



GRANT COUNTY PRESS

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Proudly Serving Grant County for 128 Years

Join the new GRCC Helping Hands

Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center is looking for friends to start GRCC Helping Hands. This will be a community group made up of friends and relatives of GRCC's residents, to support improvements in the facility. If you are interested, attend the GRCC Helping Hands meeting Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m. at GRCC, 127 Early Avenue in Petersburg. For more information contact Ravenna O. Redman at 304-257-4233 ext 5242 or rredman@gcnh.us

Viking baseball team competes in Charleston

The Petersburg High School Viking baseball team made their way to the state capital last month to compete in the first Guard the Capitol Classic, a statewide baseball event hosted by the West Virginia National Guard... see page 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.

COVID-19 UPDATES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

- Adell Polymers DEP Permit
 - Pendleton County Bank Vehicle Public Sale
 - DOE Levy Rates
 - Wilson Trustee's Sale
 - Downtown Pavilion Bids
 - Estate Notices
 - Grant County Commission Levy Estimate
- Pages 2B-3B



Obituaries

Michael Bland
Randy Layman
Kermit McDonald Sr.

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Obituary	6A
Sports	1B-2B
Classifieds/Legals	3B-4B
Business Spotlight	8B

poll question

Will you be taking advantage of early voting or will you be casting your vote on election day?



Let us know on our Facebook page



City council discusses complaints about stray and feral cat problem

A local resident appeared before the Petersburg City Council last week to speak about an issue that has been plaguing him, his home and his neighbors - cats.

D.K., a resident of Central Avenue, said his home has become overrun with stray cats and that as many as 50 of the animals can be found in his yard at a time.

"I can't put up with it anymore," D.K. said. "I can't walk outside, they are tearing up my grass, they are tearing up my wife's flowers all the time. This is overdue. If you have money for everything else, you have money to hire someone to get

this done."

D.K., who told the council he was 84 years old, urged the council to hire an employee whose role in the city would be animal control.

"I can't even sit on my porch," D.K. said. "I can't have a grill, nothing. She can't even clean it. My wife walked out outside and she was immediately surrounded by 15 cats."

City recorder Sarah Moomau explained that the stray cat issue had been an ongoing problem in the county. She said that she had recently contacted a representative of the city of Winchester, Va., on how they were

handling the problem. However she was told that their city was also overrun with feral cats and that they had no advice to give on handling the issue.

D.K. claimed that the law required pet owners to house and care for their own animals. However, Moomau explained that while that is true, the cats in question are considered feral and are strays.

D.K. said a large part of the problem are households who feed the stray cats in the area, saying one of the households in the area will leave out entire boxes of raw chicken on their porch for the cats to eat.

The council agreed that residents feeding strays was an issue and Moomau said fines have been written for households caught feeding feral cats. However, she also clarified that the city has a very limited police force and that catching every house breaking the regulations

See City, page 5A

BOE hears student health concerns

The Grant County Board of Education received multiple updates during the final meeting of March, including on the growing number of students requiring more advanced healthcare while at school.

Petersburg High School nurse, Madison Evans appeared before the board to give an update on the work being done by the school nurses and the challenges they and their students are facing.

"I'm not sure that as board members or parents or really the community in general re-

See Schools, page 7A



FACILITY UPGRADES - The Grant County Parks and Recreation Department shared updated photos of the Grant County Dog Pound following numerous facility upgrades, including a newly expanding run and kennel space for the dogs. Whenever possible, the county works with local rescue groups to help find the dogs a new home and family. Meet the shelter dog of the week on page 4B.

Meet the Grant County candidates in locally contested races: board of education



Jared N. Amtower

1. What area of the county are you from and how long have you lived in Grant County?

I am from Union District. I have lived in Grant County my entire life.

2. Why did you decide to run for Grant County Board of Education?

I ran for BOE in 2014 when the state still had control of the coun-

See Amtower, page 7A

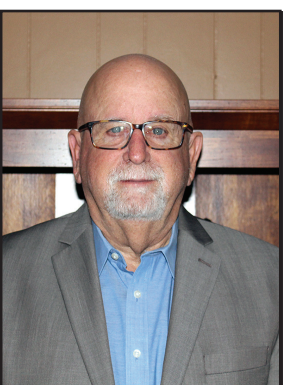


Barb DiBenedetto

1. What area of the county are you from and how long have you lived in Grant County?

Except for time spent in Morgantown for college, I have lived in Grant County my entire life. I grew up on a farm in Lahmansville and was the daughter of Karl and Myrtle Bobo. I went to grade school at Forman Elementary and later graduated from Petersburg High School. I now

See DiBenedetto, page 7A



Doug Lambert

1. What area of the county are you from and how long have you lived in Grant County?

Hi! I am Doug Lambert, candidate for the Grant County Board of Education representing the Milroy District. I have lived in Petersburg for 45 years.

2. Why did you decide to run for Grant County Board of Education?

My educational experience took the form of teacher, coach, and ad-

See Lambert, page 7A



Dixie Lee Murray

1. What area of the county are you from and how long have you lived in Grant County?

My name is DixieLee Murray and our family moved to Grant County in 1988. I have lived in this county 15 years. My three children graduated from Petersburg High School. I presently reside in Milroy District.

2. Why did you decide to run for Grant County Board of Education?

I decided to run for

See Murray, page 7A



Charles Shreve

1. What area of the county are you from and how long have you lived in Grant County?

I currently reside in Scherr. I have lived in Grant County most of my life. I graduated from Petersburg High School in 2001 and then traveled to Arizona for college and then came back home, worked for a while, then moved to Ohio where I was married and then back home again. Each time that I

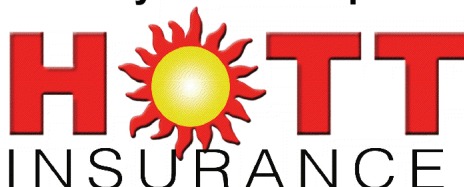
See Shreve, page 7A

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John Paul Hott II
Owner

BOGAL FLAVOR

By Camille Howard
The superstition that bad things come in threes, or trouble comes in threes, has hit home. In the space of a few short weeks someone backed into my car (again), and drove away without telling me (again); my car's air conditioner went on the fritz; and to top it off, the upper part of my refrigerator decided to stop working, even though the freezer still does. Hopefully this is the end of the losing streak, but thankfully the refrigerator waited until after the holiday weekend to kick the bucket. My poor little car has now been hit twice in the very same location. I'm thinking about rigging pool noodles across the back corners to protect it. Maybe I need one of those deer deflectors you see on the front of pickup trucks, only installed on the back. As far as the refrigerator goes, at this time we have a giant cooler filled with ice on the back deck to keep a few essentials cold, and I guess I'll be cooking up whatever is in the freezer. I'll have to admit it was hard to throw away so much food. I opened the door one morning last week and it said the refrigerator temperature was 64°. Much warmer than outside. By that time the milk

was curdled, so I figured anything else milk based had to go. We planned on having our grandson stay with us over the weekend, but since the refrigerator was not working I stayed with him at his house while mom and dad were gone. This worked out pretty well because there was no packing clothing and all the paraphernalia that goes with a two-year-old; and no carting the dogs around in my car. He was a pretty good little guy and we played everything from puzzles and

books to race cars and monster trucks. Then we watched monster trucks on TV and a whole episode of just other trucks picking up trash, dumping dirt, etc. - three times. I forgot that little kids like to watch the same thing over and over. He got out his little tool box and "worked" on the wheels of his grocery cart until he had it fixed. Sunday afternoon we walked around outside since it was so nice, and after much looking, came

home with his choice of a rock (a big chunk of gravel). I had to stop him from getting more to take home. It was a fun weekend but I was glad to get home. I think I'm cut out to be a grandparent, and will leave the parenting to someone younger. I'm always looking for an easy dinner and since we're fans of tacos and Mexican food in general, the recipe here fits the bill. Maybe I can get invited over to my daughter's house and she can make this for dinner. Hmmm ... it looks like there could be an advantage in having my fridge on the blink!

CORNBREAD TACO BAKE

7 ounce packet cornbread mix
½ cup milk
1 large egg
1 pound ground beef
3 tablespoons taco seasoning (or 1 packet)
½ cup water
11 ounce can Mexicorn, drained
10 ounce can Rotel, drained
2 cups sour cream
2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend (divided use)
½ cup chopped green onions
Optional toppings: shredded lettuce, sliced olives, diced tomatoes, taco sauce

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9x9-inch (or 2½ quart) baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
Combine cornbread mix, milk, and egg. Stir well.
Pour batter into prepared baking dish and bake for about 15 minutes.
Meanwhile, cook and crumble ground beef until no longer pink, drain excess grease.
Add in taco seasoning and water and stir to combine.
Add in Mexicorn and Rotel. Stir well and simmer for several minutes.
Once cornbread is cooked, take out of oven, then cover with ground beef mixture.
Next, combine sour cream with ONE cup of shredded Mexican cheese blend and green onions in a bowl. Gently spread the sour cream mixture on top of the ground beef mixture.
Sprinkle the top with the remaining cup of shredded cheese.
Bake for about 25 minutes until heated through and cheese is melted.
Allow to cool for a few minutes. Slice and serve with optional toppings.

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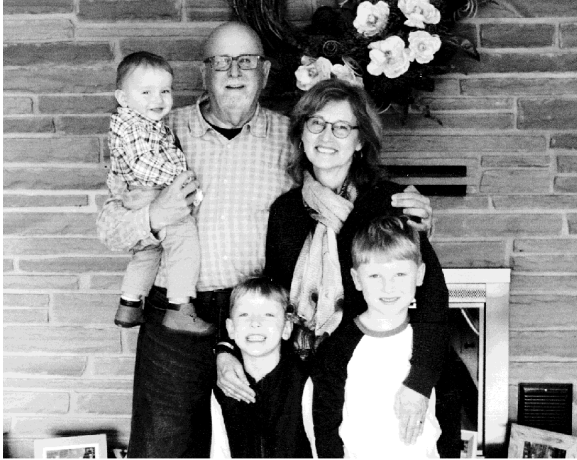
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ELECT

★★★★★★★★

DOUG LAMBERT



Grant County Board of Education — Milroy District —

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Applicant must have character that is respectful of other 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 emailing: admin@sksr.com.

Applications are available at the telephone office in Riverton or can be downloaded online at www.spruceknob.net

Deadline for submission of application is April 19, 2024.

THE CITY OF PETERSBURG PUBLIC NOTICE ZONING REQUEST

Hearing- Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 6:00 & 6:30 p.m.

The City of Petersburg Zoning Board Hearing will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers to hear the following zoning request:

6:00 p.m. — John Paul Hott II, property owner at 207 N. Main Street, requests a zoning change. The property is currently zoned PRO-Professional, Residential, Office Districts. The request is to be rezoned to C-3 Commercial Highway District, with a Special Exception (E-3) to accommodate selling construction and farm equipment.

6:30 p.m. — Ann Glover, property owner at 109 North Main Street, currently zoned C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Districts, requests a setback variance for off-street parking.

These requests will be described in more detail at the hearing.

Any objections to this request must be submitted in writing by COB on 4/30/24 or presented in person at the hearing.

The hearing will be held at the Petersburg City Office, 21 Mountain View St., Petersburg, WV 26847

Community Meetings & Events

Job Fair for AWP, AWPI employees and contracted workers: Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Michael Building, 39 South Main Street, Petersburg. Hosted by WorkForce West Virginia.

The Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association will meet Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. upstairs at the Romney Fire Department, 175 S. High Street in downtown Romney. All meetings are open to the public and no prior experience in beekeeping is required.

