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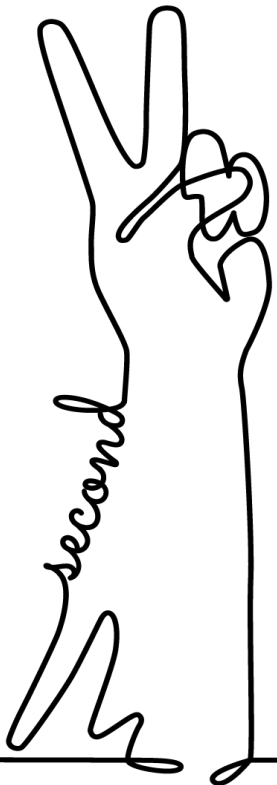


GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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Division 4

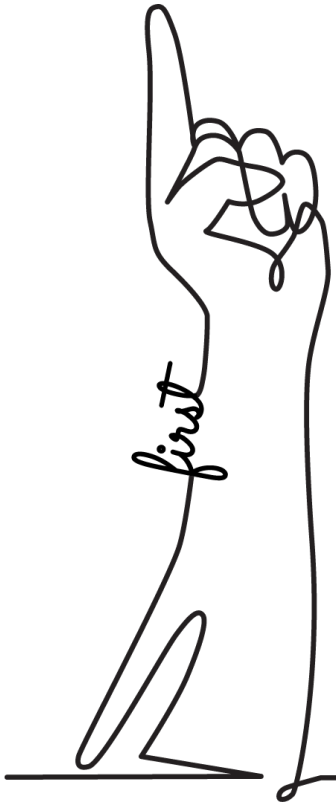
Second Place



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First Place



Delinquent Taxes
Inside
Tyler Star News

In our 145th year No. 1 Sistersville, WV 26175 September 21, 2022 One dollar 20 Pages 2 Sections



Knights Defeat Gilmer

After a tight first half Tyler Consolidated began to pull away in the second half to defeat Gilmer County 12-11 on Friday September 16 in Kidwell. Despite only having 15 players, Gilmer played the first two quarters as strong as they could and were only down 21-14 at halftime. Page 8



Wildcats Beat Parkersburg

Parkersburg picked up its final win of the season on Friday night in Parkersburg as they jumped on the Cats early and often to get the 61-8 win. Page 8



Golfers Hit The Greens

The Tyler Consolidated golf teams had a busy schedule last week, with three high school and two middle school matches. The weather cooperated and all five events were able to be completed as planned. Page 8

In other news ...

Page 7
The Tyler County Commissioners began their September 13th meeting at the courthouse in Middlebourne.

Obituaries

Page 2
Rita Barkes
V. Marlee Pevsaker
Larry Rice
Alma Thomas
Ronald Wilkinson



Oil & Gas Festival & Events Held In Sistersville

by Randy Rutherford Staff Writer
The 5th annual West Virginia Oil and Gas Parade and Festival was held this past weekend in Sistersville, West Virginia. The long running festival was founded to celebrate and pay tribute to the rich history of the oil and gas industry in the community. Activities and displays were built around this year's theme which was Past, Present and Future of the Oil and Gas Industry. During the festival, Lori Miller Smith, 2022 Oil and Gas Person of the Year, was honored at a special luncheon held at the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday in Sistersville. In addition, Lori Miller Smith, who serves as Director, Administrative Services of the GOVY and Oil Association, acted as Parade Marshall for the Grand Oil and Gas Trophy Parade. With the completion of the parade's return to its traditional route coming north on State

David Chisler of Core, West Virginia, poses with his circa 1915-1920 Reiff engine. The engine produces 25 horsepower at 160 RPM. The engine is cooled by a water thermosyphon loop. Ignition is by nickel hot tube. Lubrication is total loss. Total weight is 7800 pounds. Mr. Chisler is a twenty-three year enthusiast of antique engines. Students and guests celebrated the Route 2 and then proceeding parade's return to its tradition. Please see Oil, Page 11

PBA President Fairchild To Compete In Regattafest

Chris Fairchild, President of the American Power Boat Association, will be competing in the Formula 200 (1.20 mph) Class during the 11th annual Regattafest, September 24-25. Fairchild, newly crowned Formula 200 National Champion, will be driving for Kevin McCullough of Houston, Texas. This is the first time an APBA president has competed in New Martinsville during the 84 years of boat racing on the Ohio River. Fairchild's entry into the F. R. J. West of Los Angeles, fending champion of this



Smiling Faces

This week the sunshine camera got a good look at two happy fellows enjoying the day. Jesse, a pipe-liner, and Saucio, a Labrador Retriever, were running around on Saturday afternoon around their 2021 Harley Street Glide. The smile on their faces was as bright as the paint on the bike. The bike was recently painted by Fast Eddy's Tire and Paint in New Martinsville.



2022 Homecoming Queen Mallory Westbrook

by Randy Rutherford Sports Writer
A packed house turned out to support the Silver Knights football team, the award winning TCHS Marching Band and the half time crowning of the 2022 homecoming court on Friday, September 9th at TCHS in Kidwell. The football team did their part, steadily defeating the Toshiba Rebels by a score of 34-0, while the Pride of Tyler County performed a fabulous half-time show. The band was assisted by alumni members performing both pregame and halftime. The highlight of the night was the crowning of 2022 Homecoming Queen Mallory Westbrook. The weekend festivities continued into Saturday night as many students and their friends and family gathered for picture taking prior to the dance. The TCHS Homecoming Court included seniors Mallory Westbrook escorted by Justin Barker, Tanley McElldoway escorted by Austin VanCamp, Mason Maxwell escorted by Mason Nichols, Shayli Kocher escorted by Garon Broghman and Madeline Shepherd escorted by Carson Gentry. The junior court members included Erin Riffe escorted by Zane Billings and Malah Weber escorted by Owen Westbrook. Sophomores Haley Saulty escorted by Trenton Webster and Juliana Lattea escorted by Beau Thomas. Freshman Hailee Johnson escorted by Wyatt Keller and Kaile Grims escorted by Cole Lemasters. 2021 Homecoming Queen Karyona Rice, escorted by Ezra Reel, crowned Mallory Westbrook the 2022 Homecoming Queen for Tyler Consolidated. Tanley McElldoway was awarded first runner-up.

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Check out our Halloween Coloring Contest on page 8 sponsored by Anderson Orthodontist.
HAPPY HALLOWEEN
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE TYLER STAR NEWS AND WETZEL CHRONICLE
OCTOBER 26, 2022

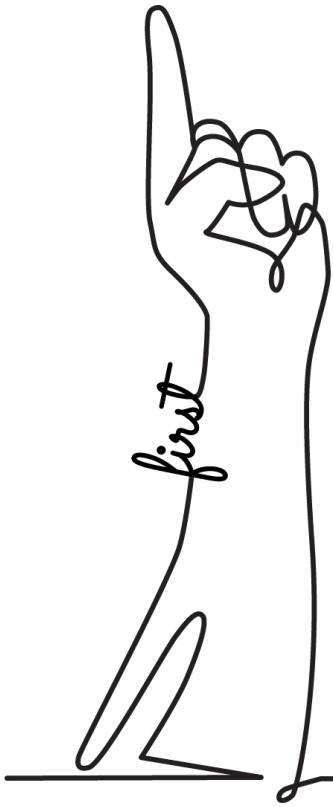
SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE 2022
MARCH 23, 2022
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE TYLER STAR NEWS AND WETZEL CHRONICLE

