, the gardens they tend and the love they give, just as she did.

Funeral services were Wednesday afternoon, April 9, in the chapel of the Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg, with her son, Harold W. Bolyard and Derek Bailey officiating. Burial followed in Maple Hill Cemetery, Petersburg.

Memorials may be made to the family, c/o Schaeffer Funeral Home, 11 North Main Street, Petersburg, WV 26847.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.schaefferfuneralhome.com (4-15-25)

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ISABELLE M. SPENCER

Isabelle Mae Smith "Issy" Spencer, age 100, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2025, at Oakmont Assisted Living, Bristol, Va.

Born March 13, 1925, in Keyser, W.Va., she was the daughter of the late Harold M. and Gaynell K. Smith.

She was a homemaker and a jack of all trades. She was an active 4-H Leader, WV All-Star, a volunteer at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, and the American Red Cross. She was a member of Pickaway United Methodist Church and the Union Chapter of Eastern Star #122.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Earl Spencer; son, Ronald L. Spencer; and four brothers, Thomas, Richard, Ralph and Harry.

Survivors include her daughters, Judy Merritt of Abingdon, Md., and Barbie Leong and husband Ambrose of Bristol; six grandchildren, Heather Holmes of Birmingham, Ala., Andrea Kirk of Belair, Md., Erica Spencer of Birmingham,



ham, Valerie Blankenship of Wheeling, W.Va., Spencer Leong of Spartanburg, S.C. and Milie Leong of Philadelphia, Pa.; and four great-grandchildren.

At Mrs. Spencer's request, no formal services were conducted.

Those wishing to express sympathy online may do so by visiting www.farrisfuneralservice.com and signing the online guest register. The family of Isabelle Mae Smith Spencer is being cared for by Farris Funeral Service & Crematory, 427 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210, 276-623-2700. (4-15-25)

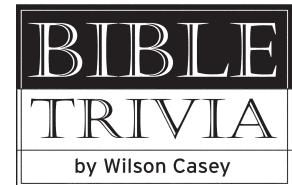


Final Lenten Luncheon Wednesday

Petersburg Church Women United and the Ministerial Association are sponsoring the annual Lenten Luncheons in the fellowship hall at Petersburg Presbyterian Church.

Lunch, is soup, sandwich and dessert, will be served promptly at noon with a message provided by a local pastor, and will end at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. Everyone welcome.

Scheduled speaker: **April 16** - Rev. David Webb of St. John's United Methodist Church.



1. Is the book of Gethsemane (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers
5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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KOVELS Antiques & Collecting

DELFTWARE
Talk about May flowers! The bright colors of the tulips on this charger could rival the real ones growing outside. And to think they're over 300 years old!

The charger was made in England in about 1690. Even with a few signs of wear, its age, craftsmanship and design brought its price to an impressive \$3,997 at Brunk Auctions. It is a type of tin-glazed earthenware pottery called delft or delftware.

The name "delft" may conjure up images of blue-and-white Dutch scenes, and it comes from a city in Holland that produced that type of pottery. Dutch immigrants brought the technique to England in the late 16th century, and London became a center for making delftware. Designs were often inspired by Chinese porcelain, and, although blue-and-white delftware was popular, potters ex-



perimented with different colors.

This charger uses yellow, green and ochre as well as blue. Multicolor designs are often called "polychrome." Delftware lost popularity in the 18th century as Europeans began making their own porcelain, but, in the 1800s, ceramics decorated with designs inspired by old delft became popular again in Holland, especially with tourists. They are still popular gifts and souvenirs, although they are often imported. Watch out for pieces labeled "Delft"; they were made in the 20th or 21st century.

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Basketball

Continued from front

of the 17-year old victim. In the second video, Ketterman is seen swinging his elbow "wildly" and striking the back of the head of the same victim and knocking him forward.