Church Women United, general business meeting, Friday, April 12, 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grant Street.

Grant County Farmers Market vendor meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. in the back room of the Grant County Library. Sign up to be a vendor. You must attend one yearly vendor meeting to sell at the mar-

Civil Air Patrol: The 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.cap.gov. civilairpatrol.com

Convention of States meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Petersburg American Legion. Come join the group that will save our country. <https://conventionofstates.com>.

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

Grant County Board of Education meets the

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

Grant County Commission meets every month on the second Tuesday at 9 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room. For the agenda check 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 Memorial Hospital board meetings are held the fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in the administrative conference room at Grant Memorial Hospital.

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

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

Center in Lahmansville.

Potomac Highlands Cancer Support Group for cancer patients and caregivers, meets the first Monday of every month, 5 p.m. at Living Hope Baptist Church, 1 Veach St., Petersburg. Refreshments.

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

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

GRANT COUNTY TIRE COLLECTION: Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Maysville DOH garage, 157 Lower Knobley Access Road, Maysville. Only tires from state residents will be accepted. No tires from businesses. 10 tires per person limit will be strictly enforced. Tires must be off the rim. Passenger car or light truck tires only.

To post meetings or make changes, call 304-257-1844 or email news@grant-countypress.com

ANSWERS FROM PUZZLES ON PAGE 5B

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. — Anne Lamott

Cryptogram

Answers:
 1. Barter, Banter
 2. Candy, Cindy
 3. Galley, Valley
 4. Tiger, Tiber
 5. Planet, Planes

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers:
 1. Tense, Terse
 2. Candy, Cindy
 3. Galley, Valley
 4. Tiger, Tiber
 5. Planet, Planes

Even Exchange

Answers:
 6. Barter, Banter
 7. Purse, Purge
 8. Sailor, Tailor
 9. Patty, Party
 10. Clover, Closer

SIP LOCAL!

by **BUD BLAKE**



TIGER

Snowflakes

HUGO, HOW 'BOUT THIS COLOR FOR THE CLUBHOUSE?

THIS COLOR LOOKS GREAT TO ME. I'LL GO GET BONNIE'S VOTE

HEY, BONNIE, HOW 'BOUT THIS COLOR FOR OUR CLUBHOUSE?

THAT COLOR? ARE YOU CRAZY!! YUCKY! PUTRID!

REPULSIVE! SICKENING! FOUL!

UNBELIEVABLE! THE PITS!

BONNIE VOTED NO

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National Honor Society inducts new members from Petersburg High School



Recently inducted into the Petersburg High School chapter of the National Honor Society were (front) Jordan Black, Kelsey Clark, Rylan Crites, Marley Kesner, Addison Kitzmiller and Elijah Kuykendall; (middle) Molly Kuykendall, Grace Martin, Ayden Mayfield, Audrey Mongold and Isaiah Reel; and (back) Owen Reel, Lucas Riggelman, Rylan Van Meter, William Waddy V and Madison Whetzel. The PHS National Honor Society is under the direction of Elizabeth Hakes.

Students of the quarter recognized at SBCTC



PM students of the quarter at South Branch Career and Technical Center are (front) Riley Bobo, PHS, CWST; Johnathan Tavener, PHS, building maintenance and operations; Destiney Hockensmith, PHS, broadcasting; Nebiat Taklom, MHS, cosmetology; and (back) Jacob Wimer, PHS, automotive; Aaron Roth, PHS, welding; Jesse Shifflett, MHS, law and public safety; Bradley Williamson, MHS, electric; Benjamin Barr, MHS, carpentry; and Gary Foster, MHS, therapeutic.



AM students of the quarter, at South Branch Career and Technical Center are (front) Marissa Champ, PHS, broadcasting; Allee Yakubow, PHS, therapeutic; Gracie Lough, PCHS, cosmetology; and (back) Michael Waybright, PCHS, carpentry; Jay Bowers, PCHS, welding; Michael Miller, PCHS, building maintenance and operations; Dakota Propst, PHS, law and public safety; and Bradley Bowers, PCHS, electric. Not shown, Kacy Bennett, PCHS, automotive.

Hines to present concert this weekend *Shop Local!*

Jeremiah Hines will present a piano recital at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at Goodson Chapel-Recital Hall on the campus of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Music in Performance.

The recital will feature works by Bach, Haydn, and Brahms.

Admission to the recital is free of charge and the public is invited to attend.

Hines, a native of Moorefield, is currently pursuing a Master of Music and serves on the faculty of the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Va., where he teaches piano lessons and is the school accompanist.



Lahmansville Step-Ahead 4-H Club news

The Lahmansville Step-Ahead 4-H Club met on April 4 at the Forman Community Center. President Ally Hagerty called the meeting to order. Secretary Ashly Rohrbaugh called the roll with members responding with favorite snacks. Elizabeth, Esther, and Elijah Swick serve as health officers, and they presented an interesting lesson on healthy

snacks. In fact, they served apples and peanut butter with the snacks provided by them and Kain Burgess. Addaleigh Rohrbaugh presented a talk on her Cloverbud Livestock Project. She spoke about her family farm duties and shared pictures of her growing up on Beaumont Farm. The candy fundraising project concluded with money turned in. Club

members donated items for the county animal shelter as a community service project. Club members who attended the Japan Global Night reported on the event. Glasses and information concerning the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, were made available.

**Addaleigh Rohrbaugh
Club Reporter**

THANK YOU!

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Thank you so much for the free meal you sponsored for our Senior Citizens (60 and up), on March 19th, and also always donating for our events.

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Family Services Inc.**
Petersburg

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Once again ... SLOW DOWN

We received this release from the WVDOT on Friday afternoon of another accident involving a road worker; this time resulting in death. Someone wasn't paying attention. Even though there were obvious signs to slow down because of the road work. Now a family is missing someone important to them. Now the driver is responsible for a death. No peace for either. These type accidents are preventable — just slow down and pay attention.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is reminding drivers to remain vigilant in work zones after a flagger working for A.L.L. Construction Inc. was killed in a work zone accident on US 340 in Jefferson County.

The flagger had stopped traffic on the US 340 widening project a little before 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024, when another car drove up to the work zone at a high rate of speed. The driver swerved toward the embankment to miss the stopped traffic, but struck the flagger, trapping her underneath the car.

Bystanders lifted the car off the flagger, but she died on the way to the hospital.

"I'm very sad for the family and our partner, A.L.L. Construction," said Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E. "It's so senseless that we can't seem to make better choices when we get behind the wheel of our automobiles.

"I implore all drivers to please lay down your cell phone, stay focused, and obey all the rules of the road, especially in the many work zones around the state," Wriston said.

"We send our condolences to her family and her co-workers," said J.W. Hawk, project manager for A.L.L. Construction. "They're just out there trying to do their jobs.

"The traveling public really needs to pay attention when there are work zones," Hawk said. "They need to slow down and pay attention, and adhere to all signs."

West Virginia's hydrogen hub is being built in their backyard. They have questions.

By Sarah Elbeshbishi
Mountain State Spotlight

POINT PLEASANT — Marsha Frame lives in a housing development tucked to the side of state Route 62 with her husband Randy and their dog. From their back porch, she can see acres upon acres of farmland.

"We planned on leaving this place feet first on a cart," said Frame.

Just beyond Frame's backyard, across a black chain fence, state officials are eyeing the hundreds of acres of land for a giant, multi-billion dollar investment that proponents say will help maintain West Virginia's status as an energy powerhouse. By 2028, a private company plans to build and operate a hydrogen production facility that will power a neighboring data center.

The facility will produce hydrogen with no net emissions of carbon dioxide and is just one of several hydrogen production facilities proposed in West Virginia as part of the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub, also known as ARCH2, which was one of seven hydrogen hubs across the nation selected to receive nearly \$1 billion in federal funding.

Frame and her neighbors are scared. They're worried about the potential health and safety hazards and wondering if they should move or will be bought out.

"The anxiety is one thing, the loss of enjoyment of life, the hit to the pocketbook we're going to take after we've busted our butts our whole life. I mean, it's just a laundry list," said Frame. "Where do you start?"

But mostly, Frame and her neighbors are frustrated at having lots of questions, but getting few answers. There's very little information known about the project besides what's been shared in press announcements and residents said state and local officials haven't responded to their questions.

"Everything's hush-hush until it's announced and when you try to get answers, you get the runaround," said Beth Fisher, a neighbor of the Frames.

She and her husband raised three daughters in their home of 34 years and now, as empty nesters, they're looking to remodel. Except with the project looming she's not sure if she should anymore.

"I don't want to until I know. I don't want to live beside something like that," said Fisher. "But I don't want to

Hydrogen - Continued on Page 5A



Lee Hamilton

Americans have plenty of common sense ... but too many politicians don't seem to share it

There's a widely shared belief about the current state of U.S. politics. It runs like this: We live in highly polarized times, with Americans engaging in extreme behavior and, all too often, indulging anti-democratic sentiment and behavior. Political moderation has all but disappeared.

But a pair of recent studies makes clear that this is phrased wrong. It's not "Americans" who are embracing extremism and anti-democratic conduct. It's some American politicians.

On the whole, these studies suggest, they are out of step with the vast majority of their constituents, who are quite happy with political moderation and crave common-sense approaches from their elected representatives.

The first of these studies came along last fall, when the Carnegie Endowment published a paper by long-time democracy researcher Rachel Kleinfeld, "Polarization, Democracy, and Political Violence in the United States: What the Research Says."

"Americans are not as ideologically polarized as they believe themselves to be," she wrote—but noted that even if there's plenty of common ground, the activists tend not to see it. "Most partisans hold major misbeliefs about the other party's preferences that lead them to think there is far less shared policy belief," she added. "In other words, the people who are most involved in civic and political life hold the least accurate views of the other side's beliefs."

The result, she argued to *Governing* magazine after the study was published, is that political party leaders tend to see much less room for steps required to make democracy work, like compromise and negotiation.

"Most people think Americans of different parties hold radically different views, and that's not true," she said. "There's a lot of overlap in what Americans from both parties think, although they differ in intensity... The real difference in viewpoints is in who we elect as leaders. Party leaders have almost no issues in common. That's making it very difficult to govern."

This was followed in mid-March by a new study from the Polarization Research Lab, which is a collaboration among researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth College, and Stanford University.

Political leaders tend to weigh the questions they face in terms of how it affects the party or their political fortunes. Most Americans, on the other hand, don't view challenges through the lens of party; instead, they ask themselves what would be the right or wrong thing to do for their own lives, or for the country or their community. They're pragmatic.

Over the course of 13 months in 2022-23, they surveyed more than 45,000 Republicans and Democrats on their attitudes toward such violations of democratic behavior as cutting polling stations in areas where the other party is popular, showing more loyalty to party than to election rules and the Constitution, or believing that elected officials of one's own party should ignore court decisions issued by judges who were appointed by a president of the other party.

All of those beliefs show up among political leaders, but the researchers found that they were relatively rare among ordinary voters. Just 17.2% of Democrats and 21.6% of Republicans backed one "norm violation,"

and only a relative handful in each party—6% of Democrats, 9% of Republicans—supported two or more, which suggests that broadly held anti-democratic beliefs are quite rare.

But then the researchers did something interesting. They took a look at the Republicans they'd surveyed who lived in districts represented by members of Congress who had either voted to overturn the 2020 election results or publicly denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election results.

That is where the strongest differences appeared. As one study author put it, "The real gap in support for democracy is not between Democratic and Republican voters, but between Republican voters and Republican representatives." Yet those politicians continue to get elected.

Other studies might yield different results. But I think the basic point is a good one: There is a real difference between how party leaders and elected officials look at a problem, and how ordinary Americans do.

