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April 5, 2019



Construction to start on Hannibal power plant

By Charles Winslow

HANNIBAL, Ohio – While the region still awaits the final decision on the multi-billion-dollar ethane cracker plant proposed for Shadyside, Belmont County, construction on the 485-megawatt natural gas-fired electrical generating station at the former Ormet location in Hannibal is set to start immediately.

“This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by our team and I’m very proud of this accomplishment. During this process we have had great cooperation from Ohio officials at all levels of state and local government. This project will be a source of highly efficient, low-cost energy for Ohio and a source of new jobs for the community of Hannibal, Ohio. Construction will commence immediately and we expect per our fixed price/date certain con-

tract that the plant will be operational by November 2021,” said Joe Adams, CEO of Fortress Transportation and Infrastructure Investors LLC, in a recent press release.

The \$588 million project, first announced in April 2017, will utilize a GE 7HA.02 gas turbine and include a GE steam turbine and generator and a heat recovery generator. GE boasts that its 7HA.02 gas turbine, which will be manufactured in Greenville, South Carolina, is the world’s largest and most efficient gas turbine. The generators will be built in Schenectady, New York.

The power station is being built at the site of the former Ormet aluminum smelter, which closed in 2013. The location was acquired by Niagara Worldwide and trans-

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PC Council addresses fears of PCE contamination

By Charles Winslow

PADEN CITY – Paden City Council’s monthly meeting played out before a standing room only crowd April 1 as city residents expressed fears and concerns over the announced PCE contamination in the water supply and learned what the city is doing about it.

At the March meeting, and in a subsequent mailing to city residents, it was disclosed that the chemical tetrachloroethylene, also known as perchloroethylene, (PCE) had been detected in city water wells at an average concentration of 5.5 parts per billion (ppb), exceeding the US EPA’s maximum contaminant limit (MCL) of 5.0 ppb.

As a result, Paden City’s plight made the national news and even caught the attention of noted environmental crusader Erin Brockovich.

The 35-minute public discussion started with long-time Paden City resident Tonya Schuler asking Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser and the council: “What’s going on with [the contamination]? Where are we at with it?”

The mayor said the city is working on getting funding in place to deal with the problem, with Logan Alastanos, a representative from Thrasher Engineering, adding, “This week we are submitting for emergency funding through the USDA.”

To address the contamination, Thrasher Engineering, who is handling the multimillion-dollar upgrades to the city water system, is working to expedite design and installation of a new six-tray air stripper, which was already part of the planned upgrades, but in response to the contamination and citizens’ concerns, the city is asking the USDA to quickly fund that section of the project.

Air stripping is an environmental engineering technology used for the purification of groundwaters and wastewaters containing volatile compounds by moving air through contaminated groundwater or surface water in an above-ground treatment system. Air stripping removes chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are chemicals

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STDs, hep C jump in Tyler, Wetzel counties

By Daniel Tyson

Editor’s note: First in a three-part series.

Tyler and Wetzel counties are experiencing an increase in some sexually transmitted diseases as well as hepatitis C, which is a cause for concern at the local health department.

During the first 10 weeks of 2019, nearly two dozen cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea were confirmed at the Wetzel/Tyler Health Department.

In January 12 STD cases were confirmed, six in February and five through mid-March, according to the health department officials.

Those figures, health department nurse Ashley Guiler explained, don’t

include cases confirmed at other area medical facilities.

“I only see what’s coming to the health department,” she said. “I am not seeing the numbers of STDs coming to the [local] ERs or other medical clinics.”

Guiler said the confirmed numbers of STDs are up from last year, but those records were not readily available last week.

Staff at the health department, which offers confidential and free testing and treatment of STDs, said they are seeing an equal number of men and women contracting the diseases. Guiler said this year the ages for people testing positive ranges from 14 to 47.

When someone comes in showing

signs of an STD, Guiler said, treatment starts that day. “We don’t wait for the results to come back. We start treatment immediately” because results can take up to seven days to return.

Symptoms for chlamydia include burning during urination, pelvic pain and an abnormal discharge in males and females. Signs of gonorrhea are swollen or painful testicles and yellow/green discharge in men and pain during urination and abnormal discharge in women, the nurse explained.

“The terrible part of gonorrhea is that if untreated, it can cause infertility in both men and women,” she said.

Also, if a person contracts gonorrhea multiple times, the virus mutates and

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Trees cleared at proposed ethane cracker location

SHADYSIDE, Ohio – While the final investment decision has yet to be announced for the multibillion ethane cracker complex slated for the former R.E. Burger Power Station location in Shadyside, Belmont County, more site preparation has been done.