Sports Schedules March 23, 2022

High School		Track	
March 22	TBA	@ Rivale County	
March 29	TBA	@ Clay Bank	
April 1	TBA	@ Tyler Consolidated	
April 5	4:30	@ Tyler Consolidated	
April 8	4:00	@ St. Marys	
April 12	TBA	@ Clay Bank	
April 14	TBA	@ Rivale County Invitational	
April 16	4:30	@ Tyler Consolidated	
April 22	TBA	@ Clay Bank - Mason Dixon Championship - Senior Night	
April 26	TBA	@ John Marshall	
May 1	2:30	@ St. Charlesville, OH - OVAC Qualifying Meet	
May 7	10:00	@ St. Charlesville, OH - OVAC Championship	
May 13	TBA	@ St. Marys Regional	
May 30-31	10:00	@ Charleston State Track Meet	

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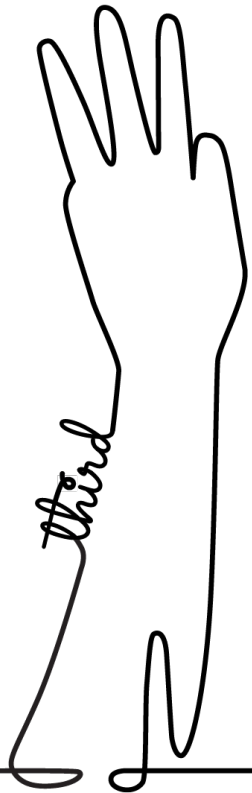
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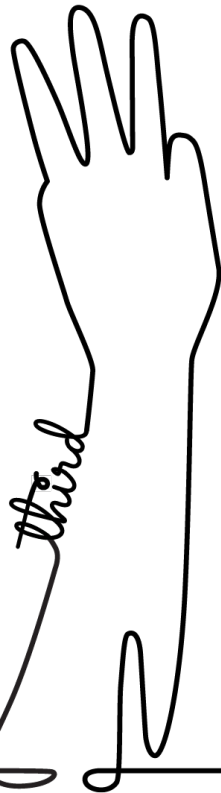
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Third Place



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SOME OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK
COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS, Page 3 | COMMENTARY, Page 7 | KABLE HONORED, Page 17

Mamas Best Food
TAMALE LADY, PAGE 9

COUGARS REPEAT AS CHAMPIONS, PAGE 13

CAREER OR VOLUNTEER?

Consultant advises county to oversee emergency ambulance system

BY TIM COOK
Sprint editor and reporter

CHARLES TOWN — For greater efficiency and cost savings, an existing Jefferson County agency should manage all of the county's emergency ambulance system, according to a consultant's recent analysis. Such a move would end the longstanding role the county's seven volunteer fire departments have played in responding to ambulance calls and equipping the ambulance service.

But the change would allow Jefferson County to operate its emergency ambulance system more efficiently with fewer ambulance crews stationed at fewer fire stations, according to Todd Sheridan, a senior associate with Fitch & Associates in Platte City, Missouri, a consulting firm the Jefferson County Commission hired to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the county's ambulance operations.

The county's seven fire departments currently have 11 street-ready ambulances, Sheridan reported. But based on the number of ambulance calls dialed each year and on the current number of county paid emergency responders, Fitch consultants calculate that the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency only needs two stations and four ambulances. (See **AMBULANCE**, Page 6)

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

What the report from Fitch & Associates states about Jefferson County's emergency ambulance operations. *Read the full report on the county government's home page—under "Headlines"—at jeffersoncounty.org.*

- The County should consider operating the entire emergency ambulance system under Jefferson County Government through the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency.
- The County should consider purchasing fully loaded (equipped) ambulances from the (located in the department) at fair market value. (See **FINDINGS**, Page 12)

SCHOOL BOARD OKs Gibson-Learn's performance

BY TIM COOK
Sprint editor and reporter

CHARLES TOWN — Superintendent Brady Shay Gibson-Learn met on Wednesday for current goals the Jefferson County Board of Education set for her. The decision formally allows the school board to begin negotiating a new contract for Gibson-Learn.

School board President Kathy Skinner verbally announced the outcome of the superintendent's performance evaluation after the school board held a closed-door executive session Monday night. Superintendent job performance reviews must be held in closed session by March 1, according to state law. (See **GIBSON-LEARN**, Page 20)

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Elliot sees need for youth to reconnect with society, family and peers

BY BONNIE WILLIAMSON
Sprint contributor

HARPERS FERRY — Something as simple as having dinner together as a family or conversation about daily experiences between family members all seem to be missing from too many families in our society today. Combine that with lockdowns and mask restrictions because of the pandemic, and too much dependence on social media, all are causing harm and behavior problems with children, as well as adults, according to mental health therapist Andrea Elliot.

"We want children to reconnect with society, family and peers, to communicate," said Elliot, 58, one of seven candidates seeking election to the Jefferson County Board of Education after the May 10 primary. "The pandemic made children feel isolated. Even before COVID, many children were turning to their devices used for social media and stopped communicating with those around them."

Despite the fact that many schools nationwide are beginning to no longer require mask wearing, Elliot cited statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stating that delays in speech are occurring. Some young children aren't talking at all. "Children mimic speech," she reported. "They watch mouths

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WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE LAST 6 YEARS:
Laura Storm has served as Jefferson County Circuit Clerk since 2017. During this time, she has successfully managed the county's court operations, ensuring the timely processing of cases and the efficient use of resources. She has also worked closely with the county government to improve the court system and enhance the public's access to justice.

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PROJECT UPDATE
U.S. 340 rockfall project to begin in 2023

BY TIM COOK
Sprint editor and reporter

HARPERS FERRY — A three-month closing of U.S. 340 to undertake work to protect motorists from falling rocks on U.S. 340 that was widely thought to begin next fall will actually start in the fall of 2023, according to West Virginia Division of Highway officials.

However, Jason C. Foster, a state highway engineer, last week sent a state clarifying to state lawmakers from Jefferson County that \$14 million in funding for the project won't be available until December.

"Given that the obligation date is 12/28/2022 (last month and last few days of the year), there is no way to construct this project until fall of 2023." (See **ROCKFALL**, Page 6)

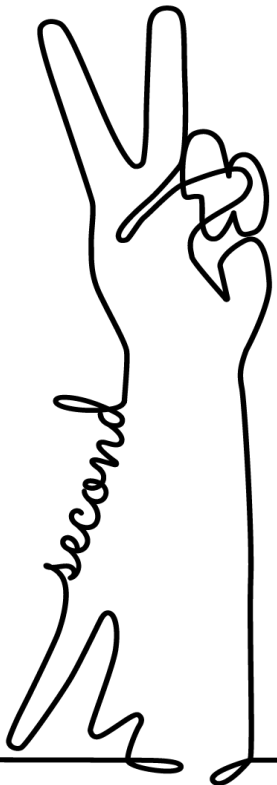
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2023 HONDA CRUITER EX AWD \$575/MTH	2023 HONDA CRUITER EX AWD \$159/MTH	2023 HONDA CRUITER EX AWD \$165/MTH	2023 HONDA CRUITER EX AWD \$499/MTH	2023 HONDA CRUITER EX AWD \$169/MTH

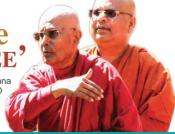
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'Come AND SEE'
 High View's Bhavana Society turns 40
 Living, Page 12



Hampshire Review
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Poaching's price: nearly \$47,000 Details, Page 8A

Hello, Hampshire! From Nathan Malley, Green Spring

Peter Wood, Paw Paw Thanks for subscribing

Up-tick: Lyme disease spreads rapidly across West Virginia

JIM KING *How hot?*
 One of the worst pests of summer is only getting worse.
 The state's Bureau of Public Health report of last week that cases of Lyme disease in West Virginia jumped nearly 50% last year — and more than 400% since 2015.
 The 1,546 cases in 2021 compares to 1,062 in 2020 and just 289 in 2015.
 Historically limited to the Eastern Panhandle, Lyme disease has progressively

become more common in northern counties, and central West Virginia. A report from the state shows that the disease was found in 52 of the state's 55 counties during 2020.
 Tandiya Wilkins, the Hampshire County Health Department director, said the state's spike in cases is coming from the disease's spread geographically.
 "It's not that much worse here," she said.