Political leaders tend to weigh the questions they face in terms of how it affects the party or their political fortunes. Most Americans, on the other hand, don't view challenges through the lens of party; instead, they ask themselves what would be the right or wrong thing to do for their own lives, or for the country or their community. They're pragmatic.

I find this heartening. Because I have to believe that at some point, more Americans will get tired of being represented by people who don't actually represent their beliefs.

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.

'Let's do it again:' West Virginia Gov. Justice supportive of additional tax cuts

By Charles Young
The Exponent Telegram

Gov. Jim Justice is fully on board for additional cuts to the state's personal income tax.

Justice, during his press briefing last Wednesday, said he is opposed to delaying the trigger within the income tax package he signed into law last year, he could activate a further personal income tax reduction this summer.

"Let's do it again," Justice said. "I mean, let's just keep doing it. The more money we put in the hands of our people — it's their money in the first place — but the more money that we put in the hands of our people, the better things happen."

State Sen. President Craig Blair, R-Berkeley, recently told WV News he would like to see lawmakers take action during the upcoming special session to delay the trigger by one

year. "How we set that trigger up was a mistake," Blair said. "It needs to be adjusted so it's one year out. Not so that it saves the state any money — that's not it. It's being able to have long-term budgets."

House Bill 2625, the tax package, included a 21.25% initial reduction in the state's personal income tax, as well as built-in mechanisms for triggering further reductions.

According to the text of HB 2625, on Aug. 15 of each year, the state revenue secretary must determine whether total adjusted general revenue fund collections from the preceding fiscal year are in excess of the inflation-adjusted base-year revenues.

These numbers are based on actual general revenue fund collections for Fiscal Year 2019, which were \$4,293,884,754.

If the total fiscal year

adjusted general revenue fund collections from the preceding fiscal year are in excess of the inflation-adjusted base-year revenues, there will be a reduction in the personal income tax rates beginning the next taxable year.

To determine the amount of the personal income tax reduction, the fiscal year's excess general revenue fund collections will be divided by the amount of the preceding fiscal year's total personal income tax collections for all funds and will be rounded down to the nearest whole percentage.

The amount of the percentage of reduction will be applied equally across the tax rates applicable in the tax year.

Justice said last Wednesday that his ultimate goal is to see the state's personal income tax eliminated entirely.

"As fast as we possibly can, what we need to do in

this state, can you imagine what growth levels we would have in this state if we had no personal income tax?" Justice asked. "I have been an advocate for no personal income tax forever."

The governor recently signed House Bill 4880 into law. That bill will begin the process of phasing out state income tax collections on Social Security benefits over the course of three years. It will go into effect June 7.

LETTERS POLICY

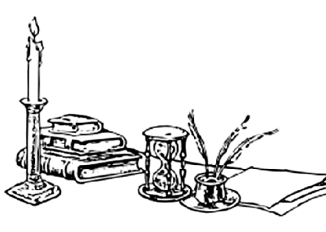
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Remember When



April 14, 1954

Births at Veach-Townsend Clinic included: Mr. and Mrs. Wililam Shaeffer of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Helmick of Moorefield, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Wright Harper of Riverton, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Millard Wratchford of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Victor Cain of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Raines of Riverton, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Demby Berg of Jordan Run, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wilson of Moorefield, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rohrbaugh of Moorefield, a daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Bennett of Riverton, a son.



“ROLLER MILL” - Petersburg (found online)

form a baseball league in this area had fallen through.

April 8, 1964

The Petersburg High School Thespian Troupe represented the district in the state drama festival in Morgantown and received an “excellent” rating. This was the first year that Petersburg had an entry in the drama festival. Larrie Mauzy and Sandra Rodgers were selected for the all-tournament cast.

PHS was represented at the W.Va. All-State Chorus by Karen Sites and Bill Likens in Huntington.

Ten driver’s licenses were issue at the local detachment. They were: David Nesselrodt of Maysville; Harold Lambert of Mouth of Seneca; Frederick Smith Jr. of Medley; Diana Hedrick of Petersburg; Janet Rexrode of Maysville; Arlie Judy of Petersburg; Frank de Prume of Elk Garden; Dorothy Mitchell of Petersburg; Charles Ketterman Jr. of Onego and

Virginia Carr of Maysville.

April 10, 1974

The Mountain Top Service District received “letter of conditions” for their water system. The proposed water system comprised of Mount Storm, Bismarck, Bayard and Gorman.

The county court of Grant County met in special session and approved its levy estimate for fiscal 74-75, which totaled \$1,496,086.

The white water weekend was successful, with race entries totaling 311.

Paige Snell Alexander announced her candidacy for the board of education, May 14.

Greg Veach was named to the Class AA All-State Basketball team. He was the first Viking ever to accord this honor.

It was a great opening for Bill Kline and his Vikings as they played nearly flawless baseball to defeat a veteran Franklin Panther team, 4-1.

April 11, 1984

The sale of Girl Scout cookies in Grant County was bogged down in the wake of national media attention focused on scattered incidents of product tampering.

South Branch Valley poultrymen were breathing a sigh of relief following the announcement there was no Avian Influenza in southern Hardy County.

Petersburg High School senior Shelly (Scott) Phillips was a member of the W.Va. All-State Chorus.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cookman of Petersburg announced the birth of their daughter, Jennifer Lynn, April 3, at Winchester Memorial Hospital.

The U.S. Achievement Academy announced that Kim Frame was named a 1984 U.S. National Award winner in English.

PHS Viking basketball player Bill Martin was named “Player of the Year” by Cumberland area basketball coaches. He was also received a honorable mention on the 1984 W.Va. Sports Writers’ Association Class AA All-State team.

John G. Ours announced his candidacy for the office of Grant County Prosecuting Attorney in the June 5 primary election.

Marvin Thorne of Maysville announced he was a candidate for the post of Grant County Assessor. It was Thorne’s first try at elected office.

Hydrogen Continued from Page 4A

move. I’m mad, I’m angry about it.”

Because Fidelis New Energy, the Houston-based company behind the project, is still surveying the land, there hasn’t been anything to tell the community, according to a county official, adding that there will be opportunities for public input and comment in the future. Fidelis did not respond to emailed questions.

Fidelis officials have previously said the project would rely on proven technologies and they would follow state and federal permitting processes to show it was safe.

The costs and questions of hydrogen in West Virginia

In August, state and company officials announced that Mason County was selected as the site. The project is expected to be built in four phases, with the hydrogen production facility becoming operational in 2028. It’s also supposed to provide 800 full-time jobs and 4,200 construction workers, according to the press release.

“West Virginia has a long history as an energy powerhouse for our nation, thanks to our hardworking people who know how to get the job done. And now, we’re in a great position to make the most of a new fuel – hydrogen – through this incredible project in Mason County,” said Gov. Jim Justice. “There’s simply no doubt that Fidelis is going to help shape the future of West Virginia in a major, major way by assisting in the commercial lift-off of some truly exciting new industries.”

The state Economic Development Authority also approved a three-year \$62.5 million forgivable loan for the project.

Part of the project is expected to produce hydrogen energy from natural gas and renewables. Proponents tout the facility as clean, based on proposals to capture its carbon dioxide emissions. But carbon capture is extremely expensive and has not yet been shown to be as efficient or as effective on the scale that would be needed here.

The Appalachian hydrogen hub’s projects, including the one proposed for Mason County, are a result of the Biden administration’s push to increase the use of hydrogen as an energy source to reach its climate-related goals.

Frame and Fisher are worried about the noise level of the data center, pointing to how similar facilities have reportedly resulted in various complaints and lawsuits in other states over their noise level. Residents challenging a North Dakota data center argued that the noise level has been detrimental to their quality of life and health, according to North Dakota’s Williston Herald.

With how close the project’s location is to their homes, they also worry about the potential of an explosion and possible water contamination as carbon capture involves storing the captured carbon dioxide underground.

During the project’s announcement, Pete Hollis, the head of carbon capture for Fidelis, said that the carbon injected underground would not impact the drinking water, adding that no carbon can be injected until Fidelis shows through the permitting process that it’s “safe and reliable.”

He also stressed that Fidelis only uses “commercially proven technologies,” which include techniques and procedures that support the “safe and permanent” storage of carbon.

Despite the list of concerns, it’s the lack of answers from public officials that has frustrated them the most.

There will be opportunities for public comment and input on the project, according to John Musgrave, executive director of the Mason County Development Authority.

“The public will be brought in, and we would want that in the community. We would support having open meetings, we’ll probably sponsor some ourselves,” said Musgrave. “It’s just not time.”

But even some residents with long connections to nearby coal-fired plants have a lot of questions about this new type of energy production, including Jim Pyle, who recently retired as a technician and electrician from a nearby power plant like the two the Frames can see from their back porch.

Pyle was looking to do some work on his house, starting with his kitchen. However, news of the hydrogen project has him pumping the brakes.

“I don’t know what to do,” Pyle said. “The idea of making a clean fuel is great, but it doesn’t need to go right where people live.”

WVDA encourages heightened biosecurity measures following Avian Influenza cases in dairy cattle

West Virginia Press Association

Following the confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows in the south-central United States, West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt is strongly urging farmers to enhance biosecurity practices on their farm, especially relating to wild birds in proximity to cattle. There have been no positive cases reported in West Virginia.

Commissioner Leonhardt is encouraging West Virginia dairy farmers to use caution in the movement of dairy cows from affected dairies in states that have ongoing cases.

One human case has been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in a Texas dairy farm worker who exhibited signs of eye redness (consistent with conjunctivitis), with no other symptoms, and is recovering.

CDC indicates the overall risk to people remains low, but suggests dairy workers use precautions such as avoiding unprotected exposures to sick or dead animals, including wild birds, poultry, other domesticated birds, and other wild or domesticated animals, including cattle.

Producers should monitor herds closely for cattle with clinical signs of the disease (decreased milk production; reduced appetite; thickened and discolored milk; lethargy; fever;

and/or dehydration).

However, there continues to be no concern over the safety of the commercial milk supply as pasteurization has continually proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.

Dairies are required to send only milk from healthy animals into processing for human consumption. Milk from impacted animals is being diverted or destroyed so that it does not enter the human food supply.

“We want to ensure West Virginia consumers that our pasteurized milk and products made from pasteurized milk, are all safe for consumption,” stressed Commissioner Leonhardt. “FDA reports there is currently no disruption of overall U.S. milk and milk product supplies.”

USDA-APHIS continues to work closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC, as well as state veterinary and public health officials, to investigate and diagnose activities regarding the illness in livestock, including dairy cows. No reports to other livestock products have been found in our food system.

Federal and state agencies will continue to share additional updates as information becomes available. Like other currently unaffected states, West Virginia is likely to increase movement requirements via Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) augmen-

tation language for accredited veterinarians in affected states. Requirements for all states can be found at InterstateLivestock.com, and West Virginia’s will be updated, as needed.

City

Continued from front

on feeding feral animals would be nearly impossible.

“We need to be able to euthanize them but we are very limited by law,” Moomau said.

Moomau explained that a similar problem was encountered in Richmond, Va., that recently worked with nearby veterinarians to euthanize over 1,000 stray animals. However, Moomau said the city did not have a similar partnership with local vet offices.

According to the council, state code does not allow cities to trap and kill stray cats, but they can be euthanized humanely by a vet or rehomed.

D.K. said that the issue has expanded beyond just cats and that wild animals are entering the city to eat the food being left outside.

“If you are going to be feeding these animals, the wild animals are going to come in and eat,” D.K. said. “I’ve had polecats in my yard, skunks, raccoons - they have all been there in my yard. And I live right here in town.”