During the first week in March PTT Global America and its partner, South Korea-based Daelim Industrial Co. Lmt, announced they had hired a local company to clear trees from a 140-acre section of the proposed facility’s site.

The tree clearing had to be completed by March 31 because state and federal rules prohibit cutting trees between April 1 and Oct. 15 to protect the endangered Indiana Bat, which may mate and roost in trees during the summer months.

PTT Global America, a subsidiary of Thailand’s PTT Global Chemical, and Daelim have purchased more than 468 acres.



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BACK ROADS

Old New Castle, now Laings

By Charles Winslow

I was bound to find one, sooner or later. A place that was either so wholesome or so boring (is there really a difference?) that it has left very little trace down through the years. Most small places had stories that managed to make it into print; half of the people in Cochranville (current population zero), for example, attested they witnessed the UFO back in the 1890s. The matron of the old hotel in Cameron beat a traveler with a coal shovel and bragged about it in the local paper, the Jolly Brownsvillians declared their independence and Graysville, ah, Graysville – their reputation was the stuff about which books are written.

But Laings, in the Green Township of Monroe County? Hours of staring at a computer screens and leafing through local histories has left me with the impression I have finally found what possibly could be the dullest established community in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

“Maybe they were just quiet people or they liked to keep to themselves,” speculated my wife, after noting my frustration. Possibly. Or, perhaps, it was simply a really peaceful (read dull) place to live.

It showed promise, it really did. First known as New Castle, the tiny hamlet is located in the rolling hills just nine miles south of the Monroe County seat of Woodsfield. It was settled in the 1820s and '30s by the same type of hearty frontier settlers who came to the region seeking their fortunes and made names for themselves – and their communities – as they lived tough lives carving a living out of the forests.

As the land was cleared and farms developed, roads were pushed through the region. The Spirit of Democracy, the main newspaper of the time, carried road building notices that showed New Castle as having the potential of being an important agricultural center. It was on the main path (which now includes State Route 255) that runs from Woodsfield to Sardis. Several early roads, in fact, led into New Castle and farmers who were brave enough – and had draft horses strong enough – could move their produce directly over the narrow and hilly road a few miles to the river landing in Sardis to be loaded onto the river packets.

In 1825, as more families began to settle the area, a log school was built along the road for local children to attend – as long as their parents could scrape up the two or three dollars cash tuition it cost per term. In February 1832 the first post office in Green Township was opened there and christened Laing's Post Office, named after a local farmer, as was common practice at the time.

The Myers brothers, Patrick and William, opened a general store and, in the mid-1830s formally laid out 40 plots of land as the center of what they named New Castle, possibly as a nod to the Scottish and English ancestry of some of the first settlers in the region. Laing being Scottish, after all. Two doctors opened a surgery and general practice there and in the 1850s a cabinet-maker advertised he was open for business.

The first controversy, if that's the right term for it, occurred in 1840s when the Post Office Department,



which published the mail routes and delivery times in the Spirit of Democracy, dropped Laing's Post Office from the list of mail stops in the county. The newspaper noted this was an error that would be corrected.

In February 1845 the Spirit published a letter to the editor, the first one found referencing the village, stating “a radish grew in New Castle, Green Township in the garden of Harvey T. Mitchell measured 22 inches in length, 20 inches in circumference, weighing 11-3/4 pounds. The letter continued to challenge “who can beat that? Mr Yost (presumably another local grower) can't quite come it with his potatoes.” Quite a feat, most radishes grown in Ohio are harvested when they are 1/2-inch to 1-1/2 inches across, according to the modern-day Ohio Farm Bureau.

Another letter, also printed in the 1840s and penned by an indignant resident, wanted to set the record straight: he did not suggest that the county should reassess property values, as was the rumor being spread around at the time.

The Spirit also references another letter they had received in August 1853 with regards to the hot-button topic of the day, temperance. The letter's author stated: “The resolutions passed by a meeting recently held in New Castle, do not express the sentiments of the temperance men of that township.” In a very uncharacteristic move, the newspaper stated “as we do not desire to get up in a discussion on this subject in our columns, we think it unnecessary to publish the letter.”

At other times, however, the Spirit did get involved in the debate – the controversy was good for sales.

The use of the name New Castle slowly diminished following the Civil War and the little village was known then on as Laing's or simply, Laings. Although it was misspelled in Caldwell's Atlas of Monroe County, 1898, as Laines.