Cases are beginning to rise as summer approaches, but Wilkins said Lyme has become a year-round disease.
 "People think ticks are only in the summer," she said, "but you have those warm winter days and ticks come out."
 The county had an opening in Lyme in late February and early March, she said. Another spike comes every fall when tourists take to the woods.

In 2017, West Virginia was designated a high-incidence Lyme disease state. Lyme disease isn't the only tick-borne disease.
 Anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever have also been reported in West Virginia, with less than 10 cases each per year.
 "You can't count the number of those on one hand," Wilkins said.

MOSE WORRIES?
 3 ticks to watch out for — and the harm they can do.
 See **TICK** page 7A in **Page 8A**

'Joy, DISCOVERY & wonder'

CBMS music teacher to direct Wake Forest University symphony
JIM KING *How proud?*
CAPON BRIDGE — Capon Bridge music teacher James Hardwick knows what it's like to grow up in a rural area.
 He knows what it's like to need an outlet.
 He knows what it's like to have a music teacher make a difference in his life, and that's exactly why he does what he does.
 Hardwick — violist, educator, conductor and in general, a winner of many musical hats — has been the music teacher of CBMS for the last year.
 Come fall, he's taking a teaching position at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.
 Well, technically, he's taking an "Orchestra Director and Assistant Professor of Music" position, a big change from teaching middle school music, but not as unfamiliar one. He's worked at numerous colleges: Shenandoah University, Columbia College in South Carolina, USC, and has a handful of K-12 teaching gigs under his belt.
 "I got my start because of a teacher who gave me the opportunity to be successful," Hardwick remembered about his enlightening at Harriet Community NC. "I had an orchestra director who inspired me to play music, and to join the ensemble."
 And so in 6th grade, he did. That's a late start in the world of music, Hardwick explained, but every story has to start somewhere.
 After Hardwick finished his doctorate, he and his family were made whole.
 See **JOY** page 7A in



BUZZ THE NEWS
 James Hardwick, heading to North Carolina to conduct Wake Forest University.

Safely rest



MARK CARROLL *How sure?*
 "Tara" waits from the hughes of Chris Krentz as a fellow reenactor George Hampton Sr. of the 13th Virginia Regiment stands at attention amid the grave markers of the fallen from 180 years ago during the Civil War Decoration Day ceremony at Indian Mound Cemetery Saturday.

Corn's coming, but it won't be cheap

JIM KING *How sure?*
 If the weather holds and it looks like it will, one of Hampshire County's home-grown delights will arrive on time — sweet corn by the 4th of July.
 Like so much else in 2022, it won't come cheap, but it might not be as bad as you thought.
 "It's not going to be \$3 a dozen, but it's not going to be \$12 a dozen either," farmer Eric Cook promised Monday.
 Inflation has bubbled into the fields here.
 "Corn seed is definitely up,

but fertilizer and chemicals is the big problem," farmer John Arnold III says. "Both have doubled and even more."
 And that's not to mention the fact that they're paying for diesel to run those tractors across the field. Terry Conner, manager of the Southern States in Romney, observed.
 A field of corn that cost \$20 an acre is now \$30. That year costs \$600 an acre, that year cost \$800.
 War in Ukraine hasn't just pushed up fuel prices. It has
 See **CORN** page 7A in



Judge's conduct hearing Tuesday

JIM KING *How sure?*
MARTINSBURG — Judge Carter Williams has his day in court next Tuesday.
 The 2nd Circuit panel will start its case in front of a 9-member Judicial Hearing Board at the Berkeley County Judicial Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. for the 1st of what is projected to be a 2-day hearing.
 Williams is charged with 11 counts of judicial and professional misconduct, all stemming from his run-in with the law in Hardy County and 2 accusations when he apparently walked out of the Martinsfield Walmart without paying for the items he took to his car.
 The shopping charge was added to the other 10 in February and Williams elected to be heard in 2016, indicated in his response to the charge that he intended to ask for its dismissal.
 See **HEARING** page 7A in



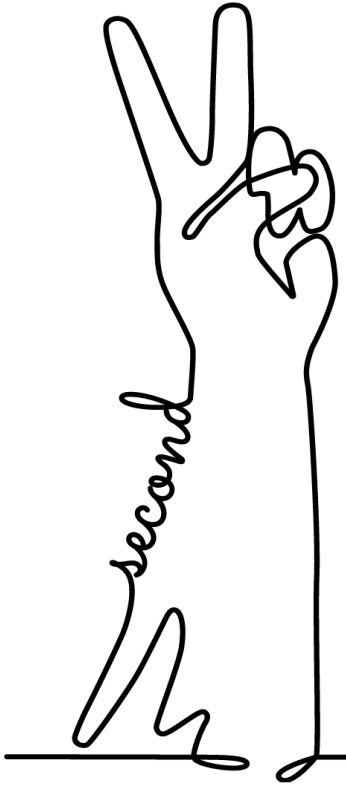
The last time Relay for Life had a "normal" fundraiser event was 2019 at HHS, with vendors, a car show and more.

New site, same goal on return

JIM KING *How sure?*
CAPON BRIDGE — After 2 years, Hampshire County's Relay for Life is moving back, this time in Capon Bridge.
 The Covid-19 pandemic dropped the banner on its in-person fundraising events for the last couple years, but the year's "Hope Your Party" held at the fire hall grounds in Capon Bridge, aims to bring everyone back face-to-face.
 Event organizer Patsy Wynn pointed out some of the big changes to the Relay. The chief difference being its move from the traditional Hampshire High School track to the east side of the county.
 "The thought was to try something different," she explained. "Relay for Life is looking at new options and new ways, so that's why we're going with what we're calling the 'Hope Your Party.'"
 See **SITE** page 7A in

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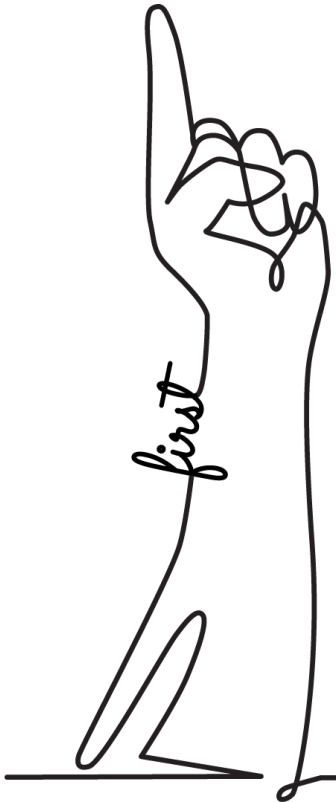
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GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 3

First Place



Commissioners, sheriff at odds over staffing

By JIM COOPER
Editor

Roane County Commissioners and Sheriff Brian Hickman continue to butt heads over law enforcement staffing. Commissioners Andy Corkrean, Merin Shamblin and Randy Whited declined for a third time last Thursday to hire a deputy recommended by Hickman. Whited, the commission president, again cited uncertainty over insurance costs for the department. The county's current insurance provider, WCorp, recently presented three options for coverage in the coming fiscal year, one with Deputy Mike King

ROANE COUNTY COMMISSION

excluded and two with King included that have varying deductibles. King is still on the county payroll despite being involved in shootings that have cost the risk pool more than \$1.2 million, with at least one increase pending. He is not working regular shifts for the county. The option excluding King would cost \$9,448 with covered persons involving King's actions subject to a \$25,000 deductible.

