

Petersburg city election ballot

The City of Petersburg will host its local election on June 10 at the City Office. To view the ballot see page 3B.



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.

There is currently an increased need for:

Canned Fruit and Veggies

PHS Viking baseball team celebrates annual senior night

The Petersburg High School Viking baseball team celebrated their annual senior night event last week. During the event, senior athletes recognized included Caden Arbaugh, Colin Mauzy, Trace Rohrbaugh and Peyton Tinger... page 1B




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Betty Hott
Beverly Plauger

poll question

Do you support President Trumps decision to sign an executive order aimed at cutting prescription drug costs for Americans?



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City Council gives support to expand existing pickleball courts, will be largest in region

The Petersburg City Council held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting last week, which included a visit from the Petersburg Lions Club and an update from the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

During the meeting, Lions Club member Doug Pixler

Man charged after falsely billing items to a local company

Claims to be an employee and charges over \$1,000 to business owner

A Grant County man is facing multiple charges after allegedly lying about his affiliation with a local business to illegally obtain vehicle parts.

The incident was reported on March 28, when a deputy with the Grant County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to CarQuest in Petersburg about a man who had visited the store claiming to be an employee of Country Cars and Trucks.

According to the report Trevor Combs, who was a former employee of the business but had not been employed by them for some time, obtained approximately \$1,000 worth of merchandise and charged it to the business.

The purchased items included multiple vehicle parts and were all billed to the owner of Country Cars and Trucks. Following the purchase, Combs took possession of some of the items but had ordered additional parts that were set up for delivery.

These additional parts cost approximately \$557.69. When the parts were delivered, the owner of the business reached out to CarQuest to ask about who had ordered the parts. He then advised them that Combs had not been employed with his business for more than four years.

During the investigation, the Grant County Sheriff's Department obtained video footage from CarQuest showing that Combs had been the person to purchase the parts; however, the items were not discovered at his home.

He was ultimately charged with obtaining money, property and services under false pretenses and attempting to obtain money, property and services under false pretenses.

spoke with the council, thanking them for their help and support with the installation of the pickleball courts at the Petersburg City Park. Pixler also told the council that they plan to expand the court further.

Pixler said the goal was to add two additional nets, making the full court eight total courts. Initially Pixler requested the council consider donating the funds for the new nets; however, both Mayor Gary Michael and councilman Bruce "Icky" Hyre

volunteered to personally donate the necessary funds.

The council also agreed to assist in relocating an additional set of bleachers to the court for spectators.

With this addition, Pixler said that Petersburg will now be home to largest number of pickleball courts in the region.

The council also clarified that they would be adding new security cameras to the pickleball courts and tennis courts at the city park to help prevent vandal-

ism and damage.

Next, the council heard a presentation from Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Carla Kaposy.

Kaposy reported a positive increase in the CVB's effort, including a large jump from in the funds collected by the Hotel/Motel Tax from \$8,000 to \$34,000.

Kaposy explained that this

See City, page 7A



Local pastor visits White House as part of the National Faith Advisory Board



Pastor Brandon Stewart of The Father's House in Landes was invited to participate in the recent National Faith Advisory Board at the White House to discuss issues currently being faced by communities of faith in the nation. The event was headed by Pastor Paula White (above) of Florida and included pastors from all over the country. During the event, Stewart was the only representative from West Virginia and discussed his concerns with some of the most pressing issues facing the state.

A Petersburg pastor recently made his way to the White House to represent not only his congregation but also his state at the recent National Faith Advisory Board meeting in the nation's capital.

Pastor Brandon Stewart is the current pastor of The Father's House, a growing church that meets at the Landes Ruritan Club as they seek a facility. The congregation meets at 11 a.m. on Sundays and also hosts discipleship courses.

"Several months back I joined the National Faith Advisory Board, which is headed by Pastor Paula White, who is the director of the faith office in the White House," explained Stewart. "She started the Faith Advisory Board to be a group of pastors coming together to pray for the nation. It isn't a huge organization, certainly not a rich

organization - there was no requirement for pastors to pay big money to be a part of it - but it was a group for pastors like me. Struggling pastors, pastors who wanted to have their voice heard."

The National Faith Advisory Board is an organization started by President Donald Trump's administration that claims to protect religious freedoms, promote national strength, defend pro-life values and honor family values. The group is headed by White, who runs Paula White Ministries and serves as a teaching pastor at the StoryLife Church in Florida.

"A little while back as I was going through my email, I found one from the board cordially inviting me to the White House," Stewart said. "I was shocked. I am probably the least known of any of the pastors in the or-

ganization. I don't have a lot of followers on social media, I don't have the recognition that so many other pastors in the country do. But what I learned was there were a lot of very well known pastors in the this group, but at no point was any one pastor's name exalted. Not one time was their name mentioned. They were there and took part, but we were all there for God."

Stewart was the only representative from West Virginia to be invited to the recent event in Washington. He explained that the visit also allowed the local faith leaders to ask questions to the President's Deputy Chief of Staff concerning current issues.

Stewart is a Texas native who, after relocating to West Virginia, says he knew he had found his home.

See Faith, page 7A



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LOCAL FLAVOR

By Camille Howard
When you were a kid, could was there anything worse than having to “fess up” to your parents about how you managed to get hurt, rip your new jeans or dent the car?

There’s that moment when you have to make a decision if the confessing is worth the trouble you might get in, or if crying might help.

Craig’s Uncle Richard said there used to be a “switch” over the doorway of the house he grew up in and every day as he walked out the door he had to decided if any mischief that day was worth it.

Well, poor Jamison found himself the owner of a long cat scratch and a small wound on his palm that was starting to look infected.

I got a FaceTime from his mom and she showed me the sore and was wondering if it was a bite.

I could see his face as she was holding up his hand and he looked pretty sad.

I asked him how the injury happened and he looked on the verge of tears but wouldn’t say how he got it.

Finally, to get down to the answer, I told him he wasn’t in trouble but we needed to know how he got hurt (to determine treatment).

He got all teary and said he got it while climbing up the cat tree (which goes almost to the ceiling).

It seems there is a spot in the carpet covering of the tree that the cats had

scratched off and a little plywood was showing, and he caught his hand on it.

I could hardly keep from laughing. Serious remorse had set in and he was afraid he was going to miss a trip to his friend’s house. But a bandage and salve saved the day.

I think the confession hurt more than the cut. There’s nothing like having to admit you did something foolish (as we all know).

This past week I traveled to visit my Mom for Mother’s Day, stopping by at Erin’s so she and three-year-old Jamison could come along.

I had to travel up I-79 and then cut over to a short stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. I could have gone a more roundabout way, but the turnpike was the easiest.

When I got on it, my first thought was what they used to call Corridor-H; the road to nowhere.

But, I think the few miles I traveled on PA turnpike should take over the honors. After a crowded trip on I-79, especially near Pittsburgh, there was only one other vehicle on the turnpike with me. If they are hoping tolls will pay for that road, they are fooling themselves, from what I could see.

Nice road, though. The guy behind me blew past doing at least 90 mph.

We finally got to Mom’s and had a really good visit with her and my brother and sister-in-law. It was beautiful weather and great for playing outside and having lunch on the porch.

We made a stop at a little Amish discount grocery just up the road and got some good deals and then had to stop at “Stuff-Mart” (for all you Veggie Tales cartoon lovers) and picked up a few items.

When we pulled in, we spotted a Chick-fil-A food truck in the parking lot and waited in a long line to order lunch. I didn’t know they had such a thing.

The weekend flew by and we had to head home on Sunday. We decided to stop at Tudor’s Biscuit World to try it out. I’ve heard about the West Virginia franchise but never had the opportunity to stop until then.

I ordered a sausage, egg and cheese biscuit and when I opened it up it was

huge. I’ve never seen a biscuit that size; and it was good. No wonder the place was packed.

I’m going to have to eat salad all this week!

.....
For our Mother’s Day dinner, my sister-in-law fixed a pot roast in the crock pot, reminiscent of the pot roast, potatoes and carrots meal we had at home for Sunday dinners.

If you’ve never fixed a pot roast in a crock pot, it’s an easy and delicious meal with plenty of broth to make gravy.

Here are two variations: slow cooker and instant pot. The instant pot recipe is long, but the cooking time is short.

Have a great week!

INSTANT POT POT ROAST
3-5 pound beef chuck roast
1 tablespoon oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon smoked paprika - optional
1 pound baby red potatoes
4 large carrots - chopped into large chunks (not baby carrots)
1 large yellow onion - chopped
4 cups beef broth
2 tablespoons worcestershire sauce
¼ cup water
2 tablespoons corn starch
Turn on instant pot and set it to “saute”. In a small bowl stir together salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and smoked paprika. Rub mixture all over the roast to coat all sides.
Drizzle oil in instant pot, wait about 30 seconds, then use tongs to place roast in the pot. Do not move it for 3-4 minutes until well-seared and browned. Use tongs to turn the roast onto another side for 3-4 minutes, repeating until all

sides are browned.
Switch instant pot to “pressure cook” on high and set to 60-80 minutes (60 for a 3 pound roast, 80 for a 5 pound roast).
Arrange potatoes, onions, and carrots around the roast and pour beef broth and worcestershire sauce over everything. Place lid on the pot and turn to locked position. Make sure the vent is set to the sealed position.
When the cooking time is up, do a natural release for 10 minutes (let it de-pressurize on it’s own for 10 minutes). After 10 minutes, turn vent to the venting release position and allow all of the steam to vent and the float valve to drop down before removing the lid.
Transfer the roast, potatoes, onions, and carrots to a platter and shred the roast with 2 forks into chunks.
Use a handheld strainer to scoop out bits from the broth in the pot. Set instant pot to “soup” setting. Whisk together the water and corn starch. Once broth is boiling, stir in corn starch mixture until the gravy thickens. Add salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste.
Serves 6.

SLOW COOKER POT ROAST
4 pounds chuck roast
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 packet dry onion soup mix
1 cup water
3 carrots, chopped
3 potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 onion, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
Gather all ingredients.