The council empathized with D.K., saying they too

State dairy farmers should report any suspect cases to their veterinary practitioner. Producers and veterinarians should contact WVDA Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.

had seen the problem but did not have the resources available to tackle it. The council did request for input or suggestions from the community, saying that they were open to suggestions.

“I think this has become such a problem across the country that all of the resources we used to have are no longer available to us because they are trying to thwart their own problems in urban areas,” Moomau said. “And we need to be more diligent but I don’t know what the answer is right now.”

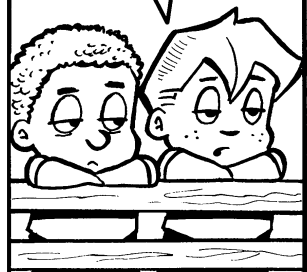
Councilman Bruce Hyre said the best tactic to handle the issue at the moment is to focus on enforcement of no-stray feeding regulations.

The council also clarified that the county pound did not take cats.

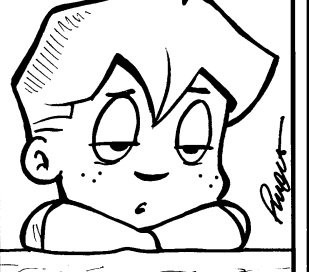
D.K. also spoke to the council about the amount of scam phone calls he receives. He said that he called the city police about the issue and, while she was able to block some of the numbers, he said they returned soon after. He said he has also called the phone company about the issue and plans to reach out to other state officials for assistance.

Amber Waves

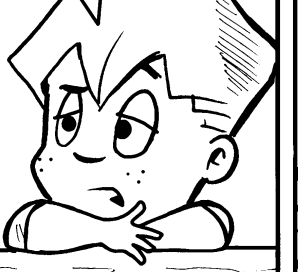
MY PARENTS TOOK AWAY MY VIDEO GAMES AND IPAD FOR TWO WHOLE WEEKS.



THEY THINK THIS WILL HELP ME IN THE LONG RUN.

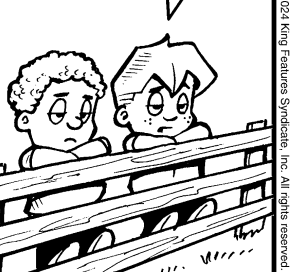


THEY EVEN SAY IT’S FOR MY OWN GOOD AND I WILL THANK THEM SOMEDAY.



by Dave T. Phipps

I SURE WISH THEY COULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BE A LITTLE LESS THOUGHTFUL.



Take 5

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“Look what I bought with what I found buried in the back yard!”

Local and area obituaries

KERMIT L. McDONALD SR.

Kermit Lee McDonald Sr., 89, of Maysville, W.Va., passed away Monday, April 1, 2024, at Grant Memorial Hospital, Petersburg, W.Va.

Born March 12, 1935, in Maysville, he was a son of the late Teddy Roosevelt McDonald and Edna Pearl (Rohrbaugh) McDonald. In addition to his parents, Kermit was preceded in death by one son, Kermit Lee McDonald Jr.; grandson, David W. McDonald; and son-in-law, Len Michalowski.

Kermit is survived by his wife of 69 years, Rachel (Hardy) McDonald; two daughters, Debby Michalowski of Manassas, Va. and Jeanie Champ (Steven) of Petersburg; one son, Jonathan E. McDonald (Frances) of Manassas, Va.; two grandchildren, Julius (Carey) Michalowski and J'nae Champ; one great-grandson, Samuel Jay Michalowski; one stepgranddaughter, Andrea Taylor and her three children.

Kermit was a 1954 graduate of Petersburg High School. He worked at Al-



lied Egry from 1964-1994 and later worked at Shop 'n Save from 1999-2016. He attended Maysville Bible Brethren Church. Kermit had a distinct memory that allowed him to recount and relate to stories from years past with enviable precision and charm.

Funeral services were Friday afternoon in the chapel of Schaeffer Funeral Home, Petersburg, with Pastor Lynn Durbin officiating. Interment was in Maysville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Gideons International.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.schaefferfuneralhome.com (4-9-24)

MICHAEL D. BLAND

Michael Dale Bland, 64, of Petersburg, died Sunday, March 31, at Berkeley Medical Center, Martinsburg.

Born July 2, 1959, in Petersburg, he was the son of the late Harry Dale "Tootsie" Bland and Ethel Marie (Lambert) Bland of Riverton. He was also preceded in death by one grandson.

Mr. Bland attended Circleville High School and formerly went to the Riverton United Methodist Church. He was a supervisor for Advantage Foods and had also worked for Walmart and Pilgrim's Pride in Moorefield.

He is survived by his wife, Lora (Chapman) Bland; one daughter, April Whetzel of Petersburg; one son, Cody Bland of Petersburg; one sister, Katherine "Kathy" Arbaugh of Harrisonburg, Va.; one brother, Matthew Bland of Medley; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were



Thursday afternoon at the Basagic Funeral Home chapel, Petersburg with Pastor Michael Clements officiating. Interment was in the Bland Family Cemetery, Riverton.

Memorials may be made to the family c/o the Basagic Funeral Home, P.O. Box 400, Petersburg, WV 26847. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home. (4-9-24)

RANDALL B. LAYMAN

Randall Bruce Layman, 71, of Bayard, W.Va., passed away April 1, 2024, at his residence.

Born May 20, 1952, in Oakland, Md., he was the son of the late Charles Fredrick and Clarice Lucille (Willis) Layman.

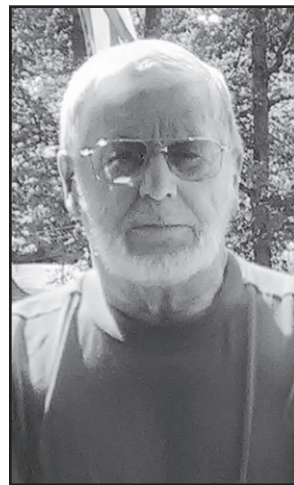
Randy was a 1971 graduate of Union High School. He worked for Island Creek Coal Company and Consol Energy as a coal miner and at the Scherr location of Fairfax Stone Materials as a truck driver. He attended the Bayard United Methodist Church. Randy enjoyed hunting, fishing, metal detecting, coin collecting, and most of all, spending time with his family.

He is survived by his daughter, Melissa Dawn Thompson and husband Daniel of Parsons, W.Va.; two grandchildren, Lukas Daniel Thompson-Moore and husband Joseph Thompson-Moore of Kerens, W.Va. and Ryder Elizabeth Thompson of Parsons; four siblings, Bob Layman and wife Sue of Richland, Mo., Sharon Hortsman and husband Harold of Lohman, Mo., Stanley Layman of Gorman, W.Va. and Ann Moreland and husband John of Mount Storm, W.Va.; a brother-in-law, Rodney Lewis of Oakland; a sister-in-law, Robin Layman of Bayard; former partner and lifelong friend, Shirley Phillips Tyson of Stephenson, Va.; along with a host of dearly loved nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five siblings, Doris Jean Layman, Carl Fredrick Layman, Sue Lewis, Mose Layman, and Dick Layman and wife Sue.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.
Isaiah 25:1



be made to the Blackwater Ministerial Association for the new construction of the food pantry facility. Donations may be mailed to Blackwater Ministerial Association, P.O. Box 103, Davis, WV 26260.

Randy's request for cremation was honored. A graveside service will be held at the Bayard Cemetery at a later date.

The Hinkle-Fenner Funeral Home is honored to be serving Randy's family. (4-9-24)

Spring Vendor Show
Grove Street Church
Saturday, April 13
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Sincere Thanks
I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all your prayers, cards and phone calls after Mike's call to go home to Heaven. I would especially like to thank Mary Weir for her loving planning and Pastor Steve for the words and all of my Calvary Baptist Temple family for everything they did for me.
God bless and many thanks,
Kathy Snyder and Nevin Michael D. Snyder and family
Aaron J. Snyder and family

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GRCC April spotlight employees



Recognized as the April employees in the spotlight and Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center are (left) Josh O'Dell, who has worked in the Odyssey therapy department for eight months,



(center) Katelynn Ramey, who has worked in the environmental services for four months and (right) Mary Alexander, who has worked as a certified nursing assistant for 21 years.

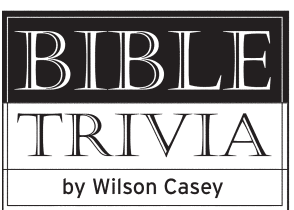


WIC office hours

WIC offers nutrition education and healthy foods to pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five. Call 304-257-4936 for additional information.

Grant County WIC is located at 23 Hospital Drive in Petersburg.

Hours are Mondays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



1. Is the book of 3 Corinthians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who was praised for his beauty "from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head"? Absalom, Elisha, Pekah, Tola
3. What camp saw 185,000 of its soldiers slaughtered by an angel of the Lord? Assyrian, Midianite, Philistine, Persian

4. From Genesis 1:30, what is the first color mentioned in the Bible? Purple, Red, Green, Yellow
5. Which city's wall fell down flat at the shout of Joshua's army? Tarsus, Jericho, Corinth, Sardis
6. From 2 Kings, who became king of Judah at age 8? Abijam, Rehoboam, Marcus, Josiah.

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

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ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Absalom, (3) Assyrian, (4) Green, (5) Jericho, (6) Josiah

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GRANT COUNTY PRESS



Schools

Continued from front

ally understands what our school nurses do,” said superintendent Mitch Webster. “And I am going to say this without any exaggeration, our nurses have been placed into positions where there have been life-threatening situations and they has handled them superbly.”

Evans explained that the school nurses in the county have responded to multiple student health emergencies, in part due to an increase in the number of students diagnosed with seizure disorders.

“For the last year and a half we have had numerous emergencies, I can say that at least for Petersburg High School,” Evans said. “Brandi [Braithwaite] has done wonderful, she is our LPN at the other school.

Over the last year especially we have had a lot of seizures and a lot of students who have been newly diagnosed as epileptic and we have had their first seizure in school.”

Evans said that Braithwaite has ridden in the back of an ambulance several times last year with students and that the nurses responded to a seizure just last week. She also pointed to a recent choking incident during which Evans performed the Heimlich on a student. Evans said that the Heimlich was successful, an ambulance was called and the student recovered. Evans said this incident was the first time she had had to call 911 to the elementary school.

“We are seeing an increase in emergencies and seizure disorders but we are also seeing an overall increase in health disorders in the school system,”

Evans said. “We have diabetics, we have one student that requires a tube feed and we have another student starting next year. We have kids that need to be catheterized and multiple diabetic students that need insulin. This is in addition to, some days, 35 to 40 sick kids. So it definitely stays busy.”

Evans thanked the board for their support of school nurses.

The board also briefly discussed the electric buses that the county had agreed to test out for GreenPower, a West Virginia based company, to see how they perform in the more mountainous regions of the county.

“The purpose of us and the other counties being asked to try those buses out was to find out exactly what they couldn’t do, what they could, where it could be used or where it couldn’t,”

Webster said. “They took all of that data back from the counties that tried them out on the trial basis and took that information back to the engineers and back to the drawing board and correct what needed to be corrected.”

Webster explained that because they had participated in the trial, they were eligible to receive free buses. Grant County Schools transportation director, Mike VanMeter, traveled to Charleston late last month and was told the county was eligible to receive five free electric buses from the county.

However, Webster said that while the buses were free, the county could be required to purchase charging stations for the vehicles, which could cost up to \$20,000 each. However, Webster said the county could potentially offset these costs through a

grant. Webster said that the charging stations may even be able to charge the buses using the solar panels that provide power to Petersburg Elementary School.