An option covering King with a \$50,000 deductible would cost \$105,073 while another with a deductible of \$100,000 would cost \$67,550. The county's coverage lapses on June 30. Whited said the county has yet to receive bids it solicited from three other potential insurance providers. As they had done twice previously, commissioners tabled Hickman's request to hire another officer. Dan D'Agostino, a retired law enforcement officer and member of Spencer City Council, stressed the need to have officers in local schools, citing the Troop school shooting earlier that week.

The local school positions were vacated during the recent school year. "I asked the sheriff of Roane County to make sure that was covered," Whited said. "There's not enough manpower," D'Agostino said. "That's debatable," Whited countered. Shamblin and Corkrean agreed with Whited. "That's (Hickman's) call," Corkrean said of personnel assignments. Hickman, who was not at the meeting, has said he would like to fill the school slots but not at the expense of reducing patrols.

Whited expressed frustration with Hickman, mentioning the purchase of dash cams more than a year ago that have yet to be installed in law enforcement vehicles. "The money's there and then it's not utilized," Whited said. "It's like beating your head on a wall." Commissioners have retained outside legal counsel from the Ripley firm of Harris & Holmes regarding the insurance issue. Whited said he hoped the quotes for coverage would be available by the next commission meeting, at noon on Thursday, June 9, after which a decision will be made. **STAFFING / 7A**

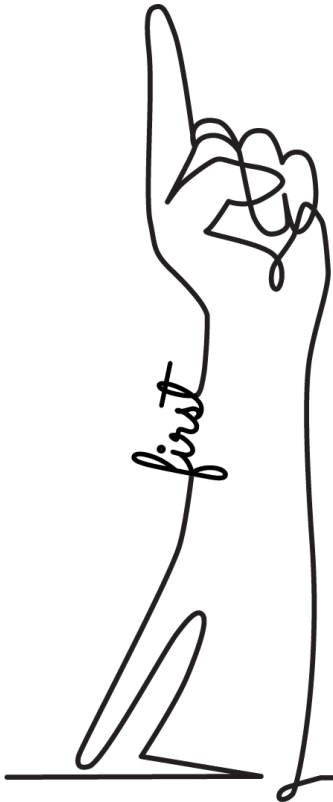


Feature: A legacy of service 1B



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The Times Record and Roane County Reporter



Roane records 37th virus death

By JIM COOPER
Editor

Roane County has recorded another death associated with the COVID-19 virus. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources announced the death of a 77-year-old man last Thursday. The listing was part of the DHHR's ongoing reconciliation with official death certificates. Roane has now totaled 27 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The number of active cases in the county dropped from 19 to 16 this week. The infection rate, one of two indicators of virus threat, dropped from 20.87 to 16.70 for Roane while the percentage of positive tests per 1,000 also fell, from 8.97 to 7.06.



The numbers kept Roane in the yellow level on the DHHR's virus threat map this week. Thirty-five of the state's 55 counties were in the lowest risk green level, two more than last week. Neighboring Kanawha County remained among 20 counties to step up to yellow. There were 2,184 active cases reported Thursday for the state, down from 2,236 at the same time last week. There have been 3,256 total cases reported for the county during the pandemic. Statewide, the total number of cases reached 515,925. Deaths with the virus were listed at 6,949.

Principals to get pay raises

By DAVID HEDGES
Publisher

Principals will be getting pay raises under a proposal approved by the Roane Board of Education. The measure passed 3-2 last Thursday, with board president Jeff Mace, vice president Greg Boggs and James Kinney in favor and Darrin Harper and Eileen Richardson opposed. "We need to find a way to give everyone a raise," Harper said. Mace said it was "one step of a multi-step approach." Earlier this year Superintendent Dr. Richard Duncan proposed a plan to provide raises for all school employees, but board members feared that there was not enough revenue to pay for it down the road, after federal COVID funds were spent. Duncan said the increase that was approved would make Roane more competitive with principals' pay in nearby counties. "It puts us in the mid-range compared to our neighbors," Duncan said. Principals in Roane County are paid what they would earn as a teacher, which takes into account education level and years of experience, with a supplement based on each school's enrollment. With enrollment on the decline, those supplements have been falling. Daily supplements, which will replace supplements based on enrollment, will be \$1 for the school principal, \$12.50 for other principals and \$31 for assistant principals. **PRINCIPALS / 3A**



A gaggle of geese, including four goslings, take a gander at the cool waters of a Spencer lake stirred by a fountain. **JIM COOPER / SPENCER NEWSPAPERS**

Three charged with using drugs in park

By DAVID HEDGES
Publisher

Police arrested three people for allegedly using drugs including methamphetamine at a Spencer park, including a homeless woman facing a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Roane Sheriff's Deputy Ben Goodson was the first to arrive

at Griffith Park in response to a call at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21, that claimed three people were "shooting up" at the city-owned park on Fifth Street in the Alwood area of Spencer. Goodson said in his complaint he was "very familiar with the park, the traffic and the things that go on there."

A Spencer city police officer arrived a short while later and State Police also would get involved in the case as charges were filed. Goodson said he observed two groups at the park, including a young mother with two small children under a pavilion. The other group included a woman and two men at a picnic table on the other side of the playground.

On the table along with food, bags and trash Goodson said he saw a smoking device and other drug paraphernalia in plain view. He conducted a search of the three people and a small purse and backpack he said were in the area where the woman, identified as Cheryl Mershaw, was sitting. Inside the purse and backpack Goodson said he found two small bags of what appeared to be marijuana, a glass jar with a large bag of marijuana, scales, and other drug paraphernalia in **DRUGS / 7A**

FAMILY OUTING

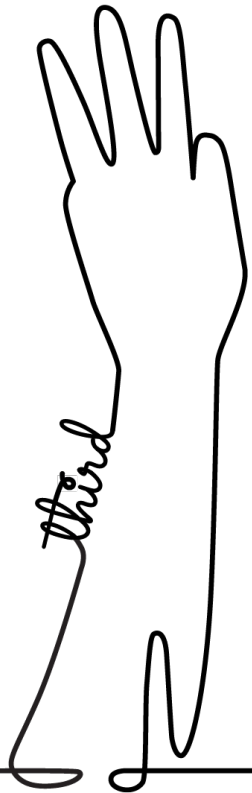
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GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

Third Place



WEATHER
 TODAY: Showers with a high of 75 and a low of 60.
 WEDNESDAY: Showers with a high of 81 and a low of 58.

Hearing on Jan. 6 riot is set
 See Page 2A

OVAC All-Star game held
 See Page 1B

The Weirton Daily Times

VOL. 94 NO. 302 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022 \$1.25

Justice giving second thought to gas tax holiday

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS Staff writer

It could be on that agenda. Speaking during his first-of-its-kind virtual briefing with reporters at the Capitol Monday morning, Justice said officials in the Governor's office and legislative leaders are still working out the details on a special session agenda and it's likely a special session of the Legislature will be called soon, and a gas tax holiday

Justice said he would release more details during a virtual briefing later this week. "I've done a lot of thinking about a gas tax holiday," Justice said. "I do think that we can help our folks, and I believe there is surely enough all the good stuff in regard to that is something that Democratic members of the

Senate and House of Delegates first called for a 180-day gas tax holiday in March on work after the end of the 60-day legislative session, using surplus tax collections to replenish the state road fund to cover the lost tax revenue. The state collects 57 cents per gallon of gasoline. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of gas

maybe, especially with fuel right now thinking about going on vacations and things like that, that if there is a way to help a little bit for any month, I don't think it would be detrimental to us from the standpoint of our ability to do it."