Season chuck roast with salt and pepper.
Heat oil in a large skillet over high heat; add roast and sear to brown, about 4 minutes per side.
Place roast in the slow cooker and sprinkle soup mix on top.
Add water, and scatter carrots, potatoes, onion, and celery on top.
Cover and cook on Low for 8 to 10 hours.
Serves 8.

Answers to puzzles on Page 5B
— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.

S	A	A	B	A	D	O	M	A	T	S
U	C	L	A	M	O	O	E	U	R	O
B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E	A	T	I
S	S	S	O	N	E	S	N	O	B	S
A	S	T	E	R	J	O	G	M	I	G
A	S	T	E	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
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T	E	R	R	E	S	P	S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T	S	T	E	P	T	A	S

BIBLE TRIVIA
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Eleventh, 3) Save those who look for Him, 4) 13, 5) Flesh, 6) Gath

CryptoQuip
answer
Name given to a cellphone service corporation located in Birmingham’s state: Mobile Alabama.

FiveSpot™
Solution

T	U	N	E	D
D	A	N	T	E
M	A	T	E	D
S	T	E	A	M
S	T	A	M	P
P	S	A	L	M

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U	C	L	A	M	O	O	E	U	R	O
B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E	A	T	I
S	S	S	O	N	E	S	N	O	B	S
A	S	T	E	R	J	O	G	M	I	G
A	S	T	E	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
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T	E	R	R	E	S	P	S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T	S	T	E	P	T	A	S

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B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E	A	T	I
S	S	S	O	N	E	S	N	O	B	S
A	S	T	E	R	J	O	G	M	I	G
A	S	T	E	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
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B	R	A	N	E	D	R	S			
B	E	A	M	S	B	R	A	G	E	L
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T	E	R	R	E	S	P	S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T	S	T	E	P	T	A	S

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B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E	A	T	I
S	S	S	O	N	E	S	N	O	B	S
A	S	T	E	R	J	O	G	M	I	G
A	S	T	E	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
L	I	R	A	D	A	M	R	O	W	S
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E	L	B	A	L	E	A	N	I	N	T
T	E	R	R	E	S	P	S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T	S	T	E	P	T	A	S

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D	A	N	T	E
M	A	T	E	D
S	T	E	A	M
S	T	A	M	P
P	S	A	L	M

Even Exchange answers
1. Solve, Salve
2. Pester, Poster
3. Track, Trace
4. Bliss, Bless
5. Summer, Simmer
6. Ravine, Raving
7. Basic, Basin
8. Vanity, Sanity
9. Nearly, Nearby
10. Boost, Boast

Answers to puzzles on Page 5B
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S	A	A	B	A	D	O	M	A	T	S
U	C	L	A	M	O	O	E	U	R	O
B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E	A	T	I
S	S	S	O	N	E	S	N	O	B	S
A	S	T	E	R	J	O	G	M	I	G
A	S	T	E	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
L	I	R	A	D	A	M	R	O	W	S
B	R	A	N	D	E	D	B	L	O	N
B	R	A	N	E	D	R	S			
B	E	A	M	S	B	R	A	G	E	L
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T	E	R	R	E	S	P	S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T	S	T	E	P	T	A	S

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GRCC celebrating National Nursing Home Week

Community asked to bring pets for a show on Wednesday

Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center is celebrating National Nursing Home Week, May 12 -16.

The theme this year is “Memories of Life.” Each day will have a definite theme, with dressing up, activities and snacks.

Monday was the “Hen Party.” They had a special tea party for the ladies with tea and doughnuts and dressed up in their spring dresses, with gloves and hats.

Tuesday (today) is “Beat of Our Soul.” They are dressing up in their favorite era of music, or as their favorite singer. There will be singing, with a special concert by Khloe Haslacker.

Wednesday is “The Good Old Days.” They will be dressing up as farmers, and participating in special activities, like doing beans, and “milking” cows.

On Wednesday evening,

Department at extension 5225, 304-257-4233 and sign up for the Pet Show. It is on May 14 at 6 p.m. They would love seeing you, and your pet.

Thursday is “School

invite the community to the School Days Buddy Bingo. Community members can play bingo with the residents, but the residents win the prizes. Community members get to have a lot of fun and enjoy a snack afterwards. Residents love playing with community members.

Friday is a “Trip Down Memory Lane.” Residents will be enjoying activities in the morning, and a special movie in the afternoon.

GRCC residents are looking forward to seeing you at the pet show and buddy bingo as part of their celebration on National Nursing Home Week.



the community is invited to a GRCC Pet Show. The residents love seeing animals, so if you have a pet, whether it is a dog, cat, chicken, lamb, etc. please contact the Activity

Days,” where residents will have classes, such as reading, writing, history, math and music, and have a special bag snack.

On Thursday evening May 15, at 6 p.m., residents

President/CEO of WVU Health System delivers State of the Union address at GMH

Albert Wright, president and CEO of WVU Health System, visited Grant Memorial Hospital (GMH) May 7, to deliver his State of the Union address.

The visit offered a valuable opportunity to engage with providers and staff, share updates on the current state of the hospital and clinics, and discuss future plans.

During his time at GMH, Wright joined the medical staff for lunch and

toured the hospital and its campus.

He expressed his admiration for the impressive progress being made at GMH—not only in the hospital’s physical transformation, but also in the expansion of its services.

He also highlighted the hospital’s financial stability, calling it a notable achievement less than two years after joining WVU Medicine. This milestone will officially be marked in

July.

Since becoming part of the WVU Medicine family, GMH has launched a podiatry clinic, wound care clinic and cardio-pulmonary clinic (set to open later this summer).

Additional improvements include expanded provider coverage and extended hours at the Bensenhaver Clinic, the introduction of home sleep studies, and an upgraded patient monitoring system.

Wright extended his thanks to GMH Board Chair Tammy Kesner-Martin for her leadership during the transition and for accompanying him during his visit.

He also expressed deep appreciation to the entire GMH team for their warm hospitality and the exceptional care they provide to the community every day.



Albert Wright, President and CEO of WVU Health System, meets with GMH staff.

PHS Prom royalty



Selected as Petersburg High School’s 2025 Prom King and Queen were CJ Stewart and Rylan Van Meter.



Tammy Martin, GMH Board Chair, and Albert Wright.

Hike with a hometown hero

Join the walk Wednesday, May 14, noon, with the GMH Therapy Department. Meet them at Fort Mulligan, located above the hospital.

This program is intended to increase physical activity while introducing you to new and current physicians in the county as well as other medical and community professionals.

The program is in partnership with the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information call 304-257-5813.

Strange BUT TRUE

- More than 300 different species of bacteria are found in dental plaque.
- Bones found at Seymour Island indicate that 37 to 40 million years ago, penguins stood at a formidable 6 feet tall and weighed 250 pounds.
- PEZ candies were originally anti-smoking mints.
- World War II is known as “the blessed war” to many Icelanders because the country has that conflict to thank for its independence.
- In the 1920s and ‘30s,

many movie theaters had signs instructing ladies to “Please Remove Your Hats” to keep their elaborate headwear from blocking anyone’s view.

• Jeannette Rankin became the first female member of Congress in 1916, four years before the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was ratified.

• The platypus doesn’t have a stomach at all: Its esophagus goes straight to its intestines.

• Rainbows are full circles when viewed from a different perspective, and everyone sees a unique version depending on how their eyes perceive light.

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Free press must remain free

The Bluefield (W.Va.) Daily Telegraph
Four billion people read Associated Press journalism daily.
A billion access Reuters content each day.
Bloomberg Media has 60 million video viewers monthly.
Yet the Trump administration is drastically curtailing these three major wire services’ access to White House press conferences.
For generations, a spot in the press pool at White House media events was reserved for wire services. This month, the Trump administration announced it was adding a second spot for a print journalist to pool, but the long-time reserved position will no longer be guaranteed a seat at each press conference.
The wire services can still apply to fill one of the designated seats.
The result is that newspapers, broadcasters and other media outlets across the world that depend on wire services for national and international news will no longer have access to coverage of White House press events. The AP alone serves more than 15,000 media outlets around the country, including The Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

The Trump administration is choking off the ability of an independent press to ask questions and report on White House press conferences while simultaneously shutting down the flow of reporting from the White House to communities across the country served by news organizations that use the wire services.

For decades, the White House Correspondents’ Association has been in charge of setting the rules for the press pool, an important task given that many of the press conferences are conducted in small spaces that can’t accommodate more than a few dozen journalists.
But the Trump administration in February wrested control over the press pool from the correspondents’ association, announcing that it would allot fewer spaces to legacy news organizations in favor of new media, including social media influencers. The decision, without a doubt, was driven by Trump’s desire to reduce access for organizations that critically report news about him.
That same month, the administration revoked AP ac-

Free press - Continued on Page 5A

Capito urges administration to expedite review process for critical broadband funding

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick asking him to expedite the review and release of updated guidance for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program and urged that West Virginia not have to redo significant portions of their application.
The BEAD program, which was created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that Senator Capito helped craft, is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet. In June 2023, Senator Capito announced that West Virginia would receive a significant portion of this funding.
“I urge you to expedite not only the review and release of updated guidance, but the program as a whole. West Virginians have waited long enough, and I hope with your leadership they will soon have broadband access and this will be President Trump and your greatest accomplishment for rural America,” Senator Capito wrote.
The full letter is below:
Dear Secretary Lutnick,
As we have discussed, one of my top priorities in the Senate has been to get all of West Virginia connected with quality broadband service. The opportunity to get the more than 100,000 unserved locations in West Virginia broadband access is finally here through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The Biden Administration took years and years and burdened states and internet service providers (ISPs) with unnecessary mandates like labor requirements, climate change provisions, and some cumbersome financial requirements and did not connect a single location through BEAD. You can succeed where the previous administration failed and deliver this service quickly and efficiently to millions of Americans primarily in rural areas.