Webster clarified that these buses would not be replacing the existing diesel buses but would be an addition with no salvage or give-up. Board member Jared Alt suggested the county receive the buses and sell them. Webster said that the county would receive more information on the buses during an upcoming meeting.

Other topics covered during the meeting, included:

- Webster also took a moment during the meeting to recognize South Branch Career and Technical Center students who competed in the Skills USA competition, the Lady Viking basketball team who returned to the state tournament for

the fourth time in a row and the Petersburg Viking wrestling team, who also sent a state competitor to Charleston this season.

- Community member Larry Porter spoke on rumors he had heard from students surrounding drugs in the schools and said he would support random drug searches in the schools. He also spoke about concerns he had heard from other school systems and encouraged parents to become more involved in their child’s education.

- A brief update on a prior conversation concerning the roles of the valedictorian and salutatorian during the Petersburg High School graduation. The decision, which was made by the PHS Leadership team, will now allow the school’s valedictorian and salutatorian to have a speaking role during the graduation.

Amtower

Continued from front

ty. There was a lot of turmoil at this time, I ran with the thought I could help in some way try to bring local control back and get the county educational system moving in the right direction. I have continued

to want to be a part of the Board of Education to see the students of our great county succeed.

3. What experience, education or skills do you possess that will aid you in the board position if elected?

I hold three college degrees and have worked in the banking/business sector for over 16 years.

This is my 10th year on the board and I have had numerous experiences and issues to deal with along the way. I feel the county is in good place now, but we have more work to do to ensure every child gets a good education and bright future. I feel with my overall knowledge and skills we can do great things in

Grant County.

4. As a board member, would there be any changes or updates you would like to make to the position/office?

There is constant change in the education system and policy change from the state, however, we have to lead the board in the direction that makes the best decisions for all stu-

dents. What is best for the children is first and foremost.

5. If you could tell the community anything about why they should vote for you, what would you like for them to know?

I have served 10 years on the Board of Education with the past six year as President. I feel that my

experience and knowledge will continue to help move the county education system in the right direction for all students, staff, and community. I am a product of a Grant County education and feel it is second to none. I want to see students excel whether they decide to go to college or a trade.

DiBenedetto

Continued from front

reside near Petersburg in Grant District. I have lived there for almost 50 years and raised three children who also went to Grant County Schools.

2. Why did you decide to run for Grant County Board of Education?

First, let me say that I have no personal agenda. I have been working for and with the children of Grant County for over 50 years. Most of those years were as a teacher in Grant County Schools. Since retirement, I have been considering running for this position. I have been attending Board of Education meetings and decided I could make a difference in this role. I see

this as another way to make a positive contribution to Grant County Schools and the success of our students. We need an educator on the Board of Education.

3. What experience, education or skills do you possess that will aid you in the board position if elected?

I have a degree in education from WVU and a master’s in educational communication. In addition to these degrees, I have participated in the continuing education offered as a part of my teaching assignments. Most importantly, I taught in Grant County Schools for 37 years. I had experience at Dorcas, Maysville, and Petersburg Elementary. After retiring, I have continued to be involved in our school system. I worked as a substi-

tute teacher, which put me in a variety of classrooms around the county. I have volunteered for Project Equip, delivering food to students around the county during the Covid shutdown. I started the Social Studies Fair in Grant County and continue to volunteer with the students and as a coordinator. I am a judge for the Young Writer’s Contest. I have volunteered my time reading to classrooms. All of this has given me an opportunity to be in our schools. At this time, I serve on the Grant County Schools Steering Committee. All of these experiences and education give me the background to be an effective board member.

4. As a board member, would there be any changes or updates you would like to

make to the position/office?

Change is inevitable in the education system. Our challenge is to work within given policies and laws to create the best outcome. In particular, there are issues that I would focus on as a board member. We need to explore every avenue to attract and retain qualified teachers. This is a nationwide problem, but the work must be done at the local level. I would definitely get behind the Grow Your Own program in the county. Encouraging local students to become teachers could create a group of professionals already committed to this area. We must also remember that not every student is an athlete. We need to continue efforts to offer and support programs such as band, chorus, the-

ater, and academic competitions. Our school guidance counselors play an important role in our system. Each school needs to have a guidance counselor available when needed. At this point, we should look at how their time is allocated to have the most positive impact. Also, we need to be sure that the teachers have the training, resources, and support they need to improve math competency. Finally, we need to continue to add layers of safety around our students.

5. If you could tell the community anything about why they should vote for you, what would you like for them to know?

I am and have always been deeply devoted to the well-being and success of our students. I have always

been willing to do the hard work to make that happen. My strong work ethic is one of the important qualities I would bring to this position. I would not make any decision without learning everything I could on the subject. That would include going into the schools and talking to teachers and other personnel who ultimately are the people most impacted by decisions made. If you have worked with me, been my student, or had a child in my class, you already know that I am totally invested in our students. I am a good listener and a quick learner and would use these skills to make a positive difference in an already good school system.

Lambert

Continued from front

ministrator. I have spent 42 years in the educational field, with the past three years as a mentor for new Superintendents here in WV for a total of 45 years. With my experiences in public education, I can and will add value to the Board of Education if elected. Our children are the future, and it is the school community’s duty and responsibility to give them every opportunity available to achieve success.

3. What experience, education or skills do you possess that will aid you in the board position if elected?

My experiences plus mentoring of new West Virginia superintendents since my retirement three years ago from Grant County Schools would hopefully add to the board. From teacher and coach at Union, working at Petersburg High School as teacher, coach, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and Principal, as Work Based Learning Coordinator at South Branch Career and Technical Center, serving as Principal at Pendle-

ton County Middle/High School, Superintendent of Pendleton County and finally as Superintendent of Grant County Schools has prepared me to serve in this capacity. As Superintendent in both Pendleton and Grant, I was active in legislative affairs, serving as legislative liaison for the West Virginia Association of School Administrators. The above-mentioned endeavors have allowed me to stay current regarding legislative rules and how it affects school systems.

4. As a board member, would there be any changes

or updates you would like to make to the position/office?

As one who has stayed involved in the educational realm, and now looking from the outside as a citizen, things are going well. There is ALWAYS room for growth and better ways to accomplish the results desired. I am confident those discussions will continue to take place toward maintaining and improving student achievement. As my campaign has stated...Every Student Matters...Every Moment Counts!

5. If you could tell the community anything about why they should vote for

you, what would you like for them to know?

It has, and continues to be, a passion, a commitment, of mine to be there for kids from all social classes...to see them grow, develop, and be the best they can be with the abilities they possess in what- ever they choose to accomplish throughout their lives. I am a staunch supporter of Public Schools and what they offer. We have good people in our system that have the best interest of your child in mind each day. My wife, our children, and grandchildren will all have attended Grant Coun-

ty Schools. I like to make informed decisions based on the knowledge I possess at that time. I am a team player, conservative in my views, and will fight for what I believe in but once a decision is made, it is time to put aside differences and move on. Finally, it was with immense pride that I was entrusted to lead Grant County Schools for five years as your Superintendent. I treasure my time as a public servant and hopefully will have the opportunity to continue as a Board of Education member.

Murray

Continued from front

Board of Education because there is a need for leaders with strong Christian Principles and Values who make the decisions regarding the future for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

3. What experience, educa-

tion or skills do you possess that will aid you in the board position if elected?

I have a degree in Biblical studies and Christian Counseling. I served as Children’s Pastor for 52 years. For 23 years I have been active in the school system as a homeroom mother, band mom, football mom, Christian club leader, color guard assis-

tant to band director, and bus chaperone. I’m a child advocate and a Substitute Aide as well as a qualified Special Needs Aide. Children have a special place in my heart and every child has a purpose.

4. As a board member, would there be any changes or updates you would like to make to the position/office?

I want to see strong

Reading, Mathematics, and Science emphasis based on sound Christian Values and Principles. I want our county to be ranked in the top third for scores in reading, mathematics and science rather than the bottom third where we are now. The day of mediocrity is over.

5. If you could tell the community anything about

why they should vote for you, what would you like for them to know?

I won’t back down, I won’t be bullied by people using immoral tactics and I won’t go along with the crowd. My job is to do what’s best for our children by offering a top education in a safe environment for all schools in the county. My desire is to see all par-

ents treated with dignity as the most valued resource to our schools. That requires strong leadership with Christian principles guiding policies and decisions. I see a Bright Hope for Tomorrow. Vote DixieLee Murray for Board of Education.

Shreve

Continued from front

left, I learned more and brought more ideas home with me on how things can be changed to improve the community. For the past 20 years, my wife and I have lived in Scherr. Three of my four children are still students in Grant County Schools, and one recently graduated and is attending Potomac State College.

2. Why did you decide to run for Grant County Board of Education?

Running for the board of education is not a light decision and requires my entire family to be on board with the decision. I have run for the board two other times but since that

time have learned a lot of information since running previously for the office. My heart and concern have always been about the students in Grant County. These students have all had different situations at home and in school to deal with on a daily basis. If I can make a difference for these students, that’s what I want to be able to do. As the current athletic booster president, I feel that I have done all that I can do in this position and the next step is a board member to help guide and direct policies that will allow students new opportunities and provide a safe location to learn and grow.

3. What experience, education or skills do you possess that will aid you in the

board position if elected?

My education consists of two master’s degrees that include business administration and hospital administration, along with a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology. I was a person who left high school with the idea that college was not for me, but after getting married, my wife convinced me that I should get my bachelor’s degree and then I great to have an appreciation for education. I have volunteered as the PTO president for Maysville PTO, a member of Maysville LSIC, the President of Potomac Highland Soccer League, and for the past four years I have been the President of the PHS Athletic Boosters. I have learned about the

Roberts Rules of Order and have been in attendance of multiple board meetings for the school and hospital where I have learned how a board meeting operates.

4. As a board member, would there be any changes or updates you would like to make to the position/office?

As a board member, I would like to make sure that we keep an open line of communication with the schools and community. The safety of the students and the education that they get is important and we need to make sure that we are doing everything in our power to make sure that we are able to get qualified individuals to work in our school system to educate our students. The students are our future. As a board

member we are only able to create policies and we are not supposed to micro-manage the school system. I would like to make sure that we hold the superintendent accountable to the policies and procedures that are in place and if there is something that is not working and causing issues with our students that we find a solution to those problems so they can continue their education.

5. If you could tell the community anything about why they should vote for you, what would you like for them to know?

I want people to vote for me because you know who I am and how I work. I am an Eagle Scout and was brought up remembering that a scout is trustworthy,

loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. I will help out as much as possible regardless of where I am. I’m not afraid to step up and speak out when something is out of place or to ask the hard questions that sometimes people are afraid to ask. I have a religious background and know that things do not just happen out of accident and that there is a higher power that we do not always see or understand. I try to be fair in everything that I do and give the benefit of the doubt to give people the choice to do what’s right. If you don’t know me or have questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out and ask me.



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Grant Memorial Hospital celebrates National Donate Life month with public event April 12

Grant Memorial Hospital is marking its fifth year of collaborating with the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) and the National Hospital Organ Donation Campaign to raise awareness about organ, tissue, and cornea donation.

Through this campaign, GMH has worked to educate the hospital staff and community on the importance of being a registered donor.

The campaign, which has helped to register more than 420,000 people to state registries, aims to add more donor designations this month.

Every day new people are added to the national organ transplant waiting list that is more than 114,000 individuals whose lives depend on receiving an organ transplant. Each week, more than 100 of them will die because not enough organs are available. Thousands of others whose lives would benefit from the gift of eye and tissue donation

continue to wait and hope. A single organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people and improve the lives of up to 75 people through tissue donation.