Democratic members of the

Names of Brooke fire victims released

By WARREN SCOTT Staff writer

WELLSBURG — The names of the individuals killed in a fire that destroyed a house at 50 March Drive on Thursday have been released by Brooke County officials, though it's still not been determined what caused the blaze.

The Brooke County Sheriff's Department has identified the two men killed in the fire as Alan Smith, who lived there, and Mickey Hunter of 2701 Charles St., Wellsburg.

Brooke County Sheriff Rich Beatty said Dennis and Marjorie Keller, a husband and wife living in the house, continue to receive treatment at an area hospital for burns they sustained in the fire.

Other officials reported the pair were transported by medical helicopter after fleeing from their home.

The sheriff said bodies of the two killed remain at the state medical examiner's office and the source of the fire hasn't been determined.

Beatty earlier noted damage from the fire was extensive but officials, with the state fire marshal's office out on an expedition.

Franklin Community Fire Chief Gerald McClain said the house collapsed before firefighters could meet to evacuate the two men.

Firefighters from Franklin

Justice giving second thought to gas tax holiday

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS Staff writer

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Democratic members of the

Weirton United Way hosts 40th Golf Classic

By CRAIG HOWELL Managing editor

WEIRTON — It was a smaller field of participants this year, but representatives of the Weirton United Way are still hopeful this year's Golf Classic will have a big impact on the 2022 campaign.

The 40th Weirton United Way Golf Classic took off Monday morning at Williams Golf and Country Club, bringing together 15 teams representing

business and civic organizations. "Everybody here realizes they're a late start, we're really happy," United Way Board President Don Glavin Jr. said. "Glavin expressed his gratitude for everyone who stepped forward to play in this year's classic, many of whom he said are regular participants who are without a director."

"Watching Don take the lead has

Structures along Allegheny Creek set to be razed soon

By WARREN SCOTT Staff writer

FOLLSANBEE — On Monday, Council learned one of two structures along Allegheny Creek will be razed in the near future while city officials are still working

to determine rate increases isolated today. He said the two-story brick building that stands over the creek at 511 Allegheny St. is expected to be removed later this summer.

Councilman at large John Cannelli said plans call for a house at 539 Allegheny St. Both buildings were acquired by the city through the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency's buyout program. The program's purpose is to prevent the federal agency from paying multiple times for damages sustained by heavy rainfall, has resulted in extensive flooding from the creek, which flows through a culvert extending under State Route 2 to the Ohio River.

A building in the creek of debris and trash, combined with heavy rainfall, has resulted in extensive flooding from the creek, which flows through a culvert extending under State Route 2 to the Ohio River.

A blessing

The Salvation Army in Weirton has a new way to help those in need, thanks to the efforts of the 2022 class of Leadership Ohio Valley. As part of the requirements for the program, the 14 participants were tasked with organizing and implementing a service project to benefit the community, choosing to construct a blessing box to store non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army's headquarters on Cove Road. The box was dedicated Sunday afternoon, and according to Capt. Gene Hunt, would be filled with food items Monday.

INSIDE
 Tacks placed on Panhandle Trail a worry
 See Page 6A

QUESTION OF THE DAY
 Today's question: How many mental health services provided to local schoolchildren?
 Log onto weirtondailytimes.com by 9 p.m. today to cast your vote.

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 A: The garage coast...
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 Q: Does a Will avoid Probate?
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 Q: What is an adjustable base good for?
 A: Adjustable beds are...
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Prep Football 2022

Ohio Valley High School Football

A Special Publication of the Steamerhead HeraldStar and The Weirton Daily Times

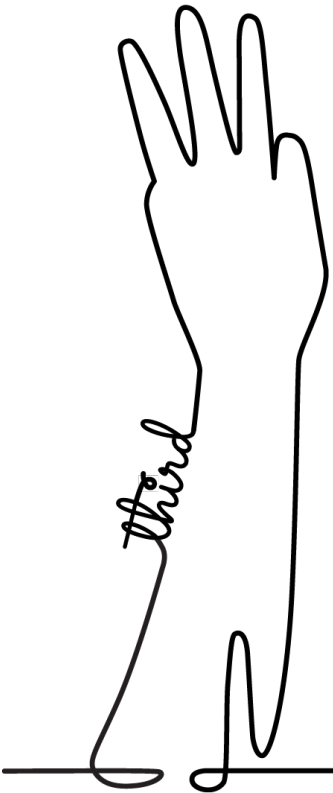
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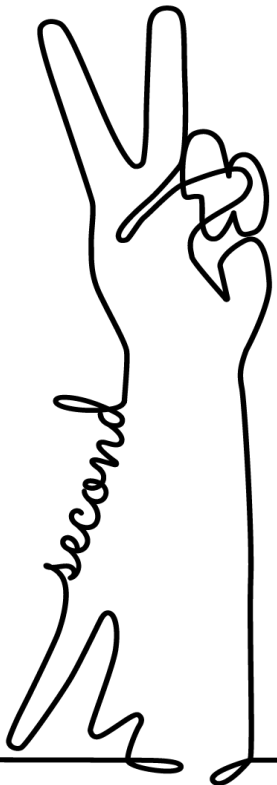


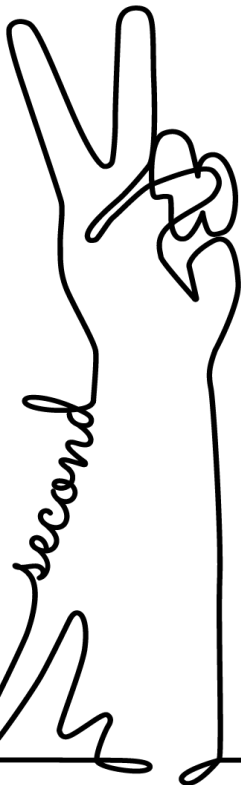
The Weirton Daily Times

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

Second Place





Bluefield Daily Telegraph



A town hall meeting hosted by Mountain State Justice was held at the Mercer County Courthouse to discuss and provide resources for the residents at Shadow Wood, Elkview and Gardner Estates for the recent mobile home lot rent rate increases. Staff photo by Jessica Nuzzo

Looking for legal answers: Frustrated mobile home owners seek solutions to lot rent hikes

By GREG JORDAN
PRINCETON — Frustrated residents of mobile home parks who learned recently that their lot rents were going up just in time for winter do tonight was to try and get as many people together as possible to gather information about individual situations to see what actions we they cannot contact their parks' out-of-state owners or get copies of their leases. "What we wanted to do tonight was to try and get as many people together as possible to gather information about individual situations to see what actions we they cannot contact their parks' out-of-state owners or get copies of their leases. "What we wanted to



Concrete may be poured for the center pier of the Grant Street Bridge by the end of next week. Staff photo by Jessica Nuzzo

Center pier work on Grant Street Bridge in Bluefield moves ahead

By CHARLES BOOTHIE
BLUEFIELD — Concrete may be poured for the center pier of the Grant Street Bridge by the end of next week. Bluefield City Engineer Kerry Stauffer told members of the City Board Tuesday progress is being made after some delays related to having "track time." Since the bridge crosses Norfolk Southern's tracks, details of when the tracks are clear and work can be done must be worked out with the railroad, he said. Heavy equipment is used for work on the center pier and a frame to hold the concrete has been completed. "Hopefully, that will not cause any further delays," Stauffer said of NS making sure the tracks are clear for the work. The center pier work has been an issue for many months, creating delays on the progress of the bridge construction. May after "soft rock" was discovered underneath which made the initial plan to anchor pilings for the center pier unusable. Stauffer said that a plan for Bryman Construction, the contractor building the bridge, to use cast-in-place concrete in which to anchor the pilings. However, the change of plan had to be approved by Norfolk Southern's engineering consultants, a process that took several weeks. The bridge crosses the NS tracks in the area of the bridge. A-5