Broadband - Continued on Page 5A



School vaccinations: Two sides of the coin

Governor Patrick Morrisey provides guidance on religious exemptions from school vaccine mandates

Friday, Governor Patrick Morrisey issued guidance to parents, students, and school officials advising that his executive order granting religious exemptions from vaccine mandates remains in place and it will not be rescinded.
“I am calling on the State Superintendent of Schools and the county boards of education in this state to work with the Bureau for Public Health to ensure that religious rights of students are protected,” said Governor Morrisey.
“Students will not be denied access to public education because of their religious objections to com-

pulsory vaccination.”
Governor Morrisey’s Executive Order 7-25 is based on the free exercise of religion guarantees of the United States and West Virginia Constitutions and the Equal Protection for Religion Act of 2023 (“EPRA”), which prohibits government action that substantially burdens a person’s exercise of religion.
The EPRA applies equally to the state and “its political subdivisions,” and it “leav[es] no doubt about its primacy” over other conflicting state statutes. State and county officials

Exemption
Continued on Page 5A

West Virginia Democratic Party reacts to Morrisey directive on immunization waivers

The West Virginia Democratic Party strongly condemned Governor Patrick Morrisey Friday for issuing an irresponsible and politically motivated directive promoting so-called “religious waivers” from childhood immunization requirements in public schools.
This misguided move comes after the legislature rejected such legislation earlier this year.
“The legislature has already spoken clearly on this matter — Governor Morrisey has no authority to perform an end run around their decision,” stated Delegate Anitra Hamilton (D —

Monongalia).
“It’s disturbing that our governor is prioritizing political pandering over the health and safety of West Virginia students and school personnel.”
Governor Morrisey’s executive order falsely claims a religious basis for immunization exemptions despite no mainstream religious faith requiring adherents to refuse such treatments.
“Let’s be clear: No religion demands its followers put themselves and others at risk by avoiding necessary, life-saving immuniza-

Reaction
Continued on Page 5A



Lee Hamilton

the broad strokes of what they’d like the federal government to look like. The votes were narrow—51-48 in the Senate and 216-214 in the House—but the result is that both chambers now have to get down to brass tacks.
There hasn’t been much coverage (yet) of this next stage and there’s a great deal of uncertainty, but one thing you can count on: What they do will affect your life. So let’s take a look.
For starters, the GOP majorities in both chambers seem willing to add massively to the federal deficit—the Senate blueprint would increase it by \$5.7 to \$6.9 trillion, according to independent analyses, while the House would add an estimated \$3.4 trillion to \$4 trillion over 10 years.
This is largely because both cham-

Where Congress goes next on the budget will matter to you

Back at the beginning of April, the Senate and the House each passed a “blueprint” laying out

bers want to extend tax cuts from the first Trump administration that tilt heavily toward the wealthy and were due to expire; lop billions (or, in the case of the House, \$1.5 trillion) out of the budget; yet also fund big increases for spending on border security and defense.
What happens next is where things get interesting. The blueprints were marching orders for committees on each side of Capitol Hill.
But the Senate’s marching orders are different from those in the House, and at some point down the road, they’re going to need to come into agreement.
Among other things, the two chambers disagree on how to account for extending the tax cuts (the Senate’s approach basically assumes that extending them would have no deficit impact during the 10-year budget window); they differ on how much to raise the federal debt ceiling; and they differ on how much they want to spend on defense and border security.
But what is undoubtedly going to

produce the most headaches for the GOP majorities in both chambers is basic math. In order to extend the tax cuts—and boost border and defense spending—they’ll have to take a cleaver to other parts of the federal budget.
And since roughly half of all federal spending goes to three popular programs—Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—many analysts (and members of Congress) believe that at the very least, serious cuts to Medicaid funding are on the way.
This might seem like a remote problem, but it would affect health care and the economy in pretty much every nook and cranny of the country.
Medicaid doesn’t just help one in five low-income Americans get primary and acute care, but it undergirds health care for about half of U.S. children. It underwrites six in ten nursing home residents.
Moreover, Medicaid buttresses primary care practices, clinics, hospitals (especially rural hospitals), nurs-

Budget - continued on Page 5A

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Dr. Glenn Molette wrote in the May 6th edition of the Grant County Press about the woeful state of America’s retail economy, putting much of the blame on Chinese “junk.”
While I somewhat agree with the good Dr.’s opinion, I do take issue with him on the blame game he’s playing.
I think most Americans look at China as the culprit, but what we (and Dr. Mollette by his glaring omission) seem to forget are the companies that are importing all of this “junk” in the first place.
What about the retailers (Lowe’s, Home Depot, WalMart, Target and a host of others) who are selling us all of this “junk”? Shouldn’t they be held

accountable? Where’s the outrage towards the corporate board rooms which encourage this practice?
The irony of this is we applaud and encourage the business models which reap stratospheric profits for these companies by buying this cheap “junk” and selling it with a significant markup. (Well, maybe not WalMart to an extent. But I’d like to see the markup of a drill or toy made in any other country but the U.S.).
So, we keep going back time and time again to these stores to buy this “junk”? Why? We can’t help it. We need a lot of this junk.
I know, I know, a lot of folks are thinking, what are our other options? Well, we can try to do what we can, but as long as those

Comments on Chinese junk
mega retailers have their way, we’re fighting a losing battle against the wrong foe.
So, Dr. Mollette, put pressure on those retailers and not necessarily just China because they are far from the only culprit.
**Christopher Kierski
Maysville, W.Va.**
To the Editor,
Having just read Dr. Glenn Mollette’s column in the May 6, Press, I was confounded by the headline that drew me in, “Can you live without China’s junk.”
He had me on, “junk” only to completely undermine the term with a listing of all the products China provides: computers, phones, (including Apple iPhones), televisions, semi-conductors, in-

dustrial machines, printing and textile machines, vaccines, furniture, footwear (i.e. sneakers), insulin, and many of the medications we (and I take every morning) depend on; Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, Amoxicillin, Vitamin C.
Sound like “junk” to you? As I age and move through my 70s and meet and greet new aches and pains every day, not to forget the occasional sinus infections only Amoxicillin can defeat, I thank Big Pharma and now knowingly the PRC (People’s Republic of China).
Instead of quitting while he is ahead (behind?) he actually poses a solution. Praise be! “It’s way, way, past time to bring the man-

Letters
Continued on Page 5A

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May 11, 1955
Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, was scheduled to deliver WVU's 88th commencement address May 30.

Ruth Cuppett, a senior at Petersburg High School and daughter of Atty. And Mrs. D.E. Cuppett Jr., was among 25 state high school seniors who won WVU Board of Governor's Achievement Scholarships in the 1955 competition.

The Petersburg Business and Professional Women's Club was represented at the state convention held in Charleston, by the club president and three delegates. Attending were president, Beatrice Shaffer and delegates, Olive Shaffer, Pauline Sites and Ruth Barco.

Cpl. John A. Mongold, who had been stationed at Camp Desert Rock, Nev., was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mongold, Dorcas, before going to Fort Knox to receive his discharge.

May 12, 1965
The Soil Conservation Service at Morgantown was requesting bids for the construction of two earth-fill flood retarding dams in the Patterson Creek Watershed.

The state Welfare Department reminded more than 10,000 people currently assigned to \$1-an-hour jobs on public work projects, that their assistance

grants would be stopped if they refused to accept suitable employment.

Daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Conrad of Petersburg and Mr. and Mrs. David Beckwith of Burlington.

Sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sherman of Dorcas and Mr. and Mrs. James Burgess of Arthur.

May 14, 1975
All the thrills, sights and sounds of an old-time air show was to fill the spring skies at the Grant County Airport, May 18.

Many Grant County educators and retired teachers were present at a covered dish supper May 6, at Union High School to honor Dillon Parks, who was retiring after 21 years of teaching. He had been principal at the Mount Storm Grade School from 1966 to the present time.

Greenland Gap was nominated as a national natural landmark and was being considered by the U.S. Park Service. This was the first site in West Virginia to be nominated.

James Reed, a student in the building trades department of the South Branch Vocational Center, won the state bricklaying contest and was to represent West Virginia in the National Skill Olympics in Washington, D.C., during the week of June 23.

Students inducted into the PHS National Honor

Society were: seniors – Twila Berg, Brenda Borrer, Rhonda Alt, Johanna Maxwell and Stephenie Henry; juniors – Georganna Davis, Terry Harman, Paula Parsons, Barbara Rumer, Mary Beth Michael, Wade Parker, Sharee Jordan, Joan Martin, Kim Kesner, Juanita Lambert, Gina Alt and Dolly Garland.

Five sophomore girls were chosen by fellow classmates to compete for the title of Miss Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company Queen. They were: Sharon Cook, Stacey Hesse, Kristy Lantz, Marty Maxwell and Kathy Porter.

Kenneth VanMeter joined the U.S. Navy under the delay entry "CACHE" program.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Steward Cullers Jr. of Moorefield, a son, May 5; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rumer of Arthur, a daughter, May 7; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kisamore of Riverton, a daughter, May 8; and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bensenhaver of Rig, a son, May 10.

The Union High varsity cheerleaders, won the first place award for best squad at the sectional basketball tournaments in Keyser. Cheerleaders were: Renata Durst, Linda Hoffman, Jackie Clark, Janice Rigby, Rhonda Arnold and Kathy Minnick, captain.

May 8, 1985
The winners of the Petersburg council were: mayor – Sam Landes; recorder – Edna Harman; council – Smitty Alt, Roger Lewis, Jack Groves, Albert Alt and Eddie Hiser.

Winners of the Bayard council were: Steve Durst – mayor; Geraldine Layton – recorder; William Gaither, Charles "Buck" Judy, Joe Gay, William "Pink" Kitzmiller and Russell "Mose" Layman – council.

Grant Memorial Hospital births included: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mongold of Moorefield, a daughter, May 1; and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hevener of Dorcas, a son, May 4.

Five sophomore girls were chosen by fellow classmates to compete for the title of 1985 Petersburg Volunteer Fire Company Queen. They were: Robin Alt, Cassy Fletcher, Kelly Nelson, Candi Roby and Kelly Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Lambert of Petersburg announced the birth of a son, Corey Scott, April 8.

Roger Alan Harrison Jr. was named an Academic All-American by the National Secondary Education Council.

The PHS chapter of Future Homemakers of America won first place in state competition at Ripley.

The PHS girls tennis team won the Potomac Valley Conference title.

Exemption

Continued from Page 4A

are therefore bound to respect students' exercise of religion when enforcing the state's vaccine requirements.

Governor Morrisey goes on to detail multiple lawsuits pending in the federal courts challenging West Virginia's compulsory vaccine requirements on constitutional grounds.