John Sylvia, President and CEO of Grant Memorial Hospital, noted that "I learned through our affiliation with CORE that donated tissue can be used up to five years after it is

recovered. I am already a registered donor but learning things like that make me even more proud to be registered, and I hope others will join me."

You can register to be an organ donor at www.donatelife.wv.org. More than 80,000 people across the nation are awaiting a kidney, which is in the greatest demand,

followed by liver, heart and lungs. Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history. The oldest organ donor in the country was from Welch, W.Va., giving the gift of life at age 95.

During National Donate Life Month, GMH will celebrate those who have made the decision to be an organ donor as well as honor organ recipients and remember those who have given the ultimate gift.

On April 12, at 2 p.m., GMH will have a flag raising ceremony, which serves as nationwide display of unity, remembrance, and hope. The flag will fly over GMH as a symbol to honor heroic organ, eye and tissue donors.

GMH is honored to have a speaker that day to tell his experience as a double organ transplant. CORE will also be on hand with educational displays and opportunities to register as an organ donor.

The public is welcome to attend the celebration.

Mary Kimble is GRCC Resident of the Week

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

Mary has been a resident of our facility since Feb. 16. She was born on Nov. 19, 1947, in Dolly Town, Pendleton County, to Isaac and Sarah (Dolly) Hartman.

She is the baby of five children. She had two sisters, Viola Kessel and Annie Kimble and two brothers, William Hartman, and Howard Hartman. She is the last remaining member of her immediate family.

In 1950, the family moved to Grant County. Isaac was a farmer, logger, and cut pulpwood to support his family. Sarah was a homemaker.

The farm was a family affair. Mary spent her childhood raising chickens and hogs. They had one cow that had to be milked and the family would make their own butter and cottage cheese. They cut hay and raked hay by hand to feed the cow throughout the year. "That takes a lot of hay to do by hand,

to feed a cow for a year," Mary said with a laugh.

Another one of her chores was to help her mother do laundry.

Mary went to Forman Elementary School. "We walked almost two miles to go to school. There were many mornings that I had icicles on my coattails. Walking to church was further." Mary admitted that she did not like school. She did go to Petersburg High School. Her last completed year was ninth grade.

Mary went to work. Her first job was at the Windsor Knit Sewing Factory in Petersburg.

Around the same time, Mary began dating Eston "Bud" Kimble, who was a neighbor. "He was a good boyfriend. He was very quiet." The couple married on Aug. 25, 1966. "I could not have asked for a better husband or father."

Eston was also a life-long farmer. Besides farming, Eston and Mary both worked at American Woodmark. Eston worked for 32 years, and Mary worked for 28 years. Mary was forced

to retire around 1999, due to developing asthma.

"I am most proud of my kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren." The couple had one girl, Sherry Crites. "Sherry is a Daddy's girl." They have two grandchildren, Tina Crites Stump and Dakota Crites. Mary has two great-grandchildren, McKinley and Branson Stump.

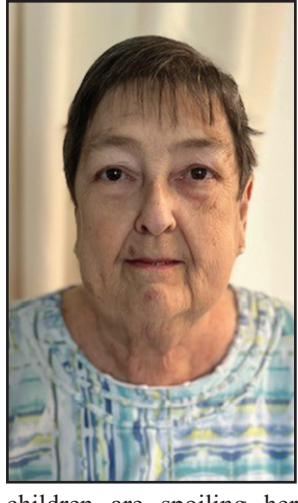
On March 7, 2020, Eston passed away, after 53 years of marriage. Mary continues to miss him every day.

Meanwhile, Mary enjoys traveling with her family to Raystown Lake in Pennsylvania. They have a boat and camper there. Mary enjoys watching the kids at the beach they have there, and watching them in the kayak.

She also likes to watch game shows on TV. Her favorite game show is "America's Says" and also likes "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune."

Mary also enjoys making wreaths, and canning.

She also loves spending time with her bearded dragon, Cora. "My great-grand-



children are spoiling her now."

Before placement at the facility, Mary enjoyed playing on her tablet, but that has eased up some since she is at the facility.

At GRCC, when Mary is feeling well enough, she likes participating in all the activities. She enjoys socializing with other residents and staff.

It is Mary's goal to rehabilitate and return to her home and her bearded dragon, but for now, we are just blessed to have her in our GRCC family.

Congratulations Mary on being GRCC Resident of the Week!

South Branch Career and Technical Center students return from state SkillsUSA with multiple awards

South Branch Career and Technical Center students attended the West Virginia State Leadership and Skills Conference at Fairmont State University and entered 49 competitors.

Kailee Armentrout was officially recognized as a 2024-25 state SkillsUSA Officer.

The SBCTC chapter was one of only five chapters in the state to be awarded a Level 3 (Gold) Models of Excellence Award.

Students participated in a variety of skill competitions with the following results:

- First Place Winners**
- Carpentry: Braxton Lahman
 - Entry Level Carpentry: Matthew Clark and Ben Barr
 - Nail Care (High School): Victoria O'Callaghan and model Kinley

Hinkle

- Automotive Service Technology: Dakota Thompson

• Quiz Bowl: William Waddy, Jesse Shifflett, Emma Ludwig, Lyric Pratt, and Guadalupe Marron

• Fantasy Hair and Makeup: Taylor Aldridge

and model Allee Yakubow

- Basic Health Care Skills: Sydney Kimble

Second Place Winners:

- Industrial Motor Control: Jackson Alt
- Nurse Assisting: Madison Howell
- Technical Computer Applications: Dillon Poling

Third Place Winners

- Nail Care (Post Secondary): Devan Harlow and model Rhiannon Paugh
- Beginner Cosmetology: Nataley Hedrick
- Audio/Radio Production: Destiney Hockensmith and Christopher Ratcliff

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MT. TOP PUBLIC MEETING

The Grant County Commission will host a Town Hall meeting at the Mt. Top Community Center Thursday, April 11, 2024, 6:00 pm to give residents an opportunity to speak with the commissioners.

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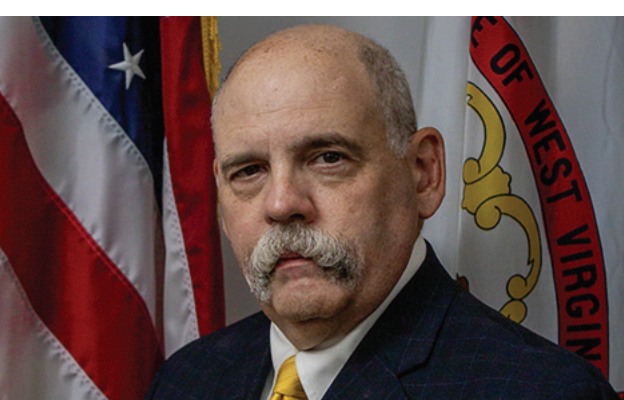
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PRESS

B Section

Sports

April 9, 2024



Viking baseball team travels to Charleston for the Guard the Capital Classic

The Petersburg High School Viking baseball team made their way to the state capitol last month to compete in the first Guard the Capital Classic, a state-wide baseball event hosted by the West Virginia National Guard.

Dozens of high school baseball teams were invited to participate in the March 29 weekend event, including Keyser and Pendleton County high schools.

While at the park, the Vikings faced off against

Pikeview High School and Bluefield High School, both located in Mercer County. While the Vikings fell to the Pikeview Panthers, they were able to beat out the Bluefield Beavers for a big win.

"These events are really good for the players," said PHS head baseball Mike Landis. "It gave us an opportunity to see some teams that we rarely get to see on the field and got to play in a few games we would rarely, if ever, get to play."

The Viking baseball team officially began their season on March 15 when they faced off against Notre Dame High School, grabbing an early season 16-2 victory.

The team is currently sitting at a 1-4 record, with two losses

against Keyser High (12-2, 8-2) and one loss against each Southern Garrett County High (5-2) and Moorefield High School (5-3).

Roster - 2023-24 baseball team players include: freshmen: Garrett Hamric, Ryan Kessel, Austin Kuh, Matthew McDonald and Wyatt Chandler; sophomores: Ethan Valkos, Owen Reel, Kaleb Kuhn, Payten Huffman and Lukas Wolford; juniors: Zalon

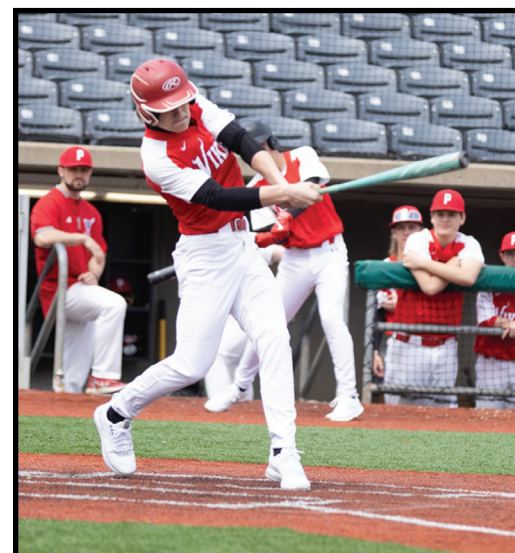
Barrick, Luke Adkins, Trace Rohrbaugh, Peyton Tingler, Colin Mauzy and Caden Arbaugh and seniors: Jackson Berg, Elijah Kuykendall, Andrew Fleming, Ethan Taylor and Le-lund Feaster.

The team is coached by Landis with support from assistant coaches:

Steve Arbaugh, Parry Van-Meter, Josh Harper, Brandon George and Chase



photos courtesy of country charm photography



West Virginia spring gobbler season opens April 15, youth season opens this Saturday

Turkey hunters encouraged to participate in Spring Gobbler Survey

Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced that turkey hunting will return to West Virginia on April 15 when the spring gobbler season opens across the state.

“As a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman, I am thrilled to announce the opening of West Virginia’s spring gobbler season and promote the springtime beauty and abundant natural resources of our incredible state,” said Gov. Justice. “I want to encourage both residents and visitors to get their hunting license, grab their gear and head into the woods for a turkey hunting adventure.”

During the season, which will run for five weeks until May 19, 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 licensing 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. “With the changing season and challenge of calling in a gobbler, the upcoming spring turkey season is one of the most exciting times of year for hunters in West Virginia,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.



“As hunters prepare for their hunts in the coming week, we want to urge them to take advantage of the youth season because it’s a great opportunity to introduce young ones to the joys of hunting and make lasting memories with loved ones.”

West Virginia’s two-day youth spring gobbler season is set to open April 13. During the season, youth

hunters ages 8–18 may harvest one bearded bird, 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 ad-

vice and assistance. Youth hunters 15–17 must comply with all licensing requirements.

WVDNR officials remind sportsmen and women that hunting turkeys over bait and killing hens without beards are 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.

In addition, the West Virginia Chapter 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.

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

The survey will run for the duration of the spring gobbler season. Hunters have the option to complete the survey by filling out a paper form or online through the Survey123 mobile app. To learn more about the survey, visit WVDnr.gov/surveys.

For more information about the youth and regular spring gobbler seasons, check page 42 of the West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available to download at WVDnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

In case you missed it: State’s biggest Gold Rush giveaway is underway

The West Virginia Gold Rush is bigger and better than ever this year and includes five times the number of chances to win prizes during the popular trout stocking event that began April 1 and runs through April 13.

prizes. “Gold Rush wouldn’t be what it is today without the leadership of Gov. Justice and his commitment to enhancing the angling experience in our state,” WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said.

Starting from April 1 to April 13, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has been stocking more than 50,000 golden rainbow trout at 68 lakes and streams around the state, including waters in

bigger and better than ever. Out of the 50,000 golden rainbow trout stocked during the event, 500 trout will receive a numbered tag, five times the number of tagged trout in past years.