Miyares, Allen, Kilgore take ride on Spearhead Trail system



Staff photo by Jessica Nuzzo

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, former Virginia Gov. and U.S. Sen. George Allen and former Attorney General Jerry Kilgore prepare to ride on the Spearhead Trail system near Boissevain, Va., Wednesday. Trail, A-5

Social Security payments set for big increase

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten of millions of older Americans are about to get what may be the biggest raise of their lifetime. On Thursday, the U.S. government is set to announce how big a percentage increase Social Security beneficiaries will see in monthly payments this upcoming year. It's virtually certain to be the largest in four decades. It's actually spending, and thus where Washington adjusts Social Security benefits by deferring. The increase is also one-size-fits-all, which means beneficiaries get the same raise regardless of where they live or how long they've worked. Here's a look at what's happening. WHAT'S THE BIG INCREASE, A-5

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 Ongoing business and community projects throughout the area

Progress in pictures
 A look at just a few of the historical achievements made in the southern West Virginia and Southeast Virginia regions

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 Bluefield Daily Telegraph Princeton Times
 Progress • Friday, March 25, 2022

Dynamic developments

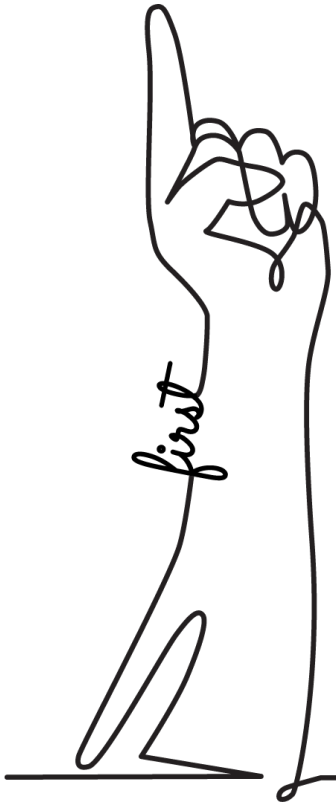
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GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

First Place



The Inter-Mountain

41 www.TheInterMountain.com Vol. CXXIX, No. CLXX



LEGISLATION
Bill passes to extend supervision of certain drug offenders. Page A3

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Elkins, West Virginia Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022



The West Virginia Raptor Center, which rehabilitates injured or sick birds of prey such as bald eagles, is moving to a farm on the border of Tucker and Randolph counties.

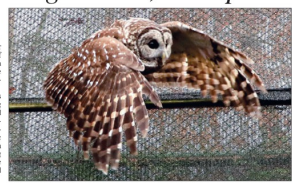
W.Va. Raptor Center Facility moving to Tucker, Randolph line

By Brad Johnson
Executive Editor

JENNINGSTON — The West Virginia Raptor Center is in the process of moving from Fountain to a farm in Jenningsston on the border of Tucker and Randolph counties.

The Raptor Center is focused on rehabilitating injured, orphaned and sick birds of prey, training educational ambassadors, providing public environmental education programs and supplying scientific data to share with other facilities and nonprofits.

“We’re excited to be moving to a new location that will allow us to expand our facilities and provide a better environment for our birds and staff,” said Brad Johnson, executive editor of The Inter-Mountain.



An image of a barred owl in flight is captured on the former grounds of the West Virginia Raptor Center.

COVID-19 numbers on decline locally

By Edgar Kelley
Staff Writer

ELKINS — After enduring one of the worst months for active COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began, local health officials can finally catch their respective breath as numbers continue to decline in the month of February.

“It really got bad in the month of January. It was definitely one of our worst months since the pandemic began,” Bonnie Woodrum, the Randolph-Elkins Health Department’s infectious disease specialist, said. “We’ve had a little over 600 (active cases) this month so far, but they have been trending down despite a couple outbreaks here and there.”

“Things are definitely calming down,” Woodrum said. “We had a little over 600 (active cases) this month so far, but they have been trending down despite a couple outbreaks here and there.”

West Virginia Caring chaplain receives national award

By Edgar Kelley
Staff Writer

ELKINS — West Virginia Caring chaplain Rick Price was awarded the Caregiver of the Year Award Wednesday, an honor which is handed out annually by the Washington D.C.-based CcCa Foundation.

For the past eight years the CcCa Award Program, which was established in 2013 to recognize caregivers who provide exceptional care, has given out the award to individuals that provides exceptional caregiving through a program that is designed to improve patient care. Price, who was one of 10 finalists for the national award, received nomination from his peers, families of patients and guests of the West Virginia Caring facility in Elkins.

“I don’t know what to say other than the fact that it is very humbling to be singled out for this award. Price failed during the ceremony, “Good bless everyone who had a part in making this happen.”

Part of the nomination letter for Price that was submitted to the CcCa Foundation during a ceremony Wednesday, pictured with Price is West Virginia Caring Vice President of Human Resources Steve Smith.



West Virginia Caring chaplain Rick Price, right, was awarded the Caregiver of the Year Award during a ceremony Wednesday. Pictured with Price is West Virginia Caring Vice President of Human Resources Steve Smith.

WEATHER
TODAY: Rain
HIGH 62° LOW 24°

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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Community	A8	Signs	A2
Financial	A6	State	A3
Horoscope	A10	Weather	A4

Good afternoon,
Lula!
Thank you for subscribing.

Today's good news: D&E celebrating National TRIO Day, page A3

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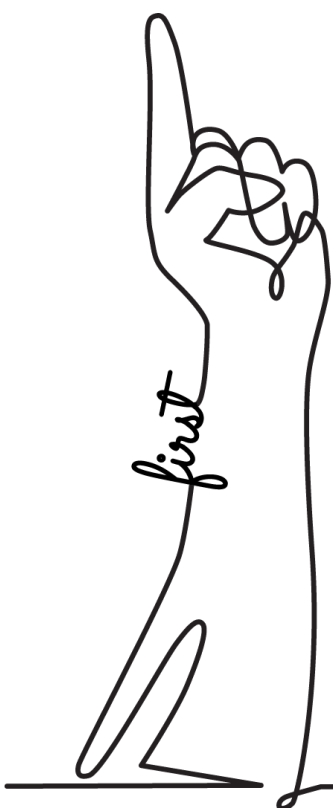
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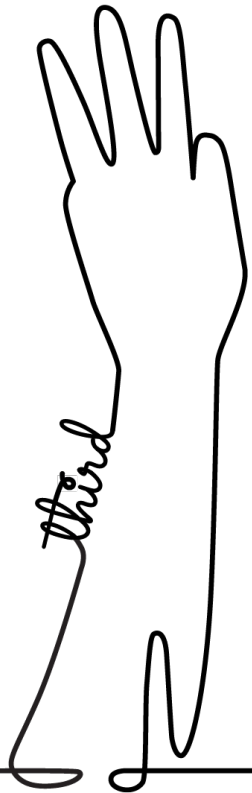
Advertisement grid for Game Day featuring various local businesses and services.

