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# Devastating Epidemic

## New report shows shocking increase in heroin use and ODs in Berkeley County

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles detailing the findings of the "Heroin Treatment Needs Assessment for Berkeley County, West Virginia" report. It continues Sunday with a look at recommendations for addressing problems.*

BY JENNI VINCENT  
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MARTINSBURG — Heroin — from the growing number of users and overdoses, to a recent increase in traffickers, coupled with too few addiction treatment options — is having an devastating impact in Berkeley County. In fact, the magnitude of the county's overdose problem is so severe — based on comparing the same population figures — that it leads metropolitan areas in Maryland, including Baltimore City. That's just one of the conclusions of a fed-

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➤ Additional information and charts, **A5**

**ONLINE**

➤ See the full 27-page report, <http://bit.ly/1L7hCTa>

eral report — "Heroin Treatment Needs Assessment for Berkeley County, West Virginia" — released Thursday by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Berkeley County received this HIDTA des-



Wikimedia Commons

ignation in September 2014. At that time, it joined 17 other state counties with this designation, which means they receive additional federal resources to address rising drug use rates and reduce drug abuse. For example, 2014 data in the report shows

33 heroin-related overdose deaths in Montgomery County, 26 in Frederick County, 24 in Berkeley County and 21 in Washington County, as well as 192 in Baltimore City.

See **EPIDEMIC**, Page A5

## Gunman kills at least 9 in Oregon

BY JEFF BARNARD AND GOSIA WOZNIACKA  
Associated Press

ROSEBURG, Ore. — A gunman opened fire at a rural Oregon community college Thursday, killing at least nine people before dying in a shootout with police, authorities said. The killer, identified only as a 20-year-old man, invaded a classroom and demanded that people stand up and state their religion before spraying more bullets, one student reported. Authorities shed no light on the gunman's motive and said they were investigating. Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said 10 people were dead and seven wounded after the attack at Umpqua Community College in the small timber town of Roseburg, about 180 miles south of Portland. He did not clarify whether the number of dead included the gunman. Earlier, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said 13 people were killed.



AP photo

Authorities respond to a report of a shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore.

It was unclear what led to the discrepancy. "It's been a terrible day," a grim-faced Hanlin said. "Certainly this is a huge shock to our community." Hours after the attack, a visibly angry President Barack Obama spoke to reporters at the White

House, saying the U.S. is becoming numb to mass shootings and that the shooters have "sickness" in their minds. Repeating his support for tighter gun-control measures, the president said thoughts and prayers are no longer enough in such situa-

tions because they do nothing to stop similar attacks from happening a few weeks or months later. He challenged voters wanting to confront the problem to vote for elected officials who will act. See **GUNMAN**, Page A2



Journal photo by Katiann Marshall

Potomac Edison power trucks sit in the company's lot at 901 Wilson Street in Martinsburg.

## Local utilities prepare for an incoming storm

BY KATIANN MARSHALL  
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MARTINSBURG — The Eastern Panhandle could potentially see what Kevin Witt, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said could be "the area's first big storm this year." The Eastern Panhandle and surrounding areas have already seen heavy rainfall this week, and emergency preparedness officials and meteorologists say it could get worse over the weekend. Witt said the path of Hurricane Joaquin will determine the severity of the rain and winds the Panhandle could experience. The area should expect light to moderate rain in the morning and then it will pick up this evening and overnight. One to two inches of rain is expected along with brief downpours throughout. Tomorrow, it will remain wet, with an additional one to two inches of rain expected. High winds are dependent on the storm moving through the

South, but wind gusts of 15 to 25 mph can be expected. Wilt said if the hurricane hits land and moves north, the area could see gusts up to 30 to 40 mph. Hurricane Joaquin has been declared a Category 4 hurricane. Witt said that an upper-level storm system moving over the Southeastern United States has caused the rain the Panhandle has seen, and it will continue through the weekend. Hurricane Joaquin is causing serious concern. "If Hurricane Joaquin makes its way into the Mid-Atlantic region, the Panhandle could experience four to six or even five to ten inches of rain," Wilt said. Witt said the community should be aware of the dangers of flash flooding. "Even without the hurricane touching down, there is still a high possibility of flooding," Witt said. Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., said it is closely monitoring the hurricane. See **STORM**, Page A2

## Local woman dedicates volunteerism to children, community

*Editor's note: This is the second of four stories recognizing the Eastern Panhandle women who were recognized as the 2015 Women of Distinction. The third story will run next Wednesday featuring Linda McGraw.*

BY SAMANTHA CRONK  
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MARTINSBURG — Since moving to Martinsburg in 2002, Bridget Cohee has looked for ways to become involved in the community, dedicating her time and talents to support local



Cohee

children, families and performing arts. Her desire to help others is one of the reasons Cohee was named a 2015 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital of the Shenandoah region. She and three other Eastern Panhandle women will be recognized for their communi-

ty contributions at a luncheon Oct. 14. "I really did not expect it at all. It's not what you're looking for when you do volunteer work. It's sort of overwhelming. But even to have been nominated, it's amazing. I've done this work because it's needed, and it feels good to feel like you've had a positive impact," she said. See **CHILDREN**, Page A2



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**Today's Poll**  
Have you or a member of your family been in Girl Scouts?  
Vote online at [www.journal-news.net](http://www.journal-news.net)

**Yesterday's Results**  
Should police officers be required to wear body cameras?  
**Yes 76%** **No 24%**

## 3 Things to know

- 1. KABUL COUNTERACTS TAKEOVER**  
Afghan forces push into the strategic northern city of Kunduz captured by insurgents.
- 2. CANNABIS FANS GRAB ANOTHER STATE**  
Oregon marijuana shops begin selling pot for the first time to recreational users.
- 3. WHAT IS WORRYING LEGAL EXPERTS**  
Police across the country are increasingly using GPS tracking devices hidden in stacks of cash, pill bottles and other objects to catch thieves.

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## Today's Forecast



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