If an angler catches a trout with one of these tags, they can enter the tag number at WVDnr.gov/goldrush for a chance to win one of five free West Virginia lifetime fishing licenses, a one-night stay at a state park or forest cabin or a \$25 West Virginia State Parks gift card.

In addition to increasing the number of tagged trout, the WVDNR is also giving away exclusive Gold Rush merchandise to everyone who reports their tagged golden rainbow trout catch during the event.

As usual, all anglers 15 and older must have a West Virginia fishing license with a current trout stamp and a valid form of identification while fishing during Gold Rush.



This is the seventh annual Gold Rush, which had its inaugural stocking in April 2018. Since then, Gov. Jim Justice has promoted the event by adding more golden rainbow trout, more stocking locations and more chances to win

“As we celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Gold Rush, we look forward to seeing all of the ways this exciting event helps recruit the next generation of anglers and helps us keep West Virginia’s outdoor traditions alive and

or near 15 state parks and forests. Stocking locations and details about the Gold Rush can be found at WVDnr.gov/goldrush.

The Gold Rush Giveaway

The Gold Rush Giveaway will return this year



GOLDEN LANES ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE

March 26th
TEAM STANDINGS:
Split Happens 80 – 44, WELD 74 – 50, Terminators 71.5 – 52.5, Vetter’s Guns & Ammo 67.5 – 56.5, NKOTB 65 – 59, Empire Strikes 61.5 – 62.5, Country Cars & Trucks 61 – 63, Outlaws 60 – 64, Lucky Strikes 57.5 – 66.5.

HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Michael Hedrick 258, Richie Burgess 243, Phil Crews 234, Larry Walp 232. (HANDICAP): Michael Hedrick 283, Josh Sullivan 279, Jerry Propst 272, Phil Crews 268.

HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Michael Hedrick 699, Larry Walp 661, Richie Burgess 598, Phil Crews 595. (HANDICAP): Michael Hedrick 774, Lar-

ry Walp 760, Josh Sullivan 737, Jerry Propst 723.

HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 215.89, Richie Burgess 207.28, Evan Kesner 206.29, Michael Hedrick 203.75.

HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 238, Dee Anna McDonald 227, Tonya Keplinger 222, Ashley Day 190. (HANDICAP): Tonya Keplinger 282, Dee Anna McDonald and Carissa Michael 277, Ashley Day 262.

HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 620, Tonya Keplinger 584, Dee Anna McDonald 563, Teresa Sullivan 494. (HANDICAP): Tonya Keplinger 764, Carissa Michael 737, Teresa Sullivan 734, Dee Anna McDonald 713.

HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 187.01, Dee Anna McDonald 174.65, Emily Stark 155.55, Denise McGreevy 155.08.

THURSDAY NIGHT MEN’S LEAGUE

March 28th
TEAM STANDINGS:
Builders Center 82 – 42, American Classic 79 – 45, Petersburg Oil Company

69 – 55, Strikeforce 67 – 57, Golden Lanes 60 – 64, Vetter’s Mini Mart 58.5 – 65.5, Country Cars & Trucks 58.5 – 65.5.

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Larry Walp 269, Cohan Kesner 259, Terry Wrathford 258, Don Himelright 256, Jon Hedrick 245. (HANDICAP): Larry Walp 296, Don Himelright 284, Terry Wrathford 281, Cohan Kesner 279, Josh Arbaugh 277.

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Don Himelright 700, Terry Wrathford 696, Larry Walp 694, Cohan Kesner 682, Michael Hedrick 648. (HANDICAP): Don Himelright 784, Larry Walp 775, Terry Wrathford 765, Chris Kesner 743, Cohan Kesner 742.

HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 208.50, Terry Wrathford 205.09, Michael Hedrick 204.78, Richie Burgess 204.60, Zachary Arbaugh 203.27, Larry Walp 201.15.

SBV WOMEN’S LEAGUE

April 1st
HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Dee Anna McDonald 226, Cherry Hammons

and Kathy Vance 195. (HANDICAP): Dee Anna McDonald 250, Kathy Vance 234, Cherry Hammons 227.

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Dee Anna McDonald 582, Cherry Hammons 496, Kathy Vance 479. (HANDICAP): Dee Anna McDonald 654, Mernie Kimble 617, Linda Helmick 609.



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- ETC.

FREE ESTIMATES

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.

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I HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, BUT ...

NO ONE PLACED YOUR ORDER!
We’ve got the bare necessities you need to run your business (and more).
Envelopes, Business Cards, Raffle Tickets, Forms, Checks, Deposit Slips, Brochures, Rack Cards, Booklets, Programs, Rubber Stamps, Labels and more!

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Young Writers grades 9-10 winning story

The Haunted House

By Angela Willis, PHS

I moved up to the plate. The pitcher looked around at his team. He said, "Move in, he's not a hit" I focused on the pitcher and watched him wind up and hurl in my direction.

I swung at the ball, hoping to hit it far enough to prove to them that I could do it. I closed my eyes too scared to watch as I finished my swing, but my eyes sprung open when I heard a loud crack.

I opened my eyes to watch the ball soar through the air and over a fence and just as I was about to celebrate everyone heard the distinct sound of glass breaking. My heart stops as everyone turns to look at me.

I drop my bat and slowly walk over to the fence to see where the ball went and when I look over, I see the creepiest house on our block and the window I had just broken. I turn my head to my friends to hear them all start complaining at me.

"That was our only ball," said someone. "Well, we all know who has to get it," said another. As my friend said that everyone turns to look at me. "Fine I'll go get it but if anything happens to me in that house, I'm blaming all of you," I said.

I left my friends and started my way to the house. I started to panic the closer I got to the front door. I thought to myself how no one had ever seen anyone go in or out of the house. All anyone knew about the house was that the last people who lived there were an elderly couple that suddenly just disappeared.

Everyone assumed that they passed away in their sleep one night and nobody questioned it until one night

about a year after they disappeared, the block heard a sudden scream come from the house. A lady called the police, and they came and investigated the house but when they arrived there was no one to be found.

Mrs. Hawkins woke down the street the next morning to find her son missing. The police were called again but he was never found. After that, rumors started going around that the scream and the missing boy were connected but no one thought anything of it because it was just an old house.

I snapped myself back to the present and the missing ball I was sent to find. I eventually reached the porch and looked in the windows to see if I could see the ball. I could not see anything, so I tried to open the front door, but it was locked.

I thought about turning around and going back but I knew if I did that, I would never hear the end of it. So, I decided that the window was already broken so what was the harm in crawling through it?

I finally gathered enough courage and crawled through. I got inside and began to look at all the old furniture covered in dust. It was weird that no one came and did anything with the couple's stuff after they disappeared, but I ignored my thoughts.

I began to look for the ball around the window but could not find it anywhere so I thought that it must have rolled somewhere. I began to look under the furniture, but as I did, I got a weird feeling that I was being watched.

I popped my head up, looked around and looked around and did not see anyone, as I shrugged off the eerie feeling. I walked

around the room and saw a staircase leading down stairs to a basement. I began to carefully walk down the stairs afraid of falling but as I watched my feet, I got another weird feeling that I was being watched but again I shrugged it off.

As I reached the bottom of the stairs, I saw a wall of porcelain dolls and thought that must be why I felt like I was being watched. I walked around the corner of the stairs and saw what I had come for. I had finally found the ball sitting in front of an empty fireplace.

I ran to it and bent down to pick it up but as I did, I felt a sudden warmth. I look to my right and see the once empty fireplace now filled with fire. I stare into the flames in disbelief as I start to panic. I snap myself back to reality and begin to run to the stairs.

Just as I make it to the stairs all the porcelain

dolls turn their heads and stare into my soul. As they looked at me, I jumped back and fell. I do not know where to go. Do I go toward the fire that lit itself or do I go by the porcelain dolls that just turn their heads by themselves.

Just as I decided to make a run for it the floor began to slant toward the fire. I tried my best to get away from it, but I could not do anything but watch as I slowly slid into the fire. I feel my life flash before my eyes as the flames engulf me and eventually swallow me whole but just as they do I hear a noise that sounds as if the house is laughing at me. It is laughing at me for falling into its trap.

Then, everything made sense. The couple disappearing, Mrs. Hawkins's son disappearing, and now I would be joining them in the house's fiery stomach.

PETERSBURG MIDDLE CHEER PRESENTS
Mother's Day
BINGO

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024
Maysville Fire House
Doors Open 5 p.m. • Games Start 6 p.m.
\$25 IN ADVANCE • \$30 AT THE DOOR
Advanced tickets can be picked up at Heritage Hearing offices in Petersburg and Moorefield or contact Joy at 304-257-5625
Concessions will be available

Rescue Your New Best Friend!

UP FOR ADOPTION FROM THE GRANT CO. KENNEL

Looking for his furr-ever home is this energetic male, mixed hound. Red/brown colored, short hair, approximately 6 years old. He has been altered.

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.

LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS

Legal Advertisements continued from Page 3B

INVITATION TO BID
 The Grant County Commission will accept bids for the construction of the Downtown Pavilion to be constructed on County Property adjacent to the Magistrates Office on Virginia Avenue in Petersburg, WV. Interested contractors shall request electronic Bid Packages from the County Administrator by emailing requests to administrator@grantcountywv.org with a subject line of "Downtown Pavilion." Bid Packages will be sent to prospective bidders up to the close of

business (4:30 pm) on April 16, 2024. The electronic Bid Package includes a pdf file of the plans, instructions, and the Bid Submission form. Completed Bid Submission forms shall be hand delivered to the County Administrator by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the Grant County Court House located at 5 Highland Avenue, Petersburg, WV. Mailed Bid Submissions will not be considered. The County Commission reserves the right to reject all bids. 4/9-4/16

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES
 Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Grant County Clerk's Office at 5 Highland Avenue Petersburg, WV 26847-1705. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file written notice of an objection with the County Commission through the Grant County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 or 44-3A.