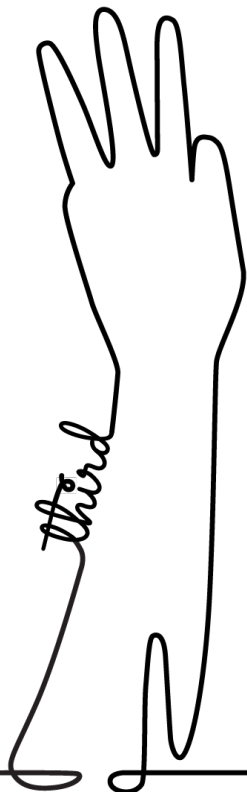


GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division I

Third Place





The Register-Herald

THE WEEKEND



MINERS SPLIT DOUBLEHEADER WITH PAINTS. **Sports • 1B**

SCHOOL DROP-OFF ZONE WORK CONTINUES. **• 2A**

Pipestem Peaks Zipline
tour guide Emily Senber
looks at the view before
taking off through the
treetops Monday in
Pipestem. **Business • 14A**

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Women's rights at issue 173-YEAR-OLD ABORTION LAW IN COURT MONDAY

By Matthew Young
FOR THE REGISTER-HERALD

On Monday, Kanawha County Circuit Court Judge Tora L. Salango is scheduled to provide over a critical moment in history, as she adjudicates the current state of a woman's right to abortion in West

Virginia. A lawsuit filed on June 29 by the ACLU of West Virginia, the Cooley Law Firm and Mountain State Justice – and on behalf of the Women's Health Center of West Virginia – seeks an injunction preventing the enforcement of the state's 173-year-old abortion code. "Women never voted on it," said Huntington resident and social media influencer Josh Keck, while speaking with The Register-Herald. "It is as if it was written by men who died 150 years ago. It is completely foundationally wrong to say that you don't have a voice and you don't have an opinion."

ABORTION • 6A

BIDEN BOWS TO MANCHIN'S CALL

By Alan Fram
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden seemed to bow Friday to Sen. Joe Manchin's demand for a slimmed-down economic package, telling Democrats to quickly push the election-year measure through Congress so families could "sleep easier" and enjoy the health care



San Joe Manchin demands slimmer economic package.

MANCHIN • 6A

ROE V. WADE. HOUSE VOTES TO RESTORE RIGHTS; INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ABORTION • 11A



PHOTOS BY RICH BARBERO FOR THE REGISTER-HERALD
Ram Asalthambi, left, and Thomas Spencer, Woodrow Wilson students, look over the wetlands project they are working on at the entrance of the high school.

By Josephine E. Moore THE REGISTER-HERALD

Two Woodrow Wilson High School students are looking to raise roughly \$100,000 to transform an underutilized area of their school into something that can benefit the entire community.

While this may seem like a lofty goal, incoming sophomore Ram Asalthambi and Thomas Spencer say they already have a plan to do just that.

Since February, Asalthambi and Spencer, who represent their class as president and vice president,

have been working to raise funds to convert the wetlands area at the front of Woodrow Wilson into a green that can be utilized by the school and enjoyed by the community.

Initial plans included the addition of a new bridge and overlook.

WETLAND • 6A



Potter wasp feeding on a flower in the pollinator garden that's part of the wetlands project at Woodrow Wilson High School.

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THE REGISTER-HERALD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022 • PAGE 11D

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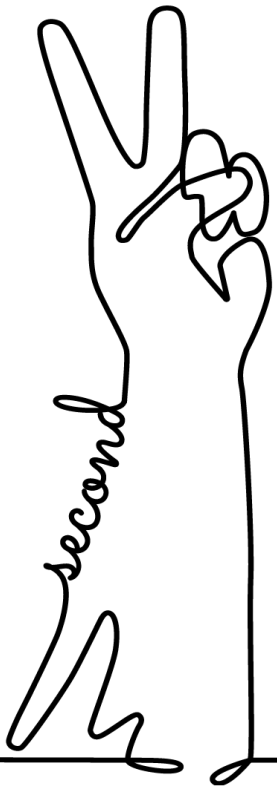
Good Luck Grizzlies!

Good Luck
ENCE PATRIOTS!

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division I

Second Place



No Punches Pulled

Attack Ads Abound In 2nd District Primary

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS
For the Sunday News-Register

CHARLESTON — With just about 10 days until the May 10 primary election, U.S. Reps. David McKinley and Alex Mooney are trying to win over the new 2nd District voters. But the first thing most voters will see will be the onslaught of negative mailers and broadcast advertisements.

The campaign to win the Republican primary between McKinley, in his sixth term representing the old 1st Congressional District, and Mooney, in his fourth term representing the McKinley for his vote to old 2nd Congressional District, has been ugly since the West Virginia Legislature combined parts of their district into the new northern 2nd District.

Mooney immediately started running advertisements attacking McKinley for being one of 13 Republicans in the House of Representatives to vote for the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November. The bill also was supported by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Sen. Moore Capito, R-W.Va., but it was opposed by Mooney and 3rd District Rep. Cand Miller, who has a Republican primary of her own in the new southern 1st Congressional District.

McKinley, the announcer on one Mooney ad says, "McKinley backed (President Joe) Biden for a \$1 trillion spending spree that's creating record inflation. David McKinley sold us out."

Mooney also has attacked McKinley for his vote to create a bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The bill failed, and Mooney is under federal criminal investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics.

Mooney has maintained his innocence and the House Ethics Committee is expected to release its findings later in May. But in one McKinley campaign ad, it claims Mooney is under "federal investigation" despite the fact it is not clear that there are any federal criminal investigations of Mooney beyond the congressional investigation.

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For Many, There's Nowhere To Turn

City Talks Need For Low-Barrier Shelter

By ERIC AYRES
Staff Writer

WHEELING — City officials are working to put together a comprehensive plan — one that will almost certainly need a trained staff and significant funding — to tackle the growing issue of homelessness in the city.

Members of the Health and Recreation Committee of Wheeling City Council met late Friday afternoon with the city's new homeless liaison, Melissa Adams, as well as Mark Phillips, chief operating officer of Catholic Charities of West Virginia, and Crystal Blane of Project HOPE. The purpose of the meeting was to begin official discussions about creating a low-barrier homeless shelter in Wheeling.

Wheeling Vice Mayor Chad Thuman, left, and Mark Phillips, chief operating officer for Catholic Charities of West Virginia, discuss the need for a low-barrier homeless shelter in Wheeling on Friday during a meeting of the Health and Recreation Committee of City Council.

Photo by Eric Ayres

Ogen Newspapers Half Marathon Returning To Streets Of Wheeling

By DEREK REDD
Managing Editor

WHEELING — For more than four decades, the Ogen Newspapers Half Marathon Classic has been a staple of the Wheeling summer schedule. Tens of thousands of runners have treated the course as a celebration of health and physical fitness for 13.1-mile course they remember from many years past.

That summer staple has been on the shelf since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year, the race is returning to the joy of runners and walkers throughout the Ohio Valley and beyond.

The 44th running of the People are excited about it."

The half-marathon walk Marathon Classic will be held Saturday, May 28, at 28, with the half-marathon part of the Ogen Newspapers run following at 7:50 a.m. Runners and walkers are encouraged to celebrate of ready to return to the family.

The race director Joe Lovell said of the Wellness Weekend. "We're able to put this on at the same level as before. It adds a lot of excitement."

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An Algorithm That Screens For Child Neglect Is Raising Concerns

By SALLY HO and GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

For family law attorney Robin Frank, defending parents at one of their lowest points, when they risk losing their children — has never been easy. The job is never easy, but in the past she knew what she was up against when squaring off against child protective services in family court. Now, she views she's fighting something she can't see an escape algorithm whose statistical calculation reliability and its potential to harm racial disparities in the child welfare system. Related issues have already torqued some jurisdictions' plans to use predictive models, such as state of Illinois.

According to new research from a Carnegie Mellon University team obtained exclusively by AP, Allegheny's algorithm in its first years of operation showed a pattern of flagging a disproportionate number of Black children for a "mandatory" neglect investigation, when she compared with white children. The independent researchers, who received data from the county, also found that social workers disagreed with the risk scores the algorithm produced about one-third of the time.

County officials said that social workers can always override the tool and called the research "hypothetical."

AP Photo
Attorney Robin Frank poses for a photograph outside the Family Law Center in Pittsburgh on March 17. A longtime family law attorney, Frank fights for parents on one of their lowest points — when they risk losing their children.