In the years following the War Between the States,

things continued on as usual in the little rural community. In 1929 the main road was paved through town, ending the misery of dust and muddy travel to Woodsfield. The townsfolk marked that momentous occasion with a celebration that included singing, speeches and an ox roast.

A one-room schoolhouse was built in the early 1890s and a second room was built when high school classes were added in 1917. It burned in the mid-1920s. A new and greatly expanded school, also housing all grades, was then built. It had four rooms and, again, was destroyed by fire in 1936 to be replaced by a brick school that continued in operation until classes were combined into River in 1957. Later the old brick building became an insurance office and now houses the Monroe water system and a community center.

The Post Office outlived the general store it was located in, The Laings Store, a two-story, wood-framed building built in 1886 and closed in November 1970. The post office remained in the building through the Bicentennial, moving into a converted construction trailer next to the Laings Church of Christ in November 1976. Window service was unceremoniously discontinued in 2005 and the office was permanently stricken from the roles in 2010.

Today, Laings remains what it has always been, although probably even a little bit quieter than it was in years past. The main street has just a handful of houses and trailers, in addition to the long-closed post office trailer neighboring the now-equally-unused church. The Laings Church of Christ built a new church up the road in 1998.

There is still an active Presbyterian Church, which probably looks pretty much the same as it did when it was built in 1873, and the community has a welcoming committee comprised of an overly friendly long-haired cat, which stands ready to greet the occasional visitor. Cows can still be heard mooing off in the distance, probably well-fed on radishes.



TOP LEFT: Old town meeting house. **TOP RIGHT:** The Laings Post Office was moved into a converted construction trailer next to the Laings Church of Christ in November 1976. Window service was discontinued in 2005 and the office closed in 2010. **LEFT:** Presbyterian Church still has an active congregation and the building probably looks pretty much the same as it did when it was built in 1873. **ABOVE:** Former Laings School now houses the Monroe water system and a community center.

Understanding bail & plea agreements

By D. Luke Furbee,
Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney

Release on bail pending adjudication and plea agreements are two of the most important yet least-understood aspects of the public administration of criminal law. It is my hope that I might be able to explain some basic features and principles inherent to them in this column. The law pertaining to criminal proceedings is extraordinarily complex, and much of it is very ancient. It remains exceedingly formal in an informal age. There is, however, little else in my view which so directly implicates the legitimacy of the government on every level as does the carrying out of its power to punish the guilty while protecting the innocent.

Other than those guarantees contained in the Bill of Rights which have been made applicable to the states via the Fourteenth Amendment and decisions interpreting the same by the Supreme Court of the United States, criminal proceedings in the courts of West Virginia are controlled by the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, the rules of procedure and decisional precedents laid down by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia (which have the force and effect of law), and the general statutes of West Virginia as enacted by the Legislature.

Bail is not generally designed to be punitive. Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides in pertinent part:

“Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted. Penalties shall be proportioned to the character and degree of the offence.”

What constitutes bail which is not excessive? It depends. For all cases in which life imprisonment is not a possible sentence, criminal defendants in this state must have bail established, and it must be reasonable. Courts are not to apply absolute rules or policies in the setting of bail, but are required to consider, among other factors, the likelihood that the defendant will appear for court as required, and the likelihood of the defendant committing other crimes while released on bail. A prior criminal record is also a factor, as well as the accused’s financial situation. Therefore, the decision on the amount and the conditions of the bail is left to the sound discretion of the court. Because persons accused of crime, whether they have been in trouble before or not, are presumed innocent, the factor generally given the most weight is the likelihood of appearance for court in relationship to the gravity or lack thereof of the alleged offense. If an accused person is convicted, the right to bail pending appeal ceases. It may still be allowed by a court, but only where the crime of conviction does not involve violence, or the use of a firearm or other deadly weapon, or life imprisonment as a possible sentence.



The vast majority of persons accused of crime are admitted to bail. While released on bail, those persons are required to follow some basic rules, such as appearing for court when directed and to not violate the law. Most people abide by these rules. When they do not, it is the policy of my office to seek to have their bail revoked. However, the burden is on the prosecution to prove a violation. The presumption of innocence always applies. Whether or not a violation can be proven is a matter controlled by the admissible evidence available, just as it is in the ultimate determination of guilt or innocence on the underlying charge. Even where bail is revoked, it is subject to being reinstated. At that time, it may be increased, or additional conditions may be imposed.