In the third video, Ketterman is seen again swinging his elbow "wildly" at the head of another minor Union player, striking the left shoulder of the victim and glancing off the back of his head. In the fourth video, Ketterman is noted to be wiping some-

thing off the elbow he had just used to strike one of the victims.

In the fifth and final video, Ketterman is seen shoving another Union player out of the court area, nearly knocking him down. It should be noted that no criminal charges were filed from the fifth video incident.

After reviewing the videos, the investigating officer noted that Ketterman's actions appeared to be intentional and criminally malicious in nature.

Upon follow-up with the reporting parent, the first alleged victim of Ketterman is confirmed to have a broken nose that was injured near the top of his brow, making surgery difficult. The parent explained that they had been told that the surgery may be "intrusive" and would probably leave scarring. Due to these complications, they had elected to forgo surgery but that he would likely forever have a "slightly crooked" nose.

Due to the officer's

agreement that Ketterman's actions had been intentional and that he had intended to needlessly harm the other players, Ketterman was charged with one felony count of malicious assault and two additional felony counts of attempted malicious assault. The charges stem from Ketterman's swinging at both the 17-year-old victim and a 16-year-old victim. The officer noted that the swinging was done in the exact same manner, intentionally seeking to

inflict the same or worse type of injury to the second victim.

Ketterman was held at the Tygarts Valley Regional Jail until he posted a required \$12,500 bond. A preliminary hearing into the incident will be held in May in the Grant County Magistrate Court.

It is important to note that a charge is just an accusation and the defendant is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Water

Continued from front

The group said the funds would rebound due to the rate increase within the next eight weeks.

County administrator Michelle Sites spoke with the county's chief financial officer (CFO), who confirmed that the county had the necessary funds available in their Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund.

The commission approved the MTPSD's request of approximately \$16,000 and clarified that the funds would not need to be paid back.

The MTPSD representatives expressed their gratitude for the commission's support, saying they were grateful to be able to

provide public water to the citizens in Mount Storm, Bayard and Elk Garden.

The commission agreed, thanking the MTPSD for their hard work in the area.

"You guys have always done more with less and we have always been impressed by that," said commissioner Scotty Miley. "It's an important service that I'm glad we are able to help offer."

Commission president Kevin Hagerty agreed, saying he had seen first hand the impact public water was able to offer to the county.

"I am an appraiser by trade and I work in different counties all over the

region, from Jefferson all the way down to Pendleton, and Grant County is wonderful in regard to water," said Hagerty. "Being able to offer public water to nearly the entire county, is way beyond any other county I have done appraisals in. It has a big impact on property value. People do not have to worry about digging wells and Hardy County even has places where they have to use cisterns. Typically speaking we do not have to worry about that, so it is a great asset to not only off the mountain in Petersburg, but also the Mountain Top."

During the conversation, the group also dis-

cussed the recent water study the county funded that was completed by Cerrone Associates. The commission has expressed a goal of leveraging the information gathered by the study to apply for further grants aimed at providing services to rural communities and their infrastruc-

ture. The MTPSD also expressed gratitude for the study, saying it had been very informative to them concerning not only their current capabilities but by also providing insight on how to expand services in the future.

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Health

Continued from front

through blood donations," said Jamie Tallman. "This blood drive is our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives."

Blood is a perishable product that can only come

from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

"We urge community

members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your

blood donation may give someone a second chance at life."

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and

B negative. For more information or to make an appointment to donate, sign up online at redcrossblood.org or call 304-257-3256.

Hermitage

Continued from front

when it and the hotel were run by different owners.

Sites explained that the restaurant will be offering special events in the coming weeks, including live music which will begin in the near future.

And beyond offering private party options for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays or any other special events in customers' lives, they will also be offering special holiday events for occasions such as Mother's Day. These events will offer buffet dining for families to en-

joy like this is unique," explained Keplinger. "It can be a benefit because you have this remarkable atmosphere. But you always have to be careful at the same time to stay true to that history. When it comes to decor you don't want to bring something too modern in that conflicts with that atmosphere. This property has been operated since 1841, it has been a house, it has been a restaurant and it has been a hotel. It's similar with Mullin's 1847, both properties have historical value to the community and we want to honor and upkeep that."

