

REGION

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015

WWW.NEWSANDSENTINEL.COM

PAGE 1C

AROUND
THE REGION

BELPRE

Deadline for tea event approaching

Reservations for a Tartan Day Scottish Tea, featuring traditional Scottish fare, entertainment, door prizes and genealogy information, are due Wednesday.

The tea is being held at the Unicorn Wine Guild and Tea. There are still openings at the 4 p.m. setting.

The event is a fundraiser for the April 18 Scottish & Celtic Heritage Festival which is scheduled for 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 18 at the Parkersburg City Park Pavilion.

A menu for the tea will include Bonfire Warmer Soup, three-tier trays of oatmeal scones and raisin scones; Salmon mousse sandwich; individual mince-meat pie; chocolate cream; shortbread cookies and Cup of Tea cake as well as teas and accompaniments.

Tickets for the tea are \$25 and reservations can be made at the Unicorn Wine Guild and Tea Room, in the Belpre Shopping Center, 1816 Washington Boulevard, Belpre, by stopping in the store or calling 740-423-1300.

For more information on the festival, google Scottish and Celtic Heritage Festival for the website, the festival has a Facebook page or email scotlandcelfest@att.net or spooky2009@aol.com.

MARIETTA

Earth Day event slated for April 18

The Marietta Earth Day Celebration will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18 at Armory Square.

Among activities are the Sweetgum Ball Contest and the Trash-to-Art Contest.

Marietta streets provide an unlimited number of sweetgum balls as raw material for landscaping, sculptures, building materials or decorations. For the Trash-to-Art Contest, find raw materials in the waste basket or recycling bin for a product that's decorative, functional or artsy.

Prizes will be given in several age groups in each contest.

Entries for both contests can be taken to Armory Square by 10 a.m. April 18.

The West Virginia Raptor Rehabilitation Center will return with several different birds.

PARKERSBURG

Cooper to bring Earhart to life

A portrayal of Amelia Earhart by Patty Cooper will be held at the Wood County Historical and Preservation Society 7 p.m. Monday at the Wood County Public Library.

Earhart spoke at PHS nine months before disappearing in 1937 on her around the world flight. Paul Borrelli's father took a photo of her at Stewart Airpark in Vienna where the Grand Central Mall is today. The meeting will be in the Summer's Auditorium and the public is welcome to attend.

MINERAL
WELLS**Mineral Wells PSD to meet on Tuesday**

The Public Service Board of the Mineral Wells Public Service District will meet in special session at 1 p.m. Tuesday in the district's office at 53 Fox Run Drive, West Virginia 21, in Mineral Wells.

A copy of the agenda is posted on the front door of the office. The meeting is open to the public.

— From staff reports

Charges filed in dog removalBy JEFFREY SAULTON
jsaulton@newsandsentinel.com

PARKERSBURG — Two days after the Humane Society of Parkersburg and city police removed more than 40 dogs from a 12th Avenue residence, the owner appeared in Wood County Magistrate Court Friday to answer a charge filed against her.

According to court records, Ellen S. Miller, 67, 4309 12th Ave., Parkersburg, was arraigned before Magistrate Brenda Marshall on a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty and was released on a \$4,000 bond.

At A Glance

- Ellen S. Miller, owner of Ellen's Rescue, appeared in Wood County Magistrate Court Friday for arraignment on a charge of animal cruelty.
- She was released on a \$40,000 bond.
- Her grandson, Michael Bates, said the charges are not true and reports that the house was filthy are also false.

A charge was filed against Miller after police allege several dogs were mistreated at the residence where Miller operates Ellen's Rescue.

According to the criminal complaint, on March 25, Parkersburg

Police Detective R.B. Ferguson responded to assist the Humane Society of Parkersburg in an active investigation regarding animal cruelty by obtaining a search warrant. Upon arrival, the complaint states, Ferguson observed about

16 dogs inside.

In the complaint, Ferguson stated he observed several of the dogs to have sores and one of the dogs had what humane officers described as "elephant skin," which is a skin condition caused by the caretaker failing to obtain proper medical care.

Ferguson was advised by humane officers the society responded to the address earlier in the day and confiscated 26 other dogs and five cats which they described as living in unsanitary and deplorable conditions.

■ SEE DOG, PAGE 3C



Photo by Jasmine Rogers

Cars drive through the growing puddle of water along Acme Street Thursday afternoon. The position of the storm drain makes it hard for water to flow off the roadway there and similar drainage problems plague other parts of the city.

Officials in Marietta wading through drainage concernsBy JASMINE ROGERS
Special to The News and Sentinel

MARIETTA — Steady rain Wednesday and Thursday turned potholes, fields and streets into temporary ponds, lakes and streams throughout Marietta.

In a perfect world, storm drains quickly whisk the water away, but drainage issues throughout the city have created pockets where water sits for days, destabilizing the surrounding infrastructure and creating dangerous situations for drivers and pedestrians.

"There's a problem with street water on Manchester Drive. From where Manchester starts clear down to the end, I'm the only one that has a storm dropoff and it's not enough to take care of the water. The water stands in some places for days because there's no place for it to go," said Harmar Hill resident Bob Oliver.

Oliver, 79, is one of a handful of people who have come to city council and administration with their drainage woes and are hoping to see something happen.

But keeping up with the issues is a time-consuming and costly

PROBLEM AREAS

- Manchester Drive
- Acme Street between Kenwood Street and Greene Street
- Fields at Indian Acres Park
- Rathbone area
- Sixth and Montgomery streets
- Marietta River Trail near Ohio and Fourth streets
- Gilman Avenue
- West Spring Street

endeavor.

Councilman Steve Thomas, D-3rd Ward, has been advocating for changes to fix massive drainage issues and water pooling in the Rathbone area for years.

"They spent seven grand and it's better, but we're looking at least a half-million dollars to actually do it like it needs to be done," said Thomas.

A pond has sprung up on the grass between the softball fields at Indian Acres Park. Water running beneath steep West Spring Street is uprooting the concrete in places. Gilman Avenue is

lined with tiny streams where water pools at the curbs.

Sixth Street resident Roger Kirkpatrick has also been advocating for drainage fixes near the intersection of Sixth and Montgomery streets, but understands the city's plight.

"I think they have so many of these things that they'll never get them all fixed," he said.

After nearly two years of advocating, Kirkpatrick, 79, was able to urge the owner of some buildings in the area to fix a drainage issue that was causing a nearly 20-foot-by-20-foot area near the intersection to pool with water.

But water still pools in front of the handicap ramps and along the curbs because paved Montgomery Street rises above Sixth Street, trapping water below the point where storm drains could help siphon it away.

Unreachable catch basins are just one half of the problem. Keeping catch basins across the city free from clogs is another beast entirely, according to City Councilman Roger Kalter, D-1st Ward.

■ SEE DRAINAGE, PAGE 3C

Ebola doctor to speak at OVU

VIENNA — A doctor on the front lines of the fight against the spread of the Ebola virus will deliver a keynote lecture 7 p.m. April 13 at Ohio Valley University in the Alumni Gym.

Dr. Kent Brantly was on the cover of Time magazine as one of the Ebola Fighters, Time's 2014 Persons of the Year. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"We are honored to host Dr. Kent Brantly during our 57th annual Bible Lectureship Series and we hope the residents of the Mid-Ohio Valley will join us for this special evening," said OVU President Harold Shank. "Our theme is Children Mean the World to God and Dr. Brantly's lecture is entitled Saving the World's Children. He will share his unique story and offer his perspective on working with children when they are facing their most critical time of need," Shank noted.

Brantly has family ties to West Virginia. His father, Dr. James Brantly, is a graduate of Saint Albans High School and the West Virginia University School of Medicine in Morgantown.

Brantly, his wife, Amber, and their two children live in Texas. The Brantlys are co-authors of the forthcoming book "Called For Life," to be released July 21 by Waterbrook Multnomah.

■ SEE EBOLA, PAGE 2C



Photo Provided

Ebola fighter Dr. Kent Brantly on the cover of Time.

Recycling efforts aimed at area middle schools

PARKERSBURG — All of Wood County's middle schools now have recycling containers through a project coordinated by the Wood County Solid Waste Authority.

"I think this is a great program and the students have been very enthusiastic about it so that is encouraging," said authority Director John Reed.

Work on the project has been ongoing for the last year to place 300 paper recycling containers in the six middle schools in the county.

Working in cooperation with the Wood County Board of Education, 50 containers were placed at each school to be used in each classroom, Reed said. Waste Management agreed to supply outdoor containers at no charge to each of the schools.

The students can paint the containers with their school colors and



Photo Provided

From left, Loudan Haga, Seth Keefe, Bernado Bulnes, Drey Newland, Wood County Solid Waste Authority Director John Reed, Ben Watson, teacher Leila Marlow and project coordinator Dalton Fullerton. The students are from Edison Middle School.

logos if they wish to do so, Reed said.

Reed said paper constituted a significant amount of trash in the past.

"This will significantly reduce the amount of trash the schools produce. As the paper load reduces the trash load, this could result in help-

ing to maintain the reduced costs of trash removal the Board of Education experienced this year," Reed said.

The project cost for the authority was \$26,787. Of that, \$22,362 came through a grant from the West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board and the remaining \$4,425 was provided by the local authority. All of the funds are derived from landfill fees, Reed said.

"The participating schools will have the students rather than the custodians empty the recycling containers to make them more aware of the program. Different groups of students from the individual schools will oversee the project, such as the Builders Club which works on community projects, and the current Citizens in Action program that each middle school has.

■ SEE RECYCLING, PAGE 2C