The guidance also gives direction on the process parents can follow to obtain a religious exemption for their child, which includes sending a signed letter to the Bureau for Public Health at Vaccine-Exemption@wv.gov and providing the following information:

Name and date of birth of student requesting religious exemption;

Name of parent/guardian of student;

Name of school parent/guardian intends to enroll student in; and

Mailing address of parent/guardian of student.

The Bureau for Public Health will provide a letter to the parent or guardian notifying them whether the requested exemption is granted, and a copy of the exemption letter will be provided to the school identified in the letter.

Exemptions will be granted on a school year basis. Parents who have received an exemption during the 2024-2025 school year should renew their request for an exemption for the 2025-2026 school year so that the Bureau for Public Health, State Board of Education, and county schools can maintain an accurate record of the exempt students for each school year.

Reaction

Continued from Page 4A

tions," West Virginia Democratic Party Chair Mike Pushkin added.

Moreover, Governor Morrisey's ongoing failure to appoint a Chief Public Health Officer underscores his reckless approach. The position remains vacant because Morrisey knows it's virtually impossible to find a qualified professional willing to endorse the governor's unscientific and medically unsound policies. Currently, the Acting Commissioner of Public Health lacks the le-

Budget

Continued from Page 4A

ing homes, and healthcare workers. Cutting it dramatically will reshape health care in communities everywhere.

On the other hand, there's another kind of math in effect: The narrow House majority allows very little wiggle room for the GOP leadership, and in mid-April a dozen Republican members—more than enough to sink any agreement—sent a letter to the leadership saying they would not support "a final reconciliation bill that includes any reduction in Medicaid coverage for vulnerable populations." What this actually means we'll just have to wait to see.

Expect much drama as Congress tries to cut federal agencies and programs to pay for the tax cuts it would like to enshrine. But one thing is certain: Even though committees in both

gally mandated education credentials to serve permanently in that critical public health role. "Our state deserves a qualified public health expert, not a political placeholder," Pushkin emphasized.

"Public school students, teachers, administrators, and staff should not be forced to risk exposure to preventable and potentially deadly diseases just so Governor Morrisey can cater to the extreme elements of his political base," Pushkin concluded. "West Virginians deserve leadership that respects science, public health, and the legislative process."

chambers will work on the package, what it actually looks like will be steered by the leadership and by the White House. The opportunities that once existed for experts and rank-and-file members to weigh in and shape budgets and other legislation have narrowed over the years, as congressional leaders have concentrated more and more power in their own hands.

As a result, many members of Congress—as they have on so many fronts—have essentially sidestepped their accountability for what happens on Capitol Hill, and have made it tougher for the public to weigh in on the details. With something so momentous as the forthcoming tax and budget cuts, that's too bad.

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.

by Dave T. Phipps

Letters

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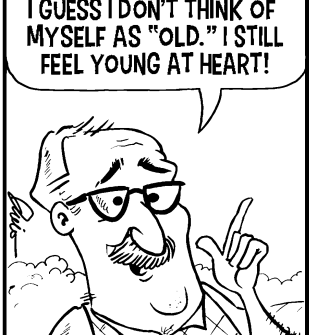
ufacturing back to America." Sounds like a great idea. Except for the simple fact, as he clearly states, "Walmart and Dollar General are about the only stores Americans can afford." So China's "cheap labor forces" lead to "cheap (inexpensive) products we can afford. Bring the jobs back to America and you will quickly find prices in the Dollar Generals, Walmarts, Dollar (and a quarter) Trees, will go up. Way up. In keeping with costs based on minimum wages that are exponentially higher than China's "slave wages."

So here's the thing; we

can start to pay people a "living wage" substantially higher than the seven bucks they currently earn, and they will be better able to afford the higher costs in the big box and little box stores and pharmacies, and we can bring the manufacturing back to American workers and consumers. And maybe, just maybe, the billionaires (oligarchs) can pay their workers more, and learn to suffer along on only 10 billion in salary instead of a hundred billion. FYI a "billion dollars," just one, is one thousand million dollars. Seems to me that is more than enough for these Americans.

Frank L. Miller
Mt. Storm, W.Va.

Amber Waves



Watch out for counterfeit bills making the rounds

The Grant County Chamber of Commers put out a bulletin saying they have been notified from a reliable source, that a counterfeit money ring started in New York is headed this way.

They received information via a source from the Secret Service, FBI, and U.S. Marshals that they are working their way down from New York.

Counterfeiters hit several places in and around Philadelphia and seem to be headed this way. They are using \$20-\$100 bills and that look pretty decent. The only way to tell is by looking for the strip, watermark, and texture.

Local business should make their staff aware of the possible use of these fake bills and to report to law enforcement if someone is trying to use them in their establishment.

Free press

Continued from Page 4A

cess to White House pressers after Trump issued an executive order to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and the AP declined to adhere to the change in its reporting and in its stylebook, because AP is an international wire service and throughout the world the gulf is still called Gulf of Mexico.

The AP sued, and U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden ruled that the White House could not deny AP access on the basis of its decision to continue using "Gulf of Mexico." McFadden ordered the Trump administration to restore the AP's White House press pool access.

Clearly, the administration's recent decision to remove the press pool seat for AP, Reuters and Bloomberg is a ploy to continue curtailing AP access, and by extension, that of thousands of news outlets relying on these services.

Previous presidents have recognized the importance of White House coverage by independent media to ensure transparency and the free flow of information. The Trump administration's battle with the AP and restriction of wire service access are unmistakable signs that it does not. The U.S. Constitution prohibits infringing on a free press with the understanding that a free, independent and unfettered press is crucial for democracy.

Instead, the president wants to control not only terminology used by media outlets but also their ability to provide news to millions of Americans through community newspapers and other local media across the country.

Without a free press, we are all less free.

Broadband

Continued from Page 4A

West Virginia has been allocated \$1.2 billion to connect the state. The BEAD statute specifically says it is to be a technology neutral program. Some states may prefer fiber, others fixed wireless, and others satellite. Whatever technology or combination of technologies works best for the state and serves the most people while staying within the allocated funding amount should move forward.

When the BEAD program review was initiated on March 5, my state was six weeks away from completing the arduous application process after so many steps including a completed fair project selection process. Removing much of the red-tape from the program in a timely manner, so that my state and all others could move forward even faster, is an ideal outcome.

As we have discussed, I am concerned that West Virginia may be told to move back from the 1-yard line to the 40-yard line after the review concludes. Many of the changes that should be made to the program can be made quickly, but as an example, reopening the subgrantee application process for ISPs could delay connecting rural Americans for another year. I also am concerned that an arbitrary one-size-fits-all cost cap could be imposed for each connection. West Virginia is the Mountain State, so connecting us may be inherently more expensive than most every other state. In addition, certain technologies are not feasible in many areas not only due to our challenging topography but also because 78% of the state is forested.

Like you, I am opposed to outlandish costs for a single connection but those decisions should be made with a more tailored approach by the states in consultation with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. My state is committed to achieving the goals of the program with the utmost efficiency.

I urge you to expedite not only the review and release of updated guidance but the program as a whole. West Virginians have waited long enough, and I hope with your leadership they will soon have broadband access and this will be President Trump and your greatest accomplishment for rural America.

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Local and area obituaries

Betty (Carter) Hott, 97, of Moorefield, W.Va., went home to be with her Lord on May 9, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born July 2, 1927, in Petersburg, W.Va., she was the daughter of the late John Roy Carter and Janie Nelson Carter.

Betty is survived by the love of her life and devoted husband of 74 years, George A. Hott; two daughters, Sherri (Joe) Mohr of Petersburg and Kelly (Bill) Biller of Lost City; and two sons, George C. (Karen) Hott of High View and Richard (Vicki) Hott of Moorefield. She was a proud grandmother to seven grandchildren, Brian (Melissa) Mohr, Kasey (Joshuah) Hott, Molly (Michael) Majher, Carson (Jerica) Hott, Logan (Jourdin) Hott, Dane (Kat) Biller, and Emily (James) Biller; and a joyful great-grandmother to eight, Dylan and Emory Mohr, Noelle and Rosie Majher, Stetson and Deklan Hott, and Ayla and Remmy Hott. Betty also

leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Elizabeth (Warden) Hott of Old Fields; her half-brother, Hill Carter of Florida; and her bonus "grandson", James Brady of Moorefield.

Betty graduated from Petersburg High School, where she was both a cheerleader and a basketball player. She went on to study at Potomac State College before accepting a teaching position at the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind. During her three years there, she formed deep connections with her students—often welcoming them into her home on weekends and treating them like family.

On November 6, 1950, Betty married George, the man she adored. As the perfect coach's wife, she stood faithfully by his side through countless seasons, celebrating him wholeheartedly in both his athletic and coaching career. She worked as a secretary

for Kenny VanMeter's law office before devoting herself to raising their children. Later, she returned to her education, graduating from Shepherd College and becoming a beloved elementary teacher at Moorefield Elementary, where she taught for 20 years. Her gentle spirit and dedication left a lasting mark on generations of students.

In retirement, Betty remained active and vibrant—playing softball on her daughter's team, cheering on her grandchildren at their many events, and traveling the world with George, family and friends. She found peace and joy in her flower garden and cherished quiet moments on the back porch, surrounded by laughter and love.

Her faith was a cornerstone of her life. A dedicated member of Duffey Memorial United Methodist Church, Betty taught Sunday school, volunteered generously and served faithfully as treasurer of the United Methodist Women and finance secretary of the church.

Above all, family was everything to Betty. Her heart swelled with pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She celebrated their every achievement and loved them with her whole being.



In her own words, she leaves this final message for her beloved husband: "George, I'll be sitting in the swing, waiting for you..."

The family will receive friends from 4 – 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the Fraley Funeral Home Chapel, 107 Washington Street, Moorefield.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at Duffey Memorial Church, 100 N. Elm Street, Moorefield, with Pastors Mark Flynn, Wade Armentrout and Dan Sterns officiants.

Interment will follow in the Olivet Cemetery.

To offer condolences, share memories, or upload photos in honor of Betty's extraordinary life, visit her tribute wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com and celebrate the impact she made on all those around her.