Magistrates set bail initially in nearly every case, except for cases which are life-imprisonment eligible and those cases which are initiated in the first instance by a grand jury. In those cases, the Circuit Judges set bail. It is a normal procedure for the prosecution to be called on to make a bail recommendation, however, courts are not required to solicit that recommendation. During my tenure, I cannot recall one instance where a ruling on bail by the Circuit Court has been reversed on appeal to the Supreme Court, and rulings by the Magistrates are seldom disturbed by the Circuit Court. When Magistrate Court’s rulings are disturbed, it usually involves a change in circumstances in the case between the time the case has moved from Magistrate Court to Circuit Court. I cannot recall an instance where these rulings by Magistrates have been disturbed due to legal error or an abuse of discretion. This supports the assertion that our magistrates and judges are correctly applying the law concerning bail.

given the law and evidence in the case. The making of that determination (along with the determination to pursue a criminal charge at all) by a prosecutor represents the exercise of his or her most fundamental power of executive discretion under the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, done in the name of the state and on behalf of the people. It would be an indefensible, unreasonable and unfair abuse of that power for a prosecutor to refuse to consider fair compromises when one may be available.

The offering by the prosecution of a plea agreement takes into account a multitude of factors, including, but not limited to the following (in no particular order of importance): (a) the interests of public justice, as represented by this office; (b) the relative strength or weakness of the evidence in the case, compared to other cases; (c) the seriousness or relative lack thereof of the offense (this is not always controlled by the name given to a particular crime); (d) the background of a defendant and the extent of his or her criminal history, if any; (e) the extent to which a defendant has cooperated with an investigation; (f) the relative remorse, acceptance of responsibility or lack thereof exhibited by a defendant; (g) the wishes and desires of victims of an offense; and (h) meritorious defenses or the lack thereof.

Even in cases involving defendants with prior criminal records, there are times when the lack of admissible evidence or the lack of seriousness of an offense drive the outcome. This is not a failure of the court, the prosecutor’s office, or anyone else – it is reality in a free society. A defendant’s criminal history is generally not admissible evidence on the issue of guilt or innocence of any current charge. This rule embodies a core principle of Anglo-American jurisprudence that a person’s character cannot generally be used to condemn him. Each new case stands on its own, and therefore the quality of the evidence and the investigation mightily control the outcome of such a case, as in any other case. Also, recall that the state constitution forbids punishments which are not “proportioned to the character and degree of the offence.” The application of statutes aimed at the punishment of recidivism are necessarily limited by that constitutional rule. And as the prosecutor is sworn to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of West Virginia in the exercise of his or her executive discretion, it necessarily limits that discretion in the formulation of plea agreements.

The quality of the evidence and investigation in any case are carefully considered by myself and the assistant prosecutor in the offering of plea agreements. We have the experience that can only be gained from actually having tried cases to verdict to bring to that analysis. We have the training and education required to inform our decision-making process. We have given our professional oaths and oaths of office which require us to make such judgments according to the law and Constitutions, even when the outcome of such may be unpopular. We get what mileage we can out of the evidence in each case. The duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice, not merely to “win” or convict. Legions of constitutional cases stand for that proposition.

Finally, no plea agreement can be consummated without approval by the presiding judge or magistrate. Therefore, it can be said that all plea agreements are tripartite contracts requiring mutual assent from the prosecutor, the defendant, and the court itself. The Court’s duty in passing on a plea agreement is to independently weigh the reasonableness and fairness of its terms. This is done each and every time one is offered for consideration.

PLEA AGREEMENTS

Turning from bail to plea agreements, it is important to understand why they are necessary. They are necessary to achieve efficiency. Criminal prosecutions are costly – not only for the county, but also for defendants (or the State if a defendant is entitled to court-appointed counsel and expenses of defense). The sooner cases can be fairly resolved, the less costly they are for all involved. To try every case simply to insist on one desired outcome (on either side) would be a complete and unjust waste of public money, time and resources. That is not to say that all cases should not be tried – some most assuredly should. It is to say that cases should be tried for the right reason – that justice and fairness permit no other alternative

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The INNformer will publish, free of charge, a political candidate’s announcement that they are seeking an elected position. These announcements can include personal information, political platform and a photo of the candidate. Announcements are not to exceed 450 words and will run only once.

The INNformer may, at our discretion, further profile a candidate with an interview in the weeks before an election. We will not, however, publish political award announcements or print photographs of candidates giving awards or donations in the edition immediately preceding election day.