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner.
First Publication Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Claim Deadline Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024

ESTATE NAME: JAMES WILLIAM RATCLIFF
EXECUTOR: JASON WILLIAM RATCLIFF
 3852 MORGANTOWN ROAD
 PETERSBURG, WV 26847-7031
ATTORNEY: JAMES PAUL GEARY II
 GEARY & GEARY
 PO BOX 218
 PETERSBURG WV 26847-0218

ESTATE NAME: ROLAND L. WARNER
ADMINISTRATRIX: DIANA L. WARNER
 2489 KELLERS RIDGE RD
 PETERSBURG, WV 26847-8242
ATTORNEY: JAMES PAUL GEARY II
 GEARY & GEARY
 PO BOX 218
 PETERSBURG WV 26847-0218

ESTATE NAME: MARY VIRGINIA MCCULLOH
EXECUTRIX: DEBORAH M. JUDY
 P.O. BOX 636
 MOOREFIELD, WV 26836-0636

Subscribed and sworn before me on the 4th day of April, 2024
Lora A. Bennett,
Clerk of the Grant County Commission
 4/9-4/16

GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION
LEVY ESTIMATE (Budget) 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF GRANT:

In accordance with WV Code §11-8-10, as amended, the Grant County Commission proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the current year and doth determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

General Fund	Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance	\$1,700,000
Property Taxes Current Year	5,712,378
Prior Year Taxes	56,000
Tax Penalties, Interest and Publication Fees	45,000
Property Transfer Tax	55,000
Gas and Oil Severance Tax	15,000
Wine and Liquor Tax	200
Hotel Occupancy Tax	200,000
Building Permits	1,500
Miscellaneous Permits	400
Federal Grants/Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes	50,000
Charges for Services	300,000
Sheriff's Service of Process	5,000
Sheriff's Earnings	1,500
County Clerk's Earnings	30,000
Circuit Clerk's Earnings	10,000
Motor Vehicle License Fee	2,000
IRP Fees (Interstate Registration Plan)	21,000
Regional Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement	15,000
Interest Earned	2,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,000
Sheriff's Commission	9,000
Gaming Income	35,000
Video Lottery	8,000
Refunds/Reimbursements (External Sources)	25,000
General School Reimbursements	35,000
Magistrate Court Reimbursements	3,000
Payroll Reimbursements	525,800
TOTAL ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$8,865,778

COAL SEVERANCE TAX	Estimated Revenues
Assigned Fund Balance	1,100,000
Coal Severance Tax	150,000
Interest Earned on Investment	500
TOTAL COAL SEVERANCE	1,250,500

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	General Fund	Coal Severance Tax Fund
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
County Commission	756,015	50,500
County Clerk	420,833	
Circuit Clerk	229,293	
Sheriff - Treasurer	345,654	
Prosecuting Attorney	349,591	
Assessor	227,545	
Statewide Computer Network	30,000	
Agricultural Agent	85,130	
Elections - County Clerk	80,500	
Circuit Court	8,650	
Courthouse	360,260	100,000
Other Buildings	491,572	200,000
Data Processing	28,000	
Regional Development Authority	8,491	
Industrial Development	81,700	
Airports		5,000
Planning and Zoning	2,000	
Housing Authority	500	
Litigation Reserve	160,000	
Courthouse Annex	60,800	130,000
Contributions to Comms/Authorities	116,579	
Contingencies - Not to exceed 10% of Budget	140,434	
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,983,547	485,500

PUBLIC SAFETY	
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	919,770
Sheriff - Service of Process	61,000
Regional Jail	351,550
Police Special Duty	140,130
Emergency Services	831,404
Fire Department	40,000
Ambulance Authority	1,598,080
Dog Warden/Humane Society	51,600

Flood Control	70,105	
Dams and Dredging	20,000	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	4,043,639	40,000

HEALTH & SANITATION		
Local Health Department	50,000	
Other Health Programs	30,000	
Water	51,750	
TOTAL HEALTH & SANITATION	131,750	

CULTURE & RECREATION		
Parks & Recreation	232,150	250,000
Arts & Humanities	65,900	
Community Center	5,000	
Historical Commission	2,500	
Visitor's Bureau	100,000	
Beautification		170,000
Library	146,292	
Law Library	7,000	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	558,842	420,000

SOCIAL SERVICES		
Senior Citizens	13,000	
Public Transit		5,000
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	13,000	5,000

CAPITAL PROJECTS		
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	135,000	
Ambulance		300,000
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	135,000	300,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,865,778	1,250,500

	Column E		Current Expense Levy	
	Certificate of Valuation		Levy	Taxes
	Assessed Value for Tax Purposes		Rate/\$100	Levied
Class I			14.30	
Personal Properties				
Public Utilities				
Total Class I				
Class II				
Real Estate	302,441,990	28.60		864,984
Personal Property	1,315,894			3,763
Total Class II	303,757,884			868,747
Class III				
Real Estate	80,402,240	57.20		459,901
Personal Property	205,543,086			1,175,706
Public Utilities	558,572,963			3,195,037
Total Class III	844,518,289			4,830,644
Class IV				
Real Estate	27,259,430	57.20		155,924
Personal Property	22,374,958			127,985
Public Utilities	4,317,226			24,695
Total Class IV	53,951,614			308,604
Total Assessed Valuation and Projected Gross Tax Collections	\$1,202,227,787			\$6,007,995

Less Allowance for Delinquencies, Exonerations & Uncollectible Taxes	2.00%	120,160
Less Tax Discounts	1.00%	58,878
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing - see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)		
Total Projected Property Tax Collection		5,828,957
Less Assessor's Valuation Fund	2.00%	116,579
(Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)		
Amount to be raised by Levy of Property Taxes for Budget purposes (Transfer amount to Worksheet GCRV - Account No. 301-01)		\$5,712,378

State of West Virginia
Grant County, West Virginia:
 I, Lora A. Bennett, Clerk of County Commission of said county, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from the record of orders made and entered by said commission on the 19th day of March, 2024.
Lora A. Bennett
 4/9-4/16



Paw's corner
by Sam Mazzotta

This Little Dog Has a Lot of Moxie

DEAR PAWS: I adopted a small mutt from the local shelter and named her

“Moxie.” She’s adorable but really energetic. She’ll actually jump straight up in the air as high as my waist! She also tugs hard at the leash when we walk. How do I tame all of this energy?
-- Janice F.
Hyde Park, New York

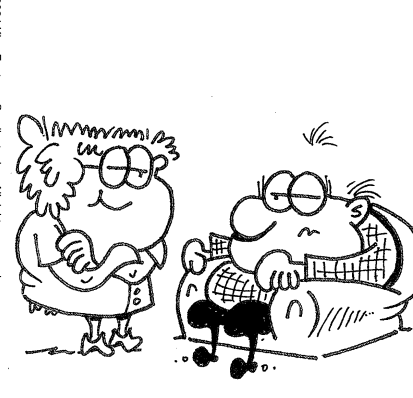
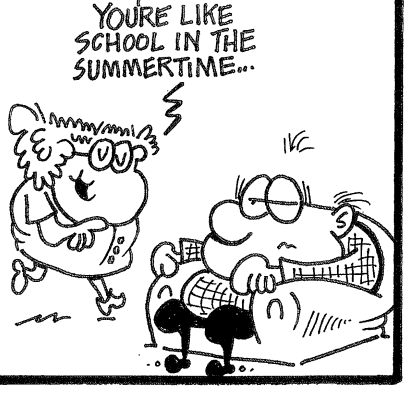
can swing it), give Moxie plenty of puppy toys to play with at home, and spend time with her on the floor just playing fetch and helping her work off more of that energy.
She may also respond very well to a consistent schedule of walks, feeding and bedtime (yes, bedtime). Build certain predictable routines around each of these events. When it’s time for a walk, call Moxie and have her sit while you put on her leash. During walks, keep the leash short

and work on the “heel” command. But when in a safe, open area, give Moxie more room on the leash to explore. When it’s bedtime, create a routine that is the same every night -- one that is positive, with a little play time and a signal to settle down and rest (such as turning down the lights).
Now, if Moxie’s energetic behavior is morphing into something more serious, like destroying furniture or being aggressive toward other dogs or humans on walks, that’s a problem

you’ll need to address as soon as possible. Talk to Moxie’s vet about ways to reduce her hyperactivity and anxiety (if those are the causes). If she isn’t responding to basic behavioral training, hire a trainer to help.
Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.
(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

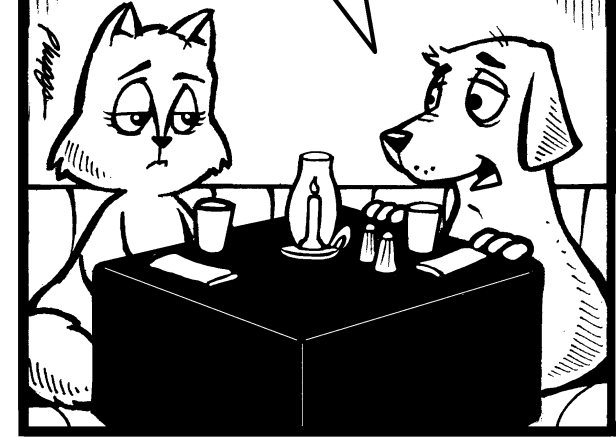
DAD JOKES
I remember the first time I saw a universal remote control.
I thought to myself, "Well, this changes everything!"
* * * * *
Bread is like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

WOW, THIS PLACE IS REALLY FANCY. I WAS JUST ABLE TO GET OUR TAXES DONE IN THE MEN'S ROOM.



King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Flair
5 Enterprise letters
8 Stuffing herb
12 Taunt
13 Aussie hopper
14 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
15 Home of the Packers
17 Compared to
18 Congeal
19 Sturdy tree
20 Spassky's game
21 --Manuel Miranda
22 Huge
23 Bottom
26 Fear-stricken
30 "E Pluribus --"
31 Blue hue
32 Lighten
33 Arty area
35 Hinder
36 Sailor
37 Soda container
38 Norwegian inlet
41 "It's c-c-cold!"
42 Right angle
45 Actress Russo
46 Chinese brew
48 Diminutive suffix

DOWN

1 Omelet needs
2 Old Italian money
3 Help a crook
4 Born abroad?
5 City-related
6 Drench
7 Sauce source
8 "The Italian
9 Job" actor
10 Transcript stats
11 Eternities
16 Dark film genre
20 Spy org.
21 Color named for a fruit
22 Journalist Nellie
23 Gist
24 Year in Spain
25 "Gee, ya think?"
26 Alias abbr.
27 Yoga pad
28 Jargon suffix
29 Aachen article
31 Bro or sis
34 '60s chic
35 Challenge
37 El Greco's birthplace
38 Gratis
39 Joan of rock
40 Aware of
41 Author Harte
42 To be, in Toulon
43 Some July babies
44 Endure
46 Wildebeest
47 Up-to-date

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

GO FIGURE!

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

DIFFICULTY: **
* Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!

	+		÷	=	4			
-		-		+				
	-		+		= 8			
+		+		+				
	+		-		= 2			
=		=		=				
8		12		19				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is **LONGFELLOW**

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

S P C I D I B N X Q N X K S I Z V H L , K S I
Q K E D D P H X S P C I K S V K N U W P E
R E Q K Q S P O E C V X Z K H W K P Z P
K S I H N B S K K S N X B , K S I Z V O X
O N M M G P Y I . - V X X I M V Y P K K

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Nervous, jumpy	___ N ___	Short and sweet	___ R ___
2. Gumdrop, e.g.	___ A ___	Model Crawford	___ I ___
3. Ship's kitchen	G ___	Glen, Dale	V ___
4. Large striped feline	___ G ___	Rome's river	___ B ___
5. "___ of the Apes"	___ T	Aircraft	___ S
6. Negotiate	___ R ___	Witty conversation	___ N ___
7. Handbag	___ S ___	Expunge	___ G ___
8. He weighs anchor	S ___	Clothes maker	T ___
9. Actress Duke	___ T ___	Merrymaking	___ R ___
10. Shamrock	___ V ___	Last pitcher	___ S ___

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Railing is different. 2. Handle is added to lunch box. 3. Sleeve is rolled up. 4. Leak is moved. 5. Pipe is thinner. 6. Bite is missing from sandwich.



top ten

ATHLETES WITH THE MOST OLYMPIC MEDALS

1. Michael Phelps, U.S.
2. Larisa Latynina, U.S.S.R.
3. Marit Bjorgen, Norway
4. Nikolay Andrianov, U.S.S.R.
5. Ole Einar Bjørndalen, Norway
6. Boris Shakhlin, U.S.S.R.
7. Ireen Wüst, Netherlands
7. Edoardo Mangiarotti, Italy
9. Ono Takashi, Japan
10. Paavo Nurmi, Finland

Source: Britannica

LOTS OF LAUGHS WORD SEARCH

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

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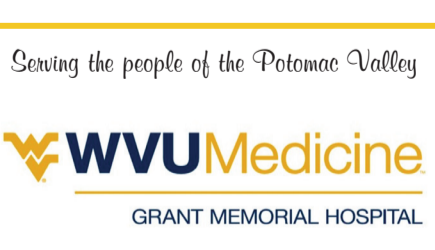
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