(5-13-25)

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BEVERLY J. PLAUGER

Beverly Jean (Kesner) Plauger, 71, of Petersburg, W.Va., passed away Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Keyser Healthcare Center in Keyser, W.Va.

Born May 2, 1954, in Petersburg, she was a daughter of the late William Ervin Kesner and Jennie Eunice (Siever) Kesner. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Mary (Kesner) Shoemaker and one brother, Harlan Kesner.

Beverly is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, Royce E. Plauger; her son, Royce E. Plauger II (Tania) of Keyser, who was the pride and joy of her life; two grandchildren, Zachary Plauger and Kayla (Plauger) Tobergte (Eric); one great-granddaughter, Bella Tobergte; one brother, Larry Kesner (Carolyn) of Petersburg; sister-in-law, Rosalee Kesner of Petersburg; and several nieces and nephews.

Beverly was a 1972 graduate of Petersburg High School. Following her graduation, she worked for VanMeter & VanMeter Law and also Joan Curtis Manufacturing sewing company for several years. Later she embarked on a fulfilling career at Grant Memorial Hospital and retired after 30 plus years. Her attention to detail and methodical approach to her work were matched only by her friendly demeanor and the thoughtful care she took in every interaction with her colleagues and those she served. Beverly's role as a wife and mother



was paramount, and she approached it with the same selflessness and consideration that she showed in all other aspects of her life. Beverly was a faithful member of the Brake Covenant Brethren Church.

Beverly's family would like to thank the caring staff at Keyser Healthcare Center and the Keyser Davita Dialysis Center for their kind attention and compassion given to Beverly.

He family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 14, from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.

Funeral services will be Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m. in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Craig Howard officiating. Interment will follow in the Getz Cemetery, Dorcas, W.Va.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brake Covenant Brethren Church, P.O. Box 831, Petersburg, WV 26847 or Gideons International.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.schaefferfuneralhome.com

(5-13-25)

Union High School senior earns associates degree from E WVCTC



Haley Judy is a high school senior at Union Educational Complex who graduated Saturday with an Associates degree from Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Moorefield. She is the first Grant County student to earn an associates degree before graduating high school.



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City

Continued from front

tax is a small amount added to visitor’s by local hotels and motels. This fund is then used to help promote tourism in the community, primarily through advertising.

“This is not a tax that is being paid by our local res-

idents,” Kaposy explained. “It is primarily being paid by the people who visit our area.”

The council then received a quick update from councilman Jeremy Rigglesman on the city’s ongoing effort to build their police department. According to Rigglesman, this is not an issue that is being faced by just Petersburg but has be-

come a statewide issue.

“Right now, West Virginia is 45th for police,” Rigglesman said. “We are in the bottom five states when it comes to officer pay.”

Rigglesman said the city is currently seeking ways to attract good and experienced officers while also being able to maintain the necessary budget for the department.

Next, the council issued an update on the playground equipment that was recently removed from the city park. Michael reassured the community that the equipment would be reinstalled and that its removal was temporary as work is ongoing on the large update being done to the Petersburg water system.

Finally, the council approved multiple building permits including for: 18 Water Street to repair a shingle roof; 9 Tyson Court to install a garage; 107 Grant Street to expand a driveway and install a fence; 310 Jefferson Street to install a sauna; 140 Lee Street to repair a roof; 233 Judy Street to install a front door; 105 North Main

Street to repair concrete steps; 121 Shobe Street to replace deck boards; 172 Houston Drive to install a woodshed; 214 Grant Street to install a fence and 90 South Grove Street to install fiber optic cable.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Petersburg City Council will be June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Petersburg City Office.

Faith

Continued from front

“It was an honor to be able to represent West Virginia in that way,” Stewart said. “It was an honor to be invited and was a breath of fresh air to have those issues really heard by someone in Washington.”

Stewart brings with him a unique background that underpins his efforts, including having worked as a detective for a special victims unit (SVU) in the Texas law enforcement system.

“I’ve seen a lot and I’ve seen a lot of hurt,” Stewart said. “While I was there I got to hear some of what the president was doing to address those things and, not to mention, were able to worship right there in the White House.”

Prior to his invitation to the event and the presidential election, Stewart participated in a Hope Crusade in the capital where the group prayed for the

next president to open the door to faith leaders.

“This was a lot of people from all over the nation came together under the Hope Crusade to pray for an open door and we have seen God answer those prayers,” Stewart said.

Stewart said that he understands that not everyone agrees with what the president does at every turn and said that there were even likely disagreements between the pastors at the event, but that he believes officials must be judged on what they are accomplishing in the office.

“What I see getting done is a lot more,” Stewart said. “And that is to include more freedoms for our faith leaders, and we saw that directly this month with his creation of the Religious Liberty Commission.”

According to a White House fact sheet released by the Trump administration, The Religious Liberty Commission “shall be the policy of the execu-

tive branch to vigorously enforce the historic and robust protections for religious liberty enshrined in federal law... the Commission will investigate and recommend policies to restore and safeguard religious liberty for all Americans.”

Stewart said the group discussed several important issues during the event, including faith-based concerns surrounding free worship and religious protections to political concerns voiced by faith-based communities. Stewart is also uniquely involved in the political landscape through his efforts to write and submit possible bills primarily aimed at supporting the victims of sexual assault and human trafficking. The most recent piece of legislation submitted by Stewart is the Abuse Care Program which is aimed at providing free health care to abuse survivors, especially at assisting in rebuilding mental health. However, Stewart clarified

that this would include both faith-based and secular mental health programs.

“Right now, I know people who can not get mental health support covered if it is a faith-based program,” Stewart said. “This bill requires that the counselor be certified, but does not discriminate against the church programs, many of which do great things for those they help. There are a lot of victims of abuse right her in West Virginia.”

Stewart said during the event he was able to voice some of his concerns surrounding the issues facing West Virginians, especially with domestic violence, abuse and similar issues.

“No one stood behind platforms but were able to discuss these things as a group,” Stewart said. “And the response we received was very encouraging. I had a lot of people encourage me to reach out by email following the event. I’ve seen now first hand that the White House is not the problem, it’s the big

building over the hill.”

Stewart was referencing the ongoing gridlock with the United States Senate and House of Representatives which he believes have become more and more divided among party lines over the past several years.

Stewart said that the ongoing issues with abuse feeds into other issues faced by West Virginia, saying that only an estimated 6% of abuse victims receive help in the state, with the remaining 94% going untreated and potentially unsupported.

“As a faith leader, this affects us,” Stewart said. “We deal with a lot of the broken, we deal with the people that Congress doesn’t deal with.”

Stewart said he intends to continue working with the National Faith Advisory Board and is proud to continue representing West Virginia, and while he may not have been born here, it has quickly become his home.

“When it comes to this area, I have come to love the people in a way that, honestly, I have never felt before,” Stewart said. “There are so many good people, and the people who are hurting, I feel their brokenness and I feel their frustrations. I am in awe of the local farmers who are struggling working two jobs while they try to work their family farms. I see these things and I pray every day that I can be a voice for them. Being at the White House was amazing and it really made me realize that we need more people from these areas who are willing to stand for the people. It wasn’t about a show, no name was lifted-up, the media wasn’t invited in - President Trump was at the Pope’s funeral that day so it wasn’t about meeting the president. It was about God and what we as pastors can do serve his people.”

WVU Grant Memorial Hospital hosts inaugural health fair

West Virginia University Grant Memorial Hospital’s inaugural health fair was held on Saturday, May 3 at the hospital with many community members attending the event.

Every department in the hospital participated to showcase their services alongside community partners that participated with information on service offerings, education, and free screenings. The

health fair also featured the Strollin’ Colon exhibit, which demonstrates the appearance of a healthy colon compared to what it looks like when colon cancer and other conditions are present.

Kids and adults enjoyed the interactive experiences with the EMS WV Mobile Healthcare Simulation Ambulance, Health Team WVU Medical Transport, and the Healthnet Helicopter.

“Special thanks to Potomac Highlands Guild, Grant Memorial Hospice, Grant Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, CORE, and Judy’s Drug Store for being part of this event,” said a hospital spokesperson. “We look forward to making this an annual event as we begin planning enhanced and expanded opportunities for next year.”



Following largescale FBI investigation a Pendleton County man is facing child pornography charges as a part of nationwide initiative ‘Operation Restore Justice’

Jerry Lewis Ayres, 55, of Franklin, was arrested on charges of receipt and possession of child pornography as a part of the nationwide effort Operation Restore Justice.

According to court documents, the West Virginia State Police, on a tip from the Virginia State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, opened an investigation into Ayres. On multiple occasions, Ayres downloaded child pornography depicting minors, some under the age of 12, in sexual acts and positions.

Investigators searched Ayres’ home, phone, and computer and discovered nearly 1500 images. He is charged with receipt of child pornography and possession of child pornography.

Ayres’ arrest is a part of the Department of Justice’s Operation Restore Justice, a coordinated enforcement effort to identify, track and arrest child sex predators.

The operation resulted in the rescue of 115 children and the arrests of 205 child sexual abuse offenders in the nationwide

crackdown. The coordinated effort was executed over the course of five days by all 55 FBI field offices, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section in the Department’s Criminal Division, and United States Attorney’s Offices around the country.

“As a nation, we are measured by how well we protect our most vulnerable citizens including our very young as well as our elderly populations,” stated Randolph J. Bernard, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia. “Operation Restore Justice is a testament to our solemn duty to ensure that our children are safe from those who would exploit and abuse them. The United States Attorney’s Office will continue to seek the most serious charges and severe penalties for those who commit these crimes.”

Ayres is facing at least five years and up to 20 years on the receipt count and facing up to 20 years on the possession count. He is currently being held in the Tygart Valley Regional Jail.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Christie Utt is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government. The FBI and the West Virginia State Police are investigating.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office works with the FBI and other law enforcement to bring those who prey upon children to justice.

In the past year, the U.S. Attorney’s Office has charged 23 individuals with crimes involving sexual offenses against children, one of whom was sentenced last week to 10 years in prison for his crime.

The FBI urges the public to remain vigilant and report suspected exploitation of a child through the tiplines at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324), tips.fbi.gov, or by calling your local FBI field office.