Political advertising is accepted. It must include the name of the person or organization paying for it and must be paid in advance.

Letters to the Editor endorsing candidates are accepted and will be run, subject to the discretion of the editor. All contact information must be provided as it will be verified prior to publication. Letters to the Editor with political content will not be published in the edition immediately preceding election day.

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PC Council

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that easily evaporate, meaning they can change from a liquid to a vapor (a gas), according to the US Environmental Protection Agency website.

“Basically what we are doing is asking the USDA to fund us sooner, so we are asking them to front us the \$500,000,” Hochstrasser said. “This is the quickest way to get this done.”

When asked by a resident: “Are you 100 percent sure that this (air stripper) is what we need?” Hochstrasser responded: “This is what our engineers are telling us. This has been tried-and-true in other cities that have had this problem. There are cities out there that are at 70-77. We are at 5.5, clear down to the low end. We are trying to head this off. That is what are trying. We are trying to eradicate and head this off before it becomes 77. Or 30, there are places at 30.”

Later, Thrasher’s Alastanos explained the air stripper to the assembled crowd. “We found a six-tray air stripper. It takes the raw water in from the top and is the easiest way to treat PCE contamination, through air-stripping. You pump a high volume of air-to-water ratio into it and the chemical attaches itself to the free air molecules and goes out the vent where it is not harmful any more. This air stripper cascades the water down and through, while pumping air up through the slotted trays, the high volume of air going through the contaminate will attach itself and go out through the vent. The air stripper has been shown to be 99.9 percent effective on higher numbers than you have.”

In response to another question, Alastanos said: “This [process] has been shown to be effective on heavy metals as well. This is the best system that we have found to treat this contaminant.”

When pressed why the city did not inform residents sooner of the contamination, Hochstrasser said: “Basically the state tells us we can run at 5.0. It was at 5.5. Technically, we probably didn’t have to put it out. We have to publish any time we are over – we have a year to



publish that. We did not choose to do that, we chose to do it quicker.”

Shuler stated her concerns over long-term exposure to PCE, saying she drinks more than the average amount of water and is worried about the neurological disorders attributed to PCE exposure.

“I am frustrated, because no can give me a straight answer: Should I drink it or not drink it?” exclaimed Shuler.

“I can’t tell you that unless the state declares it undrinkable,” Hochstrasser replied. “I know what you guys are wanting. You want me to declare an emergency and I cannot do that unless the state comes to me and says that it is not drinkable.”

Also during the discussion, Lewis Baker, source water protection specialist with the West Virginia Rural Water Association, explained the health ramifications of the contamination, stating: “You take four quarterly samples and average. It’s the same with other chemicals with health risks. We finally came above on the average, so you have to put that into perspective. The 5.5 (ppb) is about 1/3 the amount that the federal government estimates would give you one chance in a million chance of cancer over your lifetime. So what they say is if you are drinking 17 ppb you would have 1 in a million chance of cancer. In the population the size of Paden City, there are about 1 in 1,000 that anyone would get cancer. Another way to look at this is there is a 99.9 percent probability that no one would be impacted.”

Thrasher’s Alastanos explained: “The

MCL (5.0 ppb number that Paden City’s water exceeded) is an indicator level. It indicates to the city that action needs to be taken. The health risk is 3-4 times higher than the MCL over an extended period of time. So the city is doing what they need to be doing. Once they reached the level, alerted you and working toward getting it addressed. The city is doing what they are supposed to be doing. 17 ppb is a health risk; 5.00 is the indicator this is starting to be a problem. With the wet weather the last few years, it is stirring up the aquifer – that’s what we believe has raised this number.”

Mayor Hochstrasser said it will be months to get the air stripper designed and installed. During that time the city will be experimenting with ways to increase airflow through the water, using air handlers, to see if that helps lower the PCE levels before the new air stripper is in place. He also said he will be talking to the EPA about installing additional test wells to see if other dry-cleaners created additional areas of contamination of which the city is currently unaware.

When several residents said they have incurred expenses purchasing bottled water and complained about the water quality, it was asked if they had to pay their water bills. The mayor, and other council members, cautioned water service would be disconnected if they did not pay their bills because the city needs the revenue to fund the ongoing multimillion-dollar water project.

“I told you what we are going to do, where we are headed with this and we

told you our plan of action. We don’t need to keep beating the horse,” Hochstrasser stated.

Council then unanimously approved measures authorizing the mayor to apply for emergency funding through the USDA required to expedite the air stripper, as well as signing a contract with Thrasher Engineering to design and install the unit.