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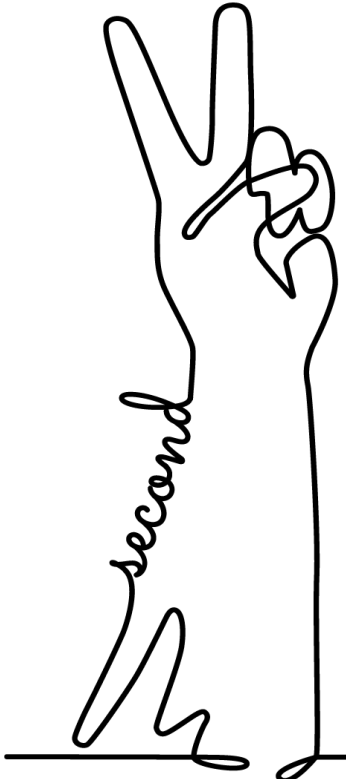
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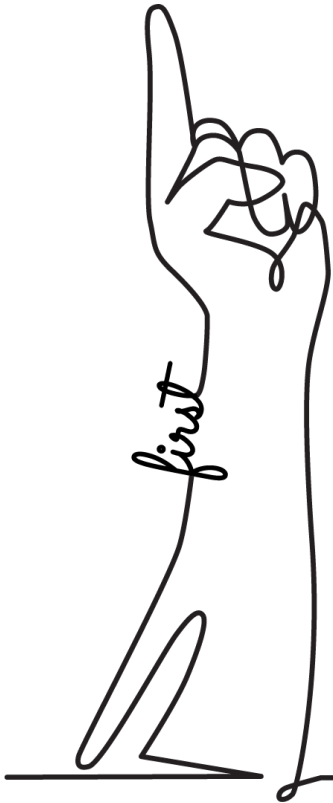


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2016 FLOODING AFTERMATH

Nicholas school rebuilds take hit

Richwood bids axed at \$17M over budget; Summersville might be high, too

By RYAN QUINN
ryan@charlestonmail.com

Monday brought yet another significant bump in the now nearly 6-year-long road to rebuilding three Nicholas County schools abandoned after the June 2016 flood.

The Nicholas Board of Education rejected bids to rebuild Richmond Middle and High

schools after the lowest bid came in roughly \$7 million higher — over 20% more — than the previous \$30 million estimate.

And that estimate had included nonconstruction costs, like architect fees. Construction and construction contingency alone was supposed to cost only \$24 million, yet the low bid from

Paramount Builders for just construction came in at an asto-

\$47 million — roughly double. The two other bidders said they could do the work for \$49 million or \$50 million.

In a statement, the school system blamed the high-er-than-expected bids on the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain shortages, re-

cord-setting inflation levels, and the market volatility surround-

Last year, the Fayette County school system's Meadow Bridge school project saw its lowest bid come in at \$24 million, double a \$12 million estimate.

Nicholas hasn't yet solicited bids from companies to build the Glade Creek Business Park school complex, near Summers-

ville. There, the board insteads

Dems push gas tax pause

By JOE SEVERINO
joe@charlestonmail.com

Leading West Virginia Democrats on Tuesday again called for the state to suspend its tax on gasoline, pointing to Maryland's dropping prices as proof that the plan could work.

Democrats called a news conference to respond to dismissive claims made last week by Gov. Jim Justice and Republican legislative leadership.

Senate Minority Leader Stephen Baldwin, D-Greenbrier, said that, after Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan signed a 30-day gas tax pause into law Friday, neighboring residents already are enjoying savings at the pump. Hogan is not the only East Coast governor getting in on the action.

Today, versus a week ago in Maryland, prices are down about 40 cents a gallon, Baldwin said. "Georgia has done it. Florida and Virginia are planning on doing it, as well."

According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of gas in West Virginia at this writing was \$4.09. In Maryland, the average was \$3.70. A week ago, Maryland's average was \$4.25.

Baldwin shared the concerns of Senate President Craig Blair, Berkeley, and House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, St. Charles, that suspending the gas tax would complicate state road bonds that are funded by gas tax revenue.

But the state's budget deficit for 2022 is projected to reap a \$1 billion budget surplus this summer, Baldwin said.

SEE GASTAX, B4

Jury picks in officer slaying will begin Monday

Judge holds out on Phillips' request for venue change

By LORI KERSEY
lori@charlestonmail.com

Jury selection will begin next week in the trial of a man accused in the 2020 shooting death of Charleston police officer.

Kanawha County Circuit Judge Jennifer Bailey said Tuesday she will wait to make a ruling on Joshua Phillips' motion to move his trial out of the county. The case will proceed with the judge and both sides questioning potential jurors starting Monday.

Phillips is accused of shooting and killing Police Officer Casie Johnson as she responded to a parking complaint in December 2020. His attorneys argue that Phillips cannot get a fair trial in the city because

summer revealed a thriving scene, full of not just bars and restaurants but rows of retail establishments.

Roanoke's downtown gained about 2,000 additional living units this way. A visit last year down there, King said, revealed a thriving scene, full of not just bars and restaurants but rows of retail establishments.

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FROM FLOWERS TO FLATS



The building that once housed Food among the Flowers at the corner of Leon Sullivan Way and Quarrier Street in Charleston could see new life as downtown housing.

Corner of Quarrier and Leon Sullivan eyed for housing

By GREG STONE
greg@charlestonmail.com

ANOTHER HULKING, empty building in Charleston's core is targeted for a residential, this time by a Roanoke, Virginia, firm that has seen the process work in its backyard.

Brian Wisniewski and Associates appeared last week before the Kanawha County Commission asking that officials freeze the property valuation for \$200,000 for the next 10 years, provided the company can close a purchase. The arrangement in real estate is known as a Pilot program, meaning Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Wisniewski has an option to buy the 35,000-square-foot structure, owned by former Food Among the Flowers proprietors Jim Fletcher and David Fishman. It is known as the Professional Building, Fletcher said.

The two paid \$400,000 for the structure in 1976, Kanawha County tax maps show.

The property tax concession — and the group's ability to attract state and federal historic tax credits — is crucial, said Adam Markwood, managing director of investments for Wisniewski.

"We're interested in more than just the building. We need both those programs, including the Pilot. Without them, the project might not happen."

Markwood said his firm is prepared to



Brian Wisniewski and Associates, of Roanoke, Va., went before the Kanawha County Commission last week, seeking to ease arrangements to purchase the building.

invest \$5.5 million into the project, including for more than 20 years as Roanoke has turned a slew of office buildings into homes. Roanoke's downtown gained about 2,000

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Clay County to discuss Elk River Trail right-of-way dispute

By MIKE TONY
mike@charlestonmail.com

The Clay County Commission will hold a special meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday in the County Courthouse commission room.

Residents along a 2.75-mile stretch of the trail from near Hartland to near Clendenin have argued that the Elk River Railroad Co. doesn't own the right-of-way that runs past their homes.

The Summersville-based company plans to sell the old rail

bed to the state to convert it into a segment of the Elk River Trail. Commission President Frank King said she hopes state Natural Resources and Highways officials will be on hand to answer questions and hear residents' complaints.

"We'll try to get something accomplished about it. If they take the trail back under ownership, how the people will be able to get

into their homes and their property down there," King said. Opponents say the project is poised to leave homes and local and state governments hoodwinked. Landowners say the railroad misled the state by claiming an ownership interest in the right-of-way past their homes.

Gov. Jim Justice and Elk River Mayor Joe Justice said they will support the project. King said she will support the project. King said she will support the project.

SEE CHARLEY WEST SAYS, B1

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CHARLEY WEST SAYS: Is renovating the former Food Among the Flowers building into housing considered turning Roanoke into a bedroom town?

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