An indictment is merely an allegation. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Six more sentenced in Eastern Panhandle fentanyl drug trafficking operation

Six more people have been sentenced for their roles in a major drug trafficking organization responsible for the distribution of large quantities of illegal drugs in Berkeley and Jefferson counties.

Gary Brown, Jr., 39, of Baltimore, Maryland, was the leader of the operation. He was sentenced to 327 months in prison and fined \$1,000,000. The indictment, returned in January 2024 against Brown, Jr., and 81 others, charged that the defendants caused substantial amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine to be distributed in Berkeley and Jefferson counties.

Others sentenced last week include: Linda Abshire, 33, of Martinsburg, was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison; Christopher Sterling Cogle, 42, of Harpers Ferry, was sentenced to 96 months; Saul Percy Powell Jr. 56, of Baltimore, Md., was sentenced to 180 months in federal prison; Nathaniel Frederick

Downing Jr., 69, of Charles Town, was sentenced to 18 months; James Sanford, 40, of Martinsburg, was sentenced to 60 months in prison;

Of the 82 defendants, 80 have been convicted. Including last week’s six, 59 defendants have been sentenced. One defendant, Charles Delroy Singletary, age 44, of Baltimore, Maryland, remains a fugitive.

U.S. District Judge Gina M. Groh presided.

Two sentenced for roles in Eastern Panhandle drug trafficking organization

Two people have been sentenced for selling large quantities of crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin in Berkeley, Morgan, and Hampshire counties.

Andrew Ross Hose, 40, of Bunker Hill, was sentenced to 293 months in prison. Bradley Allen Lopp, 36, of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison.

According to court documents and statements made in court, Hose and Lopp worked with the drug

trafficking organization to sell controlled substances in the Eastern Panhandle.

Hose will serve five years of supervised release following his prison sentence. Lopp will serve three years of supervised release.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara Omphs-Botteicher prosecuted the case on behalf of the government.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect communities from the perpetrators of violent crime. Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources from the Department’s Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OC-DETFs) and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN).

The Potomac Highlands Drug Task Force, a HIDTA-funded initiative, investigated.

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2025 baseball seniors

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Colin Mauzy
Trace Rohrbaugh
Peyton Tingler



Lady Vikings take out Yellow Jackets 12-11, win spot in regional competition



The Petersburg High School Viking softball team battled their way through sectionals over the past week, beating out both Liberty Harrison and Moorefield High to win their place in regional competition. The team (who competes in Region II), started their sectional play on May 6 when they faced down the Liberty Harrison Mountaineers. The team crushed the Mountaineers 19-0, moving them forward. On the same day, the Moorefield High Yellow Jackets tackled Philip Barbour, beating them 10-2. On May 7, Liberty Harrison was officially eliminated from sectional play after losing to Philip Barbour 14-0 while Petersburg grabbed an important win against the Yellow Jackets, 8-0 in five innings. The Yellow Jackets stayed in the competition on May 8 after beating and eliminating Philip Barbour, 10-2. However, the Yellow Jackets made it only one more day, on May 9, before losing again to the Vikings, 12-11 and securing PHS's place in regionals.

WVDNR police to launch Safe Boating Week patrols

To help promote National Safe Boating Week, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) in partnership with its Law Enforcement Section, is reminding boaters to prepare for summer adventures on the water by brushing up on boating safety skills.

National Safe Boating Week, observed May 17–23, marks the start of the summer boating season and promotes the Safe Boating Campaign, a global initiative funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign encourages boaters to prioritize safety every time they’re on the water.

“We want everyone to enjoy our beautiful lakes and rivers, but that means wearing life jackets, staying sober and knowing the rules,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “Boating regulations aren’t just tips — they’re responsibilities that help keep every boater safe.”

Natural Resources Police will be increasing patrols during National Safe Boating Week, which includes the Memorial Day weekend, to enforce boating under the influence laws and ensure compliance with life jacket regulations.

One of the most common issues Natural Resources Police

encounter during the boating season is compliance with the state’s life jacket laws. Under West Virginia law, every person aboard a boat must have a properly sized U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket that is readily accessible and in good condition. Children under 13 must wear a life jacket while the boat is underway, unless they are below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

“There are a lot of myths about life jackets, but the reality is they save lives — but only when worn,” said Natural Resources Police Captain Warren Goodson, who oversees the WVDNR’s Boating Education Program.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, drowning is the reported cause of death in nearly 80% of recreational boating fatalities, and 87% of those victims were not wearing life jackets.

West Virginia law also requires anyone born on or after Dec. 31, 1986, to complete a boater education course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators before operating a motorboat.

To learn more about boating rules and laws, safe boating practices and the WVDNR’s boater education program, visit WVdnr.gov/boating.

Upcoming pavement work on for Smoke Hole and Oakdale roads

Pavement preservation operations will be conducted on Smoke Hole Road, County Route 28/11, from the intersection with WV 28 to the Pendleton County line, in Grant County, beginning Monday, May 19, through the end of May. Flaggers will be present to direct traffic but delays are expected.

Pavement preservation operations will also be conducted on Oakdale Road, Coun-

ty Route 42/2, from Oakdale Church to New Creek Dam site 14, in Grant County, beginning Wednesday, May 21, through the end of May.

Flaggers will be present to direct traffic but delays are expected. Motorists are advised to stay alert and travel with caution through the work zone. Please use an alternate route, if possible. Exact schedule is weather dependent.



ANNUAL BRAKE CHURCH YARD SALE

Saturday, May 17 • 8 a.m.

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OFFICIAL BALLOT

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

City of Petersburg, West Virginia

June 10, 2025

To vote for a candidate mark an “X” in the square opposite to and at the left of the name.

In order to cast a WRITE-IN vote, you may write the name and office of the candidate in any location on the front side of this ballot.

FOR MAYOR (Vote For ONE)

☐ GARY A. MICHAEL

FOR COUNCIL (Vote For THREE)

☐ JEREMY RIGGLEMAN

☐ MIKE FEASTER

☐ BRUCE “ICKY” HYRE, JR.

STREET LEVY

Election to authorize additional levies for the fiscal years beginning, July 1, 2026, and for the purpose of street renovation, repairs, improvements together with the acquisitions, repairs, replacement of equipment necessary for the accomplishments of these purposed within the city limits of the City of Petersburg, Grant County. The total approximate amount needed for the above purposes within the city limits is \$164,394.00 annually over a five (5) year period, or total of \$821,970.00 according to the Order of the City Council of the City of Petersburg on the 6th day of January 2025. The additional levy shall be on CLASS I Property, 6.25 cents, CLASS II Property 12.50 cents and on CLASS IV Property 25.00 cents.

☐ FOR THE STREET LEVY

☐ AGAINST THE STREET LEVY

INSTRUCTIONS: Those favoring the Street Levy mark an “X” in the square before “FOR THE STREET LEVY.” Those against Street Levy mark an “X” in the square before “AGAINST THE STREET LEVY.”

LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS • LEGALS

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED LEVY RATES GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025				
The following is a true copy from the record of orders entered by GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION on the 26th day of March 2024:				
Column E Certification of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Current Expense Levy Rate/\$100	Levy	Taxes Levied	
Class I Personal Properties Public Utilities Total Class I	19.40			
Class II Real Estate Personal Property Public Utilities Total Class II	38.80	1,193,375 5,066 1,198,441		
Class III Real Estate Personal Property Public Utilities Total Class III	77.60	575,745 1,469,375 5,482,075 7,527,195		
Class IV Real Estate Personal Property Public Utilities Total Class IV	77.60	207,972 170,759 34,560 413,291		
Total Assessed Valuation and Projected Gross Tax Collections	\$1,332,134,948	\$9,138,927		
Less Allowance for uncollectibles, exonerations and delinquencies	2.00%	(182,779)		
Less Allowance for Tax Discounts	2.00%	(179,123)		
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing - see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)		0		
Net Projected Tax Collections, before allowance for Assessor's Valuation Fund		8,777,025		
Less- Allowance for Assessor's Valuation Fund (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)	0.50%	(43,885)		
Projected Net Taxes to be Collected		\$8,733,140		

EXCESS LEVY			
	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied	
Class I Personal Properties Public Utilities Total Class I	4.95		
Class II Real Estate Personal Property Total Class II	9.90	304,495 1,293 305,788	
Class III Real Estate Personal Property Public Utilities Total Class III	19.80	146,904 374,918 1,398,777 1,920,599	
Class IV Real Estate Personal Property Public Utilities Total Class IV	19.80	53,065 43,570 8,818 105,453	
Total Assessed Valuation and Projected		2,331,840	
Less Allowance for uncollectibles, exonerations and delinquencies	2.00%	(46,637)	
Less Allowance for Tax Discounts	2.00%	(45,704)	
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing - see worksheet (Subtracted from regular current expense tax levy only)		0	
Net Projected Tax Collections, before allowance for Assessor's Valuation Fund		\$2,239,499	
Projected Net Taxes to be collected		\$10,972,639	
Total Projected Net Taxes from Regular and Excess Levies		\$10,972,639	
Note: Copies of all approved excess and/or bond levy orders and certified copies of the canvass of votes must be on file with the State Auditor's Office and the State Department of Education before excess or bond levy rates can be approved.			
Signed this 15th day of April, 2025, by Mitchell Webster			
Secretary of the Board of Education			
5/6-5/13			

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, May 13, 2025

Claim Deadline Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

ESTATE NAME: JANET B. BURKE

EXECUTOR: JOHN P. BURKE
46891 EATON TERRACE #201
STERLING, VA 20164-1832

ESTATE NAME: ROGER CONRAD

ADMINISTRATRIX: ABIGAIL CONRAD
11 RIG ST.
PETERSBURG, WV 26847-1675

ESTATE NAME: ELAINE KATHERINE INSKEEP

EXECUTRIX: STACIE L. INSKEEP
P.O. BOX 803
HEDGESVILLE, WV 25427-0803

Subscribed and sworn before me on the 9th day of May, 2025

Lora A. Bennett,

Clerk of the Grant County Commission

5/13-5/20

GRANT COUNTY LAND SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or lots of land in the County of GRANT have been certified by the Auditor of the State of West Virginia to Christal G. Perry, Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered lands of said County, for sale at public auction. The lands will be offered for sale by the undersigned Deputy Commissioner at public auction in the County Commission Room on the 12th of June, 2025 at 09:00 AM.