With the water department report, Assistant Superintendent Joe Parrish said, “We are taking it upon ourselves to test more frequently and we have started that.” He said his department is continuing to replace valves and flush fire hydrants. Council also agreed to spend \$5,000 to fix the emergency generator needed to pump water when the power goes out.

After a 35-minute executive session, council was gaveled back in to regular session and unanimously rejected a motion to give sewer department employees a raise at this time. Council then accepted the resignation of Paden City Police Officer Raphe Bailes.

Under Park and Pool, council discussed, but took no action, on a proposal to meter water usage of the new splash pad and it was announced council member Aunnia Brady was hired as Park Manager, effective April 1.

Also Dan Gonzales was appointed to the Paden City Development Authority.

The next regular meeting of the Paden City Council is 7 p.m. May 6 at the city building.

STDs

Continued from page A1

becomes resistant to traditional antibiotics, so more powerful drugs are needed for a secondary treatment, she said, describing those drugs as having worse side effects than the primary treatment.

When someone tests positive for an STD, the health department contacts the person’s sex partners, known as a circle. Guiler said while tracing the circle of sex partners there are occasions when the same name keeps appearing.

“It’s very frustrating when you continue to educate a person on how to avoid STDs, but they continue to sit across from you again and again. They are very truthful saying: ‘Yeah, I didn’t listen to you,’” she said.

She said she attributes that blasé attitude to depression and a dependency on drugs. It’s not uncommon, she said, to find people are often trading sex for drugs. Guiler also said depression most likely contributes to the rise in the local STD rate.

While the news is gloomy, she said, it could be worse. So far, the health department doesn’t have any confirmed cases of syphilis, which is worse than either gonorrhea or chlamydia.

“With syphilis some times there are no signs and that’s the problem,” she said, adding treatment for syphilis includes a series of painful shots and if left untreated can cause brain damage.

Guiler said she could only guess at the reasons for the increase in STDs, including the transient culture now prevalent in the area as well as the area’s high rate of drug usage.

“But we can’t be really sure of the cause,” she cautioned.

Part of the health department’s mission is to help prevent STDs. It offers free condoms, education on how to avoid the diseases and tells people to limit their number of sex partners.

For more information or to schedule a free, confidential testing, call (304) 337-2001.

Next: The Wetzel Tyler County Health Department’s efforts to combat hepatitis C.



Power plant

Continued from page A1

formed into the Center Port Transload Facility then in June 2017 sold to Fortress and renamed as Long Ridge Energy Terminal (shown above).

According to a statement by the developers, the power project is expected to employ 300-350 skilled workers during the peak of construction and once operational in late 2021 have 20 perma-

nent employees. It is expected to have a region-wide economic impact of nearly \$200 million during construction and \$20 million a year once in service.

“The construction of this plant will bring much-needed skilled labor jobs to the county. Not only will it be one of the most state-of-the-art natural gas power plants in the world but also one of the cleanest. It is a welcome addition to our county,” Taylor Abbott, Monroe County Treasurer, told The INN-former.

STD SYMPTOMS

CHLAMYDIA: Most people who have chlamydia have no symptoms.

If you do have symptoms, they may not appear until several weeks after you have sex with an infected partner. Even when chlamydia causes no symptoms, it can damage your reproductive system. Women with symptoms may notice: An abnormal vaginal discharge and/or a burning sensation when urinating. Symptoms in men can include: A discharge from their penis and/or a burning sensation when urinating and/or pain and swelling in one or both testicles (although this is less common).

GONORRHEA: Some men with gonorrhea may have no symptoms at all. However, men who do have symptoms, may have: A burning sensation when urinating and/or a white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis and/or painful or swollen testicles (although this is less common).

Most women with gonorrhea do not have any symptoms. Even when a woman has symptoms, they are often mild and can be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection. Women with gonorrhea are at risk of developing serious complications from the infection, even if they don’t have any symptoms. Symptoms in women can include: Painful or burning sensation when urinating and/or increased vaginal discharge and/or vaginal bleeding between periods.

SYPHILIS: Syphilis is divided into stages (primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary), with different signs and symptoms associated with each stage. A person with primary syphilis generally has a sore or sores at the original site of infection. These sores are usually (but not always) firm, round and painless. Symptoms of secondary syphilis include skin rash, swollen lymph nodes and fever. The signs and symptoms of primary and secondary syphilis can be mild and might not be noticed. During the latent stage, there are no signs or symptoms. Tertiary syphilis is associated with severe medical problems. A doctor can usually diagnose tertiary syphilis with the help of multiple tests. It can affect the heart, brain and other organs of the body.