Keplinger also clarified the value the business places on that community significance, saying that their restaurants are meant for everyone to enjoy and are welcoming to the entire community.

"Our philosophy and what we have built, is, for one, we want a great atmosphere," Keplinger said. "When you come through the doors we want to have a great service experience from our staff. All of our staff goes through special training and we hold them to a high level. Everything has a set routine, so that that great experience is consistent for every single customer that comes through our doors. We are down to earth here. We are in Grant County and we are part of that community. We want to be able to bring people different dishes. If you want a meatloaf, we got it. If you want some chicken, we got it. If you want some pasta, we got it. But we also come

out with different things too, new things to try for people who are interested in that, too."

Both Sites and Keplinger praised their staff, not only at the Hermitage 1841 but also Mullin's 1847, saying they operated on a philosophy that their employees are a part of their family and are treated as such. This includes offering very competitive pay and benefits that exceed the local industry standard.

"You can't treat people as if they are a number," Keplinger said. "Some days Marcus and I can be

their banker, their pastor, their father, their mother, their best friend, whatever they need. We try to be there for each other. We recognize that things happen in life. They have families, children can get sick, and we understand that. And because of that, our employees are often quick to fill in when someone is in a situation like that, and really, Marcus and I are, too. We are here as the business owners in whatever way we need to be."

Between all their businesses, the family has about 100 employees.

"We are excited to be

in Petersburg and to be in this beautiful building," Keplinger said. "We have already had such a great response from this great community and we are looking forward to what is going to come next."

The Hermitage 1841 Restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, check out their Facebook page at Hermitage 1841 Restaurant or their website www.hermitage1841.com.



the restaurant dining that is home cooking and offer meals like steak or shrimp. But now we also offer the room rentals, we have the pub in Moorefield and the hotel. And our plans here... we have a lot of exciting plans here at the Hermitage."

joy. Having already run the successful Mullin's 1847 Restaurant in Moorefield since 2017, the family are no strangers to operating out of classic and noteworthy buildings.

In fact, Sites explained that the Hermitage is now their oldest restaurant location, being constructed six years prior to the Mullin's Hotel, in 1841.

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Petersburg High School 2025 Boys and Girls Tennis Teams



PHS Tennis Roster	
Olivia Carle	12
Sophie Rafter	11
Callie Sites	11
Tara Kimble	10
Ireland Gray	10
Ava Gray	10
Angela Willis	10
Tabitha Goldizen	10
Belanna Moyers	9
Annamarie Teter	9
Ava Ours	9
Jesslyn Berg	9
Marley Evans	9
Trenten Smoot	12
Jaxon Kile	11
Jesse Ockerman	11
Benjamin Kuhn	9
Zach Carlon	9
Samuel Yeager	9
Coaches: Aidan Snodgrass and Jake Gray	



More photos from Union's Heart Health Day...



Tree trimming along the Franklin Pike



Roadway tree trimming operations were in full swing earlier this month along the Franklin Pike near Landes as part of cleanup efforts by the West Virginia DOH. The two large pieces of equipment were used to trim and cut down trees which were then dropped onto a whole tree chipper that loaded the chips onto a dump truck.

Thanks to Jack Yokum for submitting the photos.



Something new for the Spring Mountain Festival: A dog parade!

Mark your calendars for the Becki Alt Lanhardt Dog Parade at the Petersburg City Park on Sunday, April 27, as part of this year's Spring Mountain Festival.

The parade will begin at noon and costumes will be judged for a chance to win

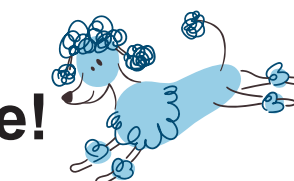
prize baskets from local businesses.

Parade route is from the city park to the entrance to the dog park.

Registration is free and doggie bags will be guaranteed for the first 50 registrations.

To register go to <https://square.link/u/BIKuc8g1> or go to the Facebook page Spring Mountain Festival, Petersburg WV and click on the link.

Prize baskets are sponsored by South Branch Animal Hospital, WVU



Medicine/Grant Memorial Hospital, The Grant County Bank, PCB and Burke & Herbert Bank.

For a complete festival and entertainment schedule see next week's Press or pick up a copy of the festival program.

Spring gobbler season to open April 21

Youth gobbler season set for April 19-20 for youth ages 8-17

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announces the return of turkey hunting to West Virginia on April 21 when the spring gobbler season opens across the state.

During the season, which will run for five weeks until May 25, hunters may harvest one bearded bird per day with a season bag limit of two.

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license, unless they are hunting under resident landowner privileges, and must carry a valid form of identification while hunting.

A West Virginia hunting license can be purchased at

WVhunt.com.

"Spring gobbler season is a time-honored tradition in West Virginia, offering hunters an exciting challenge and a chance to connect with nature," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

"As hunters prepare for their hunts in the coming weeks, we want to urge them to take advantage of the youth season because it's a great opportunity to introduce kids to the joys of hunting and make lasting memories together."

West Virginia's two-day youth spring gobbler season is set to open April 19. During the season, youth hunters ages 8-17 may harvest one bearded bird per

day, which counts towards their season bag limit of two.

Youth hunters 8-14 must be accompanied by a licensed and unarmed adult, who must remain close enough to render advice and assistance. Youth hunters 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements.

Hunters are reminded that hunting turkeys over bait and killing hens without beards is illegal during the spring season. Turkey hunters are encouraged to report any such activity to their local Natural Resource Police Officer or call 911 to report the violation.

The West Virginia Chap-

ter of the National Wild Turkey Federation pays a \$100 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of anyone killing a turkey illegally.

For more information about the youth and regular spring gobbler seasons, check page 43-44 of the West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available to download at WVDnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

Spring Gobbler Survey
Hunters are also encouraged to participate in the WVDNR's spring gobbler survey, which helps wildlife biologists gather information for managing the state's wild turkey population.

Hunters are encouraged to complete the survey through the Survey123 mobile or desktop app. Additional information about this year's survey will be emailed to turkey hunters and posted on the WVDNR website once the season starts. To learn more about the survey, visit WVDnr.gov/surveys.

Potomac Valley Muzzleloaders April shoot results



The Potomac Valley Muzzleloaders met April 6, at Turner Park in Maysville for their monthly shooting match.

It was a paper match shoot with a possible 250 points.

Men's Winners

Terry Mulligan 200, Steve McKenzie 198, Randol George 193, Joe Martin 186 and Carl Lambert 174.

Women's Match

(50 points total)
Brittany Clayton 44, Su-

sie Kesner 41, Melanie Parsons 35 and Leah Carr 33.

Pistol Winners

(50 points total)
Steve McKenzie 40x, Terry Mulligan 33xx, Jamie Snyder 21, Jerry Oates 20 and Randol George 15.

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75th Anniversary

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Sale: Saturday, April 26

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Sale will be live streamed by Willoughby Livestock Sales

For additional information go to: www.wvsheepandgoatsale.com or questions, contact Jonathan Taylor, President, at 304-851-9970

Auctioneer: Michael Thomas

Take 5

In less time than it takes to get ready for movie night you can register to vote.

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behind my home while I walk behind him. He occasionally comes back with scrapes and cuts. I want to share with your readers how I take care of his minor injuries, and when a vet visit is necessary.

I clean it with warm water, disinfect it and put some antibiotic ointment on it. If it's a place where he can scratch or lick, I cover it with a gauze bandage for a couple of days.

I wrapped his paw in gauze to protect it and off we went. The vet stitched him up, and Gordie has to wear a lampshade collar for the next week or so to let it heal.

Most of the time, Gordie's scrapes are very minor. I always check him when we get back to the house, because he can easily pick up ticks, too. I remove any clinging ticks and kill them right away. I check the pads under his paws, and run my hand along his coat to remove burrs. If he has a scrape on his side or paw,

Last month, Gordie limped over to me with a deep laceration on his left front paw pad. Fortunately, we weren't far from home. I carried him inside and gently looked at the injury. It wasn't bleeding too badly, but the cut was very deep, and trying to clean it was very painful for him. This time, we had to see the vet.

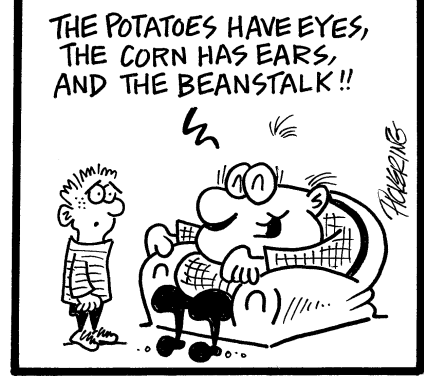
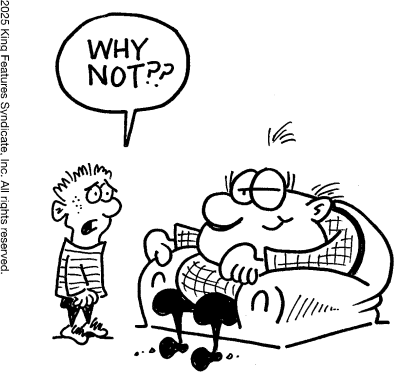
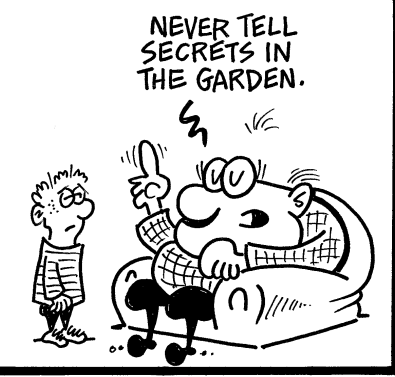
I hope my story will be helpful to readers.

— Tyler N. Dracut, Massachusetts
DEAR TYLER: This is very helpful! Best wishes to Gordie for a speedy recovery.
 Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.
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Taking Care of Your Pet's Minor Injuries

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have an adventurous Shorthaired Pointer named "Gordie" who loves running through the woods

The Spats



King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15				16					17	
18				19			20	21		
			22				23			
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37					38	
39						40	41			
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Barn birds
 - 5 Snooze
 - 8 Humdrum
 - 12 Nerd's kin
 - 13 Somewhat (Suff.)
 - 14 Green land
 - 15 Hindu royal
 - 16 "My word!"
 - 17 Taxi alternative
 - 18 Allow
 - 20 Peace
 - 22 Poetic contraction
 - 23 Armed conflict
 - 24 Melville captain
 - 27 Shortly
 - 32 — canto
 - 33 Nonpro sports org.
 - 34 DDE's opponent
 - 35 Parts
 - 38 L-Q bridge
 - 39 Moray, for one
 - 40 Attempt
 - 42 "Rats!"
 - 45 Actress
 - 49 China setting
 - 50 "The Greatest"
 - 52 Empty truck's weight
- DOWN**
- 1 Shrek, for one
 - 2 Gradually
 - 3 Sultry
 - 4 Winter vehicle
 - 5 Resident of Lagos
 - 6 Enzyme suffix
 - 7 "That was close!"
 - 8 Biondi in "It's a Wonderful Life"
 - 9 Resident of Monrovia
 - 10 War god
 - 11 Wife of Zeus
 - 19 French article
 - 21 "Adorbs!"
 - 24 Sit-up targets
 - 25 Haw preceder
 - 26 Resident of Oran
 - 28 D.C. baseballer
 - 29 Resident of Vienna
 - 30 Summer sign
 - 31 Mentalist's gift
 - 36 Household
 - 37 Yale grad
 - 38 Spiritualist
 - 41 Egyptian sun god
 - 42 Sprint
 - 43 Regarding
 - 44 Chat
 - 46 "Mary — Little Lamb"
 - 47 Bailiwick
 - 48 Campus big-wig
 - 51 Island garland

FUN & PUZZLES

PUZZLE ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 2A

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆◆
 ◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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DAD JOKES

I ran into a lamppost yesterday. Luckily, I only sustained light injuries.

If you let them shanan once, they will shenanigan.



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: U equals L

TZFS YZNHUE XNH YFX TZMV
 F XNHVR BZGUE CFGUY FS
 CFYSMVGVR ZGY YZNMUFBMY?
 "SGM, SGM FRFGV."

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Five Spot™

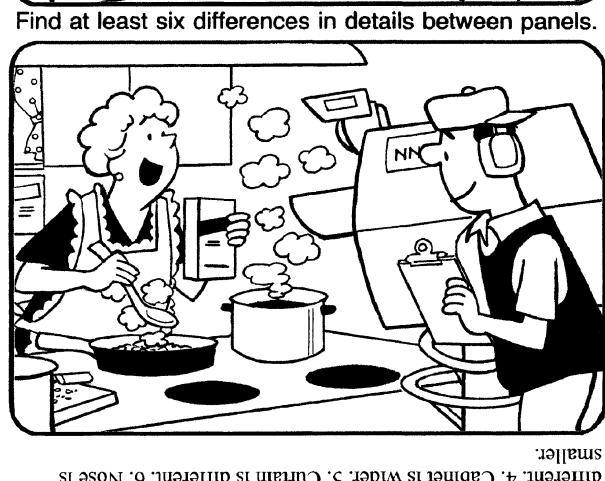
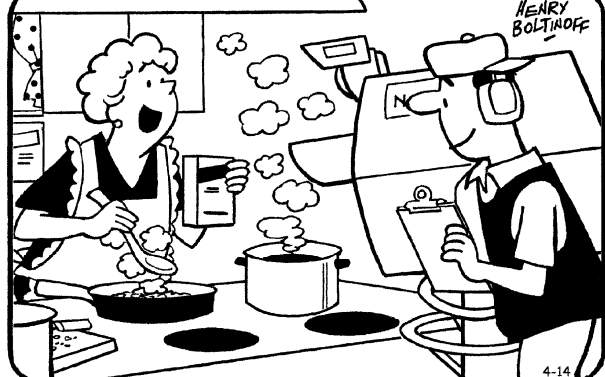
Mending Time

D	E	N	I	M	Popular fabric
					Like the SATs
					Pronouncement
					Way of living
					Gain an unfair advantage
					Alternative to pills or injections

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden 02507

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pot is moved. 2. Box is larger. 3. Apron is smaller. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Curtain is different. 6. Nose is different.

Even Exchange

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

- 1. Pearl collector _ _ I _ _ _ White Cliffs location _ _ O _ _ _
- 2. Plain Scrabble tile _ _ _ _ _ K Tasteless _ _ _ _ _ D
- 3. Make public _ _ _ V _ _ _ Overturn in Congress _ _ _ P _ _ _
- 4. Toast topping _ _ E _ _ _ Like St Nick _ _ _ O _ _ _
- 5. Door decoration W _ _ _ _ Intake of air _ _ _ B _ _ _
- 6. Bullwinkle, e.g. _ _ _ _ S _ _ Mandy or Roger _ _ _ _ R _ _
- 7. Halloween gifts _ _ _ _ _ S Peace pact _ _ _ _ _ Y
- 8. Wisconsin mascot _ _ _ D _ _ _ Grocery store employee _ _ _ G _ _ _
- 9. Arms and legs _ _ _ _ _ S Caribbean dance _ _ _ _ _ O
- 10. At no time _ _ _ V _ _ _ More recent _ _ _ W _ _ _

Fun Fact

Apples float because they are 85% water. The average apple contains 5 seeds. At room temperature, apples ripen 10 times faster than when refrigerated. The average American eats 16 pounds of fresh apples each year. Archaeologists have found evidence that humans have been enjoying apples for more than 8,500 years!

Source: waapple.org

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EASTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

Young Writers winning stories continued from last week

The Thing

By Madelyn Cook, PHS Seventh/Eighth Grade Division

Beep! Beep! The faint sound of a machine beeping down the hallway floated into my room. I rolled over and tried to fall back asleep. I knew I would need my sleep for tomorrow, although my eyes could barely stay open, I still couldn't fall asleep.

Thousands of thoughts raced through my mind about the next day. I still could believe that tomorrow I would leave this place for good. This place had become my second home to me these last three years coming in and out.

Every time I had left, I had hoped I wouldn't return, but this time I knew that it was really the last time I would be here. Even after all the hours of treatments, surgeries, and doctor appointments, the hospital still couldn't save me from, "The thing."

"The thing" is something I had put many hours of thought into. Every sleepless night, all I could think about was, "The thing." Will it happen to me? No, the hospital and doctors will save me. Does it hurt? What about my par-

ents? How much longer till it happens? I can't believe this is happening to me.

Hundreds of thousands of thoughts like this controlled my mind. Every kid who is diagnosed with cancer just assumes that they will beat it and move on with their life, and I was one of those, until I realized that I was one of the lucky few whose story would end a little differently.

The next morning, my mom came and picked me up and we started our long drive home. When we pulled into the driveway, all my friends and family were standing outside with party hats and balloons and "Welcome Home" was written on the concrete with chalk.

That's another thing that surprised me about being sick, how differently people treated you, but I guess that makes sense. If I were to see a pale bald girl sitting in a wheelchair looking like she is about to vomit, I would stare too.

That night was the most fun I had had in a long time, and I was able to relax with the people I loved and not have to worry about, "The thing." Yet, the next morning when the nurse walked into my room and woke me up, I remembered the real

reason I was allowed to come home.

The next couple of days were miserable, every day seemed like it loomed on forever. I slept most of the time, being too weak to watch a whole movie or show without dozing off.

I knew "The thing" was creeping up on me fast. I could feel it every time I tried to stand up, every time I tried to eat, and every time I fell asleep.

Mom, Dad, and I had lots of long conversations about what was going to happen, and that helped the thought of "The thing" happening a little less nerve racking.

Days turned into weeks, and then weeks turned into a month since I had gotten home. Every day I could feel myself grow more frail as time passed. Every day I thought about "The thing," then one day when I was sitting in my bed watching a movie, it hit me. I wasn't scared anymore. That thing I had spent hours dwelling over the thought of seemed like something I had been ready for my whole life.

One night a few weeks later, I was having trouble falling asleep, like I so often do. I laid there for hours unable to sleep, then final-

ly able to drift off. When I woke up, I wasn't in my bed anymore. I was standing in the middle of the road.

Hundreds of people walked around, as an older lady brushed beside me, I could see that her skin was glowing. As I looked closer at the people around me, I could see that they were all glowing and so was everything around me. I turned around, there was a gigantic castle on the hill behind me, it was the prettiest thing I had ever seen. Every inch of that castle was covered in gold, it looked like it had been clipped right out of a movie.

I walked around the city trying not to touch anything or talk to anyone for I was still unaware of where I was. I supposed that I was in some crazy dream that I would wake up from anytime. A couple of hours later I decided to go explore the castle before I woke up.

I climbed up the stairs and walked inside to a room covered with jewels. I turned around and looked at the gold streets behind me. Then it dawned on me where I was. I guess "The thing" I was so scared of wasn't that bad after all.

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Linda Borrer is Resident of the Week at Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center

By Ravenna Redman
 Director of Social Services

The employees of Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center have chosen Linda Borrer as their GRCC Resident of the Week.

Linda has been a resident of our facility since June 5, 2024. She was born May 17, 1943, in Madison, Boone County, W.Va. to Raymond and Mary Alice (Crites) Hedrick.

Linda is the eldest of four children. Her siblings are Shirley Simon, Raymond "Buck" Hedrick Jr., and Mary Ann Barger.

When Linda was small, her father Raymond worked as a timberman on the pipeline, and her mother often was with him. She reported spending her childhood with her maternal grandparents Thomas and Goldie Crites. "I loved deer hunting with Granddad Crites. My favorite childhood memories are with them."

"When I was with my siblings, our favorite thing to do was play ball - any type of ball."

Linda attended Petersburg Elementary School. "I liked everything about school. I was on the A Honor Roll." This love of school continued as Linda attended Petersburg High School. "I participated in everything," she reported with a grin. Linda was a member of the Petersburg High School Band; "I played drums." She also participated in Future Homemakers of America and was inducted into the



National Honor Society. Linda graduated from Petersburg High School in 1961.

During high school, Linda worked at the local Dairy Queen. "It was a good first-time job, and it worked well with my school schedule." After graduating high school, Linda began working at Bond's Jewelry.

While in high school, she met Douglas Borrer, who was a classmate of hers. "We started dating a month after graduation." On December 30, 1962, Linda and Douglas were married at her home by Rev. Clarence G. Hesse.

The young couple settled down. Linda remained at Bond's, and Doug was working at Southern States. He eventually transferred to Potomac Edison.

The couple had two sons, Douglas Borrer Jr., and Matthew Borrer. Linda is proud of her sons and feels that they are her greatest achievement. She loved motherhood. "The boys liked to do everything. They were incredibly involved with 4-H and sports." Linda often served



as chaperone for the 4-H trips.

Linda also worked at Head Start as a classroom teacher, and then later in her life, she worked in retail at South Side Depot. She retired around 15 years ago. "I was ready to retire, and enjoy time with my husband," Linda reported.

Even in retirement, Linda stayed busy. She is a member of the Grant County Historical Society and also helped with the Tri-County Fair Association, volunteering most recently in 2023. "It was my job to check-in the canned goods to be judged."

Linda is a member of the Gordon Chapel, where she served as a substitute Sunday school teacher.

Both Linda's and Douglas' health deteriorated to the point where they were unable to be at home and admitted to the facility on June 5, 2024. Doug continued to decline, and he passed away on July 8, 2024, after 61 years of marriage. Linda continues to mourn for Doug and becomes tearful when talking about him. "We were always together, and I miss him."

When asked what she enjoys doing, she replied, "I liked being on the go. I liked doing outside things." She likes to read the local newspaper, and watch television, especially sports, and westerns, her favorite being Gun Smoke. She also loves watching birds from her room.

At GRCC, Linda plays bingo and attends the singing and music activities. She recently attended WVTE's "Annie" as part of the GRCC theater critics. She loves to visit with staff, other residents, and family.

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

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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.

Strange BUT TRUE

- In 2013, "Star Wars" was dubbed in Navajo, making it the first major motion picture to be dubbed in a Native American language.
- Your brain sees the world upside down. When the rods and cones of your retina send an image to the brain - say, you're looking at a tree - the image that gets transmitted to the brain is upside down. The brain automatically rotates the image in its visual cortex.
- Researchers at Oregon State University patented a strain of seaweed that's

not only rich in protein, but tastes remarkably like bacon when cooked.

- The term "pipe dream" is a reference to the crazy dreams people have while smoking opium.
- Death rates in boxing exploded after the introduction of the boxing glove. Almost nobody ever died bare knuckle boxing because head punches often resulted in broken hands, so nobody used them.
- A typical piano has about 12,000 parts, 10,000 of which are moving.

Thought for the Day: "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." — George Bernard Shaw

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