Each tract or lot as described below, will be sold to the highest bidder. The payment for any tract or lot purchased at a sale shall be made by check or money order payable to the sheriff of the county and delivered before the close of business on the day of the sale. If any of said tracts or lots remain unsold after the auction, they will be subject to sale by the Deputy Commissioner without additional advertising or public auction. The deputy commissioner sale may include tracts of lots remaining unsold from a previous auction not required by law to be readvertised and described for this subsequent auction of those same tracts and lots. All sales are subject to the approval of the Auditor of the State of West Virginia.

CERT #	SOLD	TICKET	NAME	DESCRIPTION	DISTRICT	AMOUNT DUE
2024-C-000001	2023	352	MILLER MALISHA C	LOT 53 HUBBARD ADD	BAYARD CORP	\$619.27
2024-C-000002	2023	353	MILLER MALISHA C	LOT 52 HUBBARD ADD	BAYARD CORP	\$181.72
2024-C-000004	2023	3979	COOK JAMIE L	.70 AC LOT 10 SEC IV SKY VALLEY SUB-DIV	MILROY	\$477.26
2024-C-000005	2023	3848	CABRAL RHUANN	1.60 AC LOT 12 SEC B NORTH FORK RETREAT	MILROY	\$1,344.30
2024-C-000006	2023	6181	REDMAN THOMAS	1 AC TURKEY KNOB	MILROY	\$455.49
2024-C-000007	2023	7040	VANCE CONNIE I 4/5 & REED BILLY JOE 1/5	25 AC EDWIN DOLLY LAND	MILROY	\$619.75
2024-C-000008	2023	6234	RIGGLEMAN BILLY 12.50 %	GAS & OIL ONLY 75.42 AC LOT 48 SEC A	MILROY	\$175.84
2024-C-000009	2023	6244	RIGGLEMAN BILLY 12.50 %	GAS & OIL ONLY 43.62 AC LOT 52 SEC A	MILROY	\$175.84
2024-C-000010	2023	8195	HARDY CO HOLDINGS	LOT 66 GRAND VIEW ADD	PETERSBURG CORP	\$561.78
2024-C-000011	2023	8106	FRAZIER SUSAN	.26 AC LOT 59 SEC E RIVERVIEW ADD	PETERSBURG CORP	\$1,057.69
2024-C-000012	2023	12688	STAPELTON ALEX L JR & NOELLE M	2.02 AC LOT 12 KREITZ HEIGHTS SUB-DIV	UNION	\$1,150.11
2024-C-000014	2023	11647	LUDWIG CAROL J	3.52 AC NEAR MT STORM	UNION	\$567.95
2024-C-000017	2023	12636	SMITH RALPH J	180882 LEON & LEROY	UNION	\$175.84

“Any of the aforesaid tracts or lots may be redeemed by any person entitled to pay the taxes thereon at any time prior to the sale by payment to the Deputy Commissioner of the total amount of taxes, interest, and charges thereon up to date of redemption. Lands listed above as escheated or waste and unappropriated lands may not be redeemed. Payments must be received prior to the close of business the day prior to the land sale. Pre-registration while not required is strongly recommended and may be completed at the following link: <https://www.wvsao.gov/CountyCollections/Registrations> .

Given under my hands this 28th of April, 2025.”

“Christal G. Perry

Land Director of Delinquent and Nonentered lands of GRANT County”

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS, DISTRIBUTEES & LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Grant County Clerk's Office at 5 Highland Avenue Petersburg, WV 26847-1705, and no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 44-1-14b.

An interested person(s) objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must file a statement with the Grant County Commission through the County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of first publication or 30 days of service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not timely filed, the objection is forever barred. The Grant County Commission upon receiving any timely objection thereto shall schedule a hearing or hearings thereon and order relief, if any, it considers proper including, but not limited to, an order directing that full and complete ancillary administration of the estate of the nonresident decedent be made in this state.

First Publication Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

ESTATE NAME: PATRICIA ANN CRITES
564 POINT DRIVE
PETERSBURG, WV 26847
JAMES PAUL GEARY II
PO BOX 218
PETERSBURG, WV 26847

SUCCESSOR:

Subscribed and sworn before me on the 9th day of May, 2025

Lora A. Bennett,

Clerk of the Grant County Commission

5/13-5/20

PV Muzzleloaders May shoot results



The Potomac Valley Muzzleloaders met May 4 at Turner Park in Maysville for their monthly shoot.

The paper match shoot was for 25 shots with a possible 250 point total.

In the men's division, winners were: First, Steve McKenzie 200X; second,

Terry Mulligan 197; third, Tim Phares 175; fourth, Jamie Snyder 174; fifth, Adam Eckart 161.

In the women's division, with a possible of 50 points total, winners were: First, Susie Kesner 41; second, Leah Carr 24; third, Beckie Warner 20; fourth,

Melina Parsons 19.

In the pistol shoot, with a possible 50 point total; winners were: First, Steve McKenzie 41; second, Beckie Warner 41; third, Terry Mulligan 339; fourth, Bobby Phares 38; and fifth, Randol George 31.

South Branch WMA mourning dove controlled hunt applications available

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has announced that applications are now available for a controlled mourning dove hunt at the South Branch Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 1-2.

Hunters may apply at WVhunt.com, register in person at the WVDNR District 2 headquarters in Romney or request an application by calling the Wildlife Resources Section at 304-822-3551.

Hunters who wish to participate must apply by midnight on July 1.

“West Virginia’s annual controlled mourning dove hunt unofficially marks the start of West Virginia’s fall hunting seasons and presents an exciting opportunity for hunters to target one of the most popular mi-



gratory game birds in the country,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

Hunters will be selected by random drawing and notified with their hunting day and shooting station assignments by Aug. 1.

Each hunter may bring two guests. A valid West Virginia hunting license and a free Harvest Information Program registration card are required to hunt doves.

Mourning doves are small songbirds related to pigeons and classified

as migratory game birds, which may be hunted in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Permits are required to hunt mourning doves during the first two days of the season, which is anticipated to open on Sept. 1. No permits are necessary to hunt them after Sept. 2.

South Branch WMA is located at the upper end of what is known as the “trough section” of the South Branch River in Hardy County.



SENIOR MEN

May 7th

First: Rick Ours, Jerry Simmons, Joe Fisher and Dick Riggleman; -11.

Second: Earl Snyder, Johnny Garza, Mike Ryan and Doug Veach; -10, one-hole cardoff.

Third: Jim Burton, Garry White, Jeff Chisler and Jerry Crites; -10.

Pin winners: #3 Jerry Simmons, #6 Joel Stump, #13 Mike Ryan, #15 Earl Snyder, #17 Johnny Garza.

Senior Men's Cup Ranking top five: Jerry Simmons, Earl Snyder, Rick Ours, Jim Burton and Joe Fisher.

MEN'S NIGHT

May 8th

Winners: John Judy, Josh Humphrey, Ethan Slaubaugh, Mark Stickley and Josh Stickley; -8 on the back 9 in a two team cardoff.

Pin winners were: #13 Mark Stickley, #15 Ron Combs and #17 Josh Humphrey.



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EOE including disabilities and Vets



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Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com

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EOE, including disability/vets



Don't pee on your neighbor's lawn (or let your dog do it)

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you settle a dispute between me and my neighbor? Bob doesn't want my dog peeing or

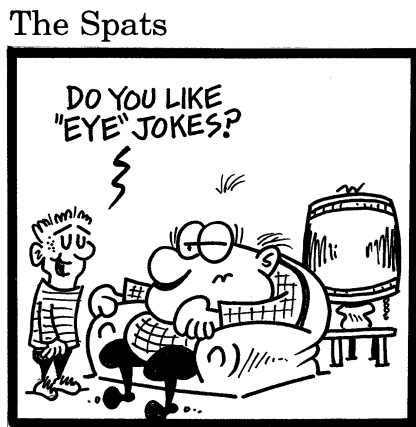
pooping on his lawn. I told him that my dog is just helping fertilize his grass, and he should be grateful for the free nutrients. Yesterday, as I was hanging out on my back patio, Bob threw a bag full of old dog poop over the fence; it broke when it landed and scattered all over the patio. I just don't get it. We used to be friends, but now I'm not so sure. Who's right in this situation?
-- Doug H., via email

DEAR DOUG: Please tell me this is a prank letter, because otherwise I'm going to tear my hair out. One

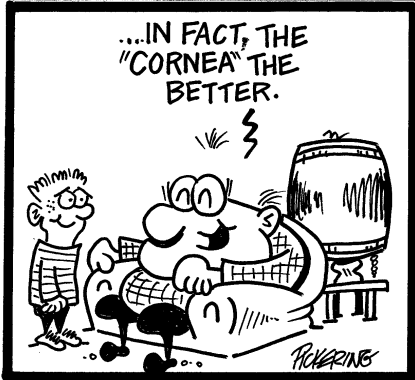
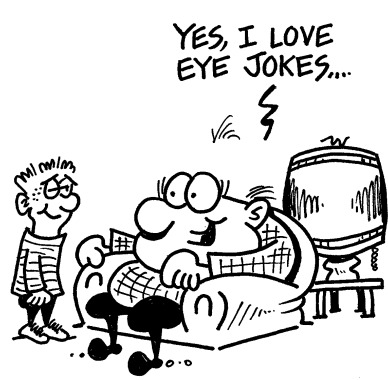
of the biggest commandments of dog ownership is Thou Shalt Not Annoy Thy Neighbors. Allowing your dog to relieve himself on your neighbor's lawn is more than just annoying; it opens you to a potential lawsuit. Clearly, it's causing strife for your neighbor. Even if dog poop actually did fertilize lawns (it doesn't), you and your dog are trespassing on private property. You're also destroying your neighbor's lawn. Dog pee burns grass and kills it, leaving awful bare spots surrounded by yellow, dying grass. Dog poop doesn't