You should be examined by a doctor if you notice any of these symptoms or if your partner has an STD or symptoms of an STD. STD symptoms can include an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when urinating, or bleeding between periods. – Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Omissions delay reveal of Monroe County's 5-year financial plan

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – Billed as a blueprint to move Monroe County forward, a meeting to unveil that five-year forecast was hastily canceled March 26 when officials discovered the figures didn't add up.

More than 60 people had packed the commission's meeting room or stood outside waiting to hear the financial forecast prepared by Columbus, Ohio-based Public Finance Resources, PFR. A few minutes after the 3:30 p.m. scheduled start time, Monroe County Commissioners and Treasurer Taylor Abbot walked out of a side room with grim faces. Abbot told the standing-room-only crowd the meeting was canceled because of jail cost issues which were discovered earlier that afternoon.

Abbott later explained, "In reviewing the report, three factors within it were brought to PFR's attention just before the meeting that required adjustment. Upon discussion with the commissioners and PFR, we determined moving forward with the meeting would not be possible until the figures were adjusted."

The three incorrect factors were: debt payments, workers' compensation adjustments and the starting budget balance figure.

Officials said they did not want to "muddy the waters" by releasing wrong information. County Commissioner Tim Price said the county's financial situation was "muddied enough" without releasing incorrect information to the public.

Monroe County's first five-year plan was in response to the "unparalleled rate" of revenue growth it is experiencing as a result of the oil and gas boom, Abbott said in a December 2018 interview with The INNformer.

In late 2018, PFR examined the county's coffers in preparation to develop a long-term financial plan.

A date for the revised five-year plan hasn't been announced. – **Daniel Tyson**



TWO IN DUFFY ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES

DUFFY, Ohio – Two people were arrested in the riverfront community of Duffy Tuesday, April 2, after the Mon-



PADEN CITY PARK VANDALIZED

PADEN CITY – Vandals struck the Paden City park March 23 destroying two planters near the restrooms (below), as well as a breaking a concrete bench (above). Paden City Police Chief Bob Kendle also said the lawn in the popular park, where people walk and kids play, has been torn up by a vehicle. "It is under investigation," Kendle said. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the PCPD at (304) 337-2281.



roe County Special Response Team, along with the Monroe County detectives, executed a search warrant at 38112 SR7.

Upon entry to the residence, James Leonatti of Little Rock, Iowa, and Kimberly Ogle of Beckley, West Virginia, were arrested.

According to a statement by Monroe County Sheriff Charles Black Jr., during the search, methamphetamines and drug abuse instruments were recovered.

Leonatti was transported to the Monroe County Jail on charges of aggravated drug trafficking, aggravated possession of drugs, and weapons under disability. Leonatti was also a sex offender who had never registered with the State of Ohio per his registration requirements.

Ogle was charged with possession of drug abuse instruments and transported to Monroe County Jail.

PADEN CITY PARK GETS NEW SPLASH PAD

PADEN CITY — When the hot summer weather finally arrives, children in Paden City will be able to cool off using the newly installed splash Pad, which was completed in late March. The splash pad, or spray pool, has proved to be a popular feature at the Sistersville and Middlebourne parks.

ASSEMBLY HALL, BRIDGE REMAIN TROUBLE SPOTS IN 4-H CAMPGROUND RENOVATION

MIDDLEBOURNE – There's been a bit of a snag with the Tyler County 4-H grounds, County Commissioner John Stender said at the March 26 meeting.

During an update on the renovation of the facilities, Sender said problems arose with the assembly hall and the

bridge leading to the grounds.

"That floor looks like the ocean," he said, while imitating ocean waves with his hands. The hall is "old and not square. We had a heck of time getting dry wall in there."

As for the bridge, a recent inspection report came back saying the bridge had major issues, Stender said. The report detailed extensive deterioration.

"You might not want to drive over it and if you do, drive fast," Stender said. "We've got to do something about the bridge."

Estimates for the repairs were not given during the meeting.

Commissioners also heard from Cathy Post of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 48 about placing a time capsule in front of the Tyler County Courthouse marking the 100th anniversary of the military veteran organization.

The group would like to place the capsule in the ground on Memorial Day with a small marker announcing the opening on Memorial Day 2119.

Post said the capsule would most likely be made of PVC pipe and air vacuumed. A small bronze plaque would mark the spot of burial.

Eric Vincent, commission president, said, "We can work out the details as it comes along" before the commissioners approved the request.

Also, commissioners approved a \$10,000 donation to the Lighthouse Child Advocacy Center. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the center anticipates receiving nearly \$71,000 from a state grant and \$75,000 from a federal grant. Wetzel County Commission has approved a \$10,000 donation as well.

Tyler County Sheriff Brian Weigle said the Lighthouse provides a very needed service to the community, one of helping abused – sexually and physically – children. "They're investigating cases daily," he explained. "They're doing their job and is a vital [organization] to us."

Commissioners also agreed to give the American Red Cross a donation of \$2,500. Sharon Kesselring, executive director for the Northwest West Virginia Chapter, said in Tyler County during 2018 the organization responded to five emergencies, gave out free smoke alarms, trained two people in CPR and collected 60 pints of blood. The CPR

classes are "cost involved training," she added, meaning the organization charges for the training.

Several offices of emergency management across West Virginia have withdrawn support of the organization after claims the Red Cross doesn't come through in emergency disasters as it promises. A number of counties in southern West Virginia have removed the Red Cross from their emergency response plans. In 2016, the then-ranking member of the committee overseeing the organization requested information on how layoffs and cutbacks have affected its ability to respond to disasters in West Virginia and elsewhere. In West Virginia, seven Red Cross chapters were consolidated into four about five years ago.

Stender questioned Kesselring about working with local OEMs, which she replied the Red Cross does.

Tom Cooper, director of the county's Office of Emergency Management, said the Red Cross was "mentioned" in the county's emergency response plans.

Commissioners told Kesselring they would consider her request.

The next regular Tyler County Commissioner's meeting is April 9 at 9 a.m. in the Tyler County Courthouse. – **Daniel Tyson**

PPG/AXIALL RETIREES TO MEET APRIL 29

Another retiree breakfast has come and gone: A good time was had by 42 people who came to reminisce with old friends.

Those attending were Dick Mason, Bob Eller, Jim Paden, Tony Schendler, Steve Thomas, Steve Miller, Darrell Mayfield, Dave Wade, Dale Hall, Vicki Whitehead, Martin Klug, Mike Batton, Jim Clup, Dave Roberts, Jerry Hunter, Jack Estep, Wendell Jones, Mike Hall, Mike Beagle, Ted Parsons, Joe Parrish, Joe Starkey, Dave Franklin, Tom Kirkhart, Melvin Morris, Erv Beckman, Brenda Cain, Ron Frye, Rose Yates, George Yates, Rhonda Franklin, Ken Parks, Randy Hartman, Debbie Huggins, Tim Shepherd, Greg Fluharty, Bob Forrester, Sheila Forrester, Rich Erlewine, Al Spencer and Paul Thomas.

The doorprize winner, a bird feeder donated by Tractor Supply, was won by Erv Beckman. The next get together will be Monday, April 29, at Quinets.

WETZEL COUNTY WOMAN ADMITS TO DISTRIBUTING METHAMPHETAMINE

WHEELING – Megan Leigh Thompson of Proctor has admitted to distributing methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Bill Powell announced March 25.

Thompson, 32, pled guilty to one count of "conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine." Thompson admitted to distributing methamphetamine from January 2017 to September 2018 in Wetzel County.

She faces up to 20 years incarceration and a fine of up to \$1,000,000. Under Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Shawn M. Adkins is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Marshall County Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force, an HIDTA-funded initiative, investigated.

Senior U.S. District Judge Frederick P. Stamp Jr. presided.

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- 3/28 ST. MARYS VS TYLER CONSOLIDATED – 4:45
- 4/2 TYLER CONSOLIDATED VS RITCHIE –4:15
- 4/4 TYLER CONSOLIDATED VS WILLIAMSTOWN – 4:15
- 4/12 PADEN CITY VS TYLER CONSOLIDATED – 7:15
- 4/15 TYLER CONSOLIDATED VS PADEN CITY – 4:45
- 4/23 TYLER CONSOLIDATED VS ST. MARYS – 4:45
- 4/24 MAGNOLIA VS TYLER CONSOLIDATED – 4:45
- 4/25 RITCHIE VS TYLER CONSOLIDATED – 4:15
- 4/29 WILLIAMSTOWN VS TYLER CONSOLIDATED – 4:15

***3/25 TYLER CONSOLIDATED VS MAGNOLIA (RