



Region
Harpers Ferry-Bolivar parade draws crowd, **B1**



Sports
Indians take second in own tourney, **C1**

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3 Things to know

1. WOMAN DESCRIBES IS RECRUITMENT

A Jordanian woman who came close to joining the Islamic State group described a sophisticated 14-month recruitment, **A6**

2. NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

A new children's Christmas book by the West Virginia poet laureate has a focus on the Mountain State, **B2**

3. PHOTOS OF WWII REFUGEES IDENTIFIED

Internet sleuths have worked to identify 75-year-old photos of World War II refugees rescued by a Japanese tourism official, **B3**

Today's Forecast

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Journal photos by Ron Agnir
Shepherd players celebrate as Adam Coles, left, makes his second interception of the game in front of Grand Valley State's Matt Williams in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game in Shepherdstown.

Rams to play for D-II title

BY RICK KOZLOWSKI
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INSIDE

► Full details from Saturday's game, **C1**

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University football fans dined on Kansas City barbecue from a concessionaire throughout a magical undefeated season.

Now the Rams and their fans can feast on actual Kansas City barbecue: Shepherd's going to the national championship game in Kansas City, Kansas, after a heartstopping victory Saturday afternoon against one of the grandest of all the NCAA-Division II programs — Grand Valley State.

Just maybe the writing was on the wall the whole season.

The Rams survived the loss of their record-setting starting quarterback on the first series of the game and a fierce rally by Grand Valley State over the final four minutes that brought the Lakers to within two points in the final minute.

However, when the Rams stopped a two-point conversion — twice, because of a penalty — in front of a raucous record crowd of 6,496 fans at Ram Stadium, a 34-32 victory over Grand Valley was Shepherd's after backup quarterback Connor Jessop took two snaps and knelt in the victory formation.

"As long as they got barbecue there," Shepherd coach Monte Cater said in closing the press conference, a huge smile crossing his lips.

The game was rife with emotional highs and lows for both teams as the fifth-ranked Rams moved their record to 13-0 and now has a date next Saturday against fellow unbeaten — and another of the division's heavyweights — Northwest Missouri State in Shepherd's first national title game at Children's Mercy Park.

Shepherd defeated a program that has



CJ Davis of Shepherd, left, breaks up a pass intended for Matt Williams of Grand Valley State during Saturday's game.

won four national championships in football and has played in two other title games. Shepherd, with an enrollment total five times less than Grand Valley, will be making its first appearance in the title contest.

The Rams made their way without quarterback Jeff Ziemba, who suffered a shoulder injury on the game's first series and was replaced by Jessop.

See **RAMS**, Page A2

Renewal of excess levy passes

BY MARY STORTSTROM
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CHARLES TOWN — Voters in Jefferson County approved the renewal of the Jefferson County Board of Education Excess Levy in a one-sided special election held Saturday, on a vote of 4,551 to 1,278.

"The results came in and they were similar in every precinct: There was overwhelming support," Board of education president Scott Sudduth said in a telephone interview after unofficial results became available. "This was an enormous win for the students and citizens of Jefferson County, and it says so much about the county and its view of education."

The Jefferson County Board of Education Excess Levy is based on a tax formula, 45.9 cents on every \$100 of assessed property value, that has existed in the county since 1946. The levy is up for renewal by vote every five years.

Currently, the Jefferson County Board of Education is operating on the 2010 Excess Levy, which provided \$20,095,312 in total revenue to the school system. Under the 2010 Excess Levy, \$30,000 was allocated to WVU Extension Services, \$60,000 to local public libraries, \$850,000 to instructional, media and technology materials for students, \$850,000 to schools for materials and supplies, \$1,250,000 for professional development, national certification and other teacher/service personnel benefits and \$17,055,312 for salary assistance for teachers and service personnel, including librarians, music and art teachers, counselors and nurses.

The 2015 Excess Levy voted on by the public Saturday was reduced from the 2010 Excess Levy amount to a total of \$19,146,219.

The funding for instructional, media and technology materials for students has been reduced by \$30,000 to \$820,000, and funding for the school allocations for materials and supplies category has been reduced to \$425,000. The proposed funding allocation for salary assistance for teachers and service personnel has been reduced by \$524,093 to \$16,531,219.

In recent months, several bodies in Jefferson County, including the Jefferson County Commission, the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and citizen groups like the League of Women Voters, held forums and discussions to educate the public on what the levy is and isn't.

At a November League of Women Voters forum on the Excess Levy, Sudduth said he dislikes the name, since it may lead the public to falsely believe that voting for renewal of the levy would result in an increase in taxes.

"If we could change the name from 'excess levy' to something else, we would, but that name is set by state code," Sudduth said. "(The excess levy) is not an increase in taxes or a new property tax. The way I see it, it's a continuation of a commitment to education made five years ago, and, as we rightfully should, we ask you, the voters, if you want to continue it."

According to Dr. Bondy Shay Gibson, superintendent of Jefferson County Schools, \$346,000 in expenditures at the school system's central office have been made due to a one-percent cut to funding at the state-level in October.

If the levy had not been approved, a budget cut of approximately \$19 million would have had to be made, she said.

See **LEVY**, Page A2

Officials support proposed recovery center

BY JENNI VINCENT
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ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Two medical professionals, as well as a federal official — who accompanied Berkeley County Council members Thursday afternoon as they toured two substance abuse treatment facilities in northern Virginia — expressed support for the council's proposed recovery center, and the way it is envisioned.

Ruth Phillips, associate deputy director of the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program, said there is no standard, "cookie cutter" approach for designing a local treatment center.

"There isn't a set model,

although we do want to use evidence based programming that we know works. In this particular case, I have watched these council members investigating how to address the community's substance abuse problems. I've seen them educate themselves, and gotten much more knowledgeable along the way," Phillips said. "They've talked with me about it, and they have now been here twice to learn more — to put a face to treatment, to see what can be done. You have to make these things grow and that's what they are doing," she said.

However, that's where council members have opted to be different, Phillips said.

See **CENTER**, Page A2



Journal photo by Jenni Vincent
After visiting the Crossroads treatment facility, Berkeley County Council Vice President Jim Whitacre and Ruth Phillips, associate deputy director of the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program, discuss county plans to establish a local alcohol and drug recovery center.