disappear; it sits there and stinks, blocks airflow to the grass and kills it. If you want to resolve this situation peacefully, go apologize to your neighbor, offer to clean up your dog's mess and keep your dog away from his property. That means leashing your dog on walks, picking up his poop as soon as he goes and disposing of it at home or in a municipal waste bin. That's your option. There is only one.
Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.
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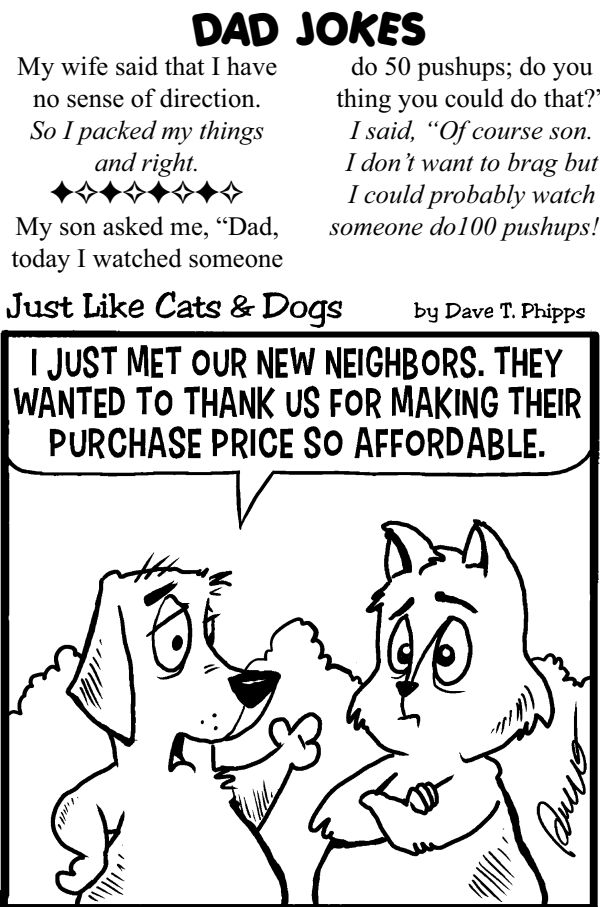
by Jeff Pickering



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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: F equals B

SLWY IXCYS AT L BYKKQJTSY

UYOCKBY BTOQTOLAXTS

KTBLAYG XS FXOWXSIJLW'U

UALAY: WTFXKY LKLFLWL.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Swedish car
5 Do sums
8 Gym pads
12 Bruins' sch.
13 Cattle call
14 Modern money
15 Tall, thin person
17 Bickering
18 Sound from a hot wok
19 Small bill
20 Elitists
21 Warm-up run
22 "Top Gun" target
23 Fall flower
26 "Hamilton" or "Rent"
30 Old money of Rome
31 Weir
32 Tiers
33 Not generic
35 Flaxen, as hair
36 Stitch
37 Hosp. workers
38 Smiles broadly
42 Bikini half
45 "The Wire" actor Idris
46 Tilt towards
48 Region (Abbr.)
49 Kreskin's claim

DOWN

1 Long lunches?
2 High cards
3 Regrettably
4 Prohibit
5 Surrounded by
6 Hand (out)
7 Anonymous Jane
8 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
9 Prefix with pilot
10 Chicago paper, for short
11 Lushes
16 Indigent
20 Venus, to Serena
21 "Hacks" actress
22 Silent
23 Cleric's tunic
24 Navy address
25 — -la-la
26 Frenzied
27 Bill's partner
28 Bristle
29 Leary's drug
31 Morning moisture
34 — Moines
35 Muffin choice
37 Cover with cloth
38 Wagers
39 Power co. supply
40 "East of Eden" girl
41 Optimum
42 Bitty biter
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Privation
46 French article
47 AOL, for one

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FUN & PUZZLES

PUZZLE ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 2A

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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For a Song

T	U	N	E	D	Prepared to play
					"Divine" poet
					Matched
					Water vapor
					Form of postage
					Type of religious music

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden 02511

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is longer. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bracelet is moved.

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Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

1. Unravel a mystery	___ O ___ _ _	Soothing lotion	___ A ___ _ _
2. Irritate	___ E ___ _ _	Movie ad on paper	___ O ___ _ _
3. Footpath	___ _ _ _ K	Just a smidgeon	___ _ _ _ E
4. Nirvana	___ _ I ___ _	Consecrate	___ _ E ___ _
5. Beach season	___ U ___ _ _	Cook slowly	___ I ___ _ _
6. Gulch	___ _ _ _ E	Uncontrollable	___ _ _ _ G
7. Rudimentary	___ _ _ _ C	Sink	___ _ _ _ N
8. Makeup table	V ___ _ _ _	Mental well-being	S ___ _ _ _
9. Almost	___ _ _ _ L	Very close	___ _ _ _ B
10. Jump-start	___ _ O ___ _	Blow your own horn	___ _ A ___ _

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Fun Fact

Skateboards originally came out of surf culture. Initially, the term used for the outdoor activity was "sidewalk surfing." Most of the pioneer skaters made their own gear using wood planks and old iron skate wheels. The first commercial skateboards hit the market around 1957.

Source: www.surftoday.com

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SHOP LOCAL

PHOTO TIME WORD SEARCH

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

ANGLE
APERTURE
CAMERA
DEPTH OF FIELD
DIGITAL
EXPOSURE
FOCUS
F-STOP
ISO
LENSES
LIGHT
LIGHT METER
PHOTOGRAPHER
POSING
PRINTS
PROOFS
SETTING
SHOOT
SHUTTER
SMILE
SPEED
TELEPHOTO
VIEWFINDER
ZOOM

MES archers Lucas Clark and Callie Roberts headed to world championships



Maysville Elementary School archer, Lucas Clark was the only fourth grader to place in the top 10.

Fourteen archers from the Maysville Elementary Tigers Archery team travelled to Louisville, Ky. to shoot in the 2025 NASP Eastern Nationals Tournament May 8-10.

Many shot their personal best score in a tournament thus far. One Maysville Elementary archer Lucas Clark, shot a 283 and placed ninth. He also shot a perfect 50 round and was the only fourth grader to place in the top 10. He will move on to the NASP World Championship in June at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

In addition, one archer from the Petersburg Middle School Archery team, sixth grader Callie Roberts,



Middle school archer, Callie Roberts, earned a spot in the NASP World Championship.



participated in the 3D and Bullseye competitions. She shot a score of 282 and a 275. She also earns a spot

to shoot in the NASP World Championship.

Elementary team coaches are Leon Evans, David

Evans and Billie Jo Bennett.

Petersburg middle school team coaches are Vicki Huffman and Rory Kuh

Sully Ours is Resident of the Week at Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center

By Ravenna Redman
Social Services Director

The employees of Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center have chosen Ralph "Sully" Ours as their GRCC Resident of the Week.

Sully has been a resident of our facility since November 1, 2024. He was born in Rough Run, Grant County, W.Va., on March 28, 1944, to Charles and Mernie (Thorne) Ours.

Sully was born into a large family and has 14. Siblings that have passed away are Janie Sites, Galen Ours, Bobby Ours, Delmas "Jake" Ours, Leon Ours, William Ours, Glen Ours, Paul Ours, Cletus Ours, and Charles Ours. Along with Sully, the remaining family members are Mernie Kimble, Arvella Zimmerer, Olin Ours and Dale Ours.

Charles was a farmer, and Mernie was a stay-at-home mother. Sully's childhood and early adulthood was working on the farm. Everyone in the family worked on the farm to take care of each other. They had a lot of animals, but some of Sully's favorite memories were tapping the maple trees to get the sap.

Sully attended the Rough Run School with teacher Ms. Hazel Crites. He enjoyed schooling, and when you mention Ms. Crites' name Sully gets a grin on his face. He quit school after eighth grade to help his father on the farm.

One evening, Sully and a friend of his went to Petersburg for an evening out. Petersburg was a happening place at that time. The Seneca Theater was in business, with the drug store across the street. They were walking down the street when they noticed two ladies walking towards them. Sully's friend knew one of the ladies, and through this meeting, Sully was introduced to Cornelia Smith. Sully and Cornelia

began talking, and it led to dating.

On December 26, 1963, Sully and Cornelia were married. He was only 19, so his father, Charles, had to sign to authorize him to marry. They have been married for 61 years. They have three children, Gerald "Gerry" Ours, Geraldine Church and Corena Hendrickson. They have six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Sully had various jobs throughout the years. He worked on the pipeline in Pennsylvania, and Cornelia went with him. He worked as a carpenter in Washington D.C. but got tired of traveling and returned to Grant County. He then was a logger, working for various logging companies in the area, sometimes with his brothers. Around 1983, he became the owner of the Rough Run Store. He ran it for a few years, with his daughters' assistance. He sold it, and concentrated on his other love, farming.

He always had a farm, where they raised chickens and pigs. When his daughter, Geraldine, was 14 they got horses, and he helped them take care of them. They built a stable for them, and they would go horseback riding. After he officially retired from work, he took care of cows.

He also had a passion for gardening, which was instilled in his younger days. They always had a large garden, which helped provide for the family.

He also loved hunting and fishing and taking his children and their friends fishing and spending quality time.

Another part of his life that Sully is proud of is his experience in gold mining. In the early 1990s, Sully would travel each summer for several years to Alaska. He traveled outside Nome, Alaska each summer for six to eight weeks. He stayed

in a camp and dredged, and panned for gold. He loved bringing back his gold dust and discussing his adventures.

Another important part of Sully's life is his belief in Christ. He is a member of the Rough Run Church, previously known as the Rough Run Church of the Brethren. When he was able, he was an adult Sunday school teacher. He liked studying the Bible and preparing for his weekly lessons. He has read the Bible several times through. In the early 1990s, Sully and Cornelia traveled to Israel. They loved going to the various places where Christ walked.

Sully is the proudest of his family that he and Cornelia have built.

Unfortunately, both he and Cornelia's health de-



clined to the point where family was no longer able to provide for their care, and they became members of our GRCC family.

Sully enjoys visiting with his family and often is seen visiting other residents in the facility.

Congratulations Sully for being our GRCC Resident of the Week!



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Female - mixed breed. Brown, medium hair, smaller in size, very sweet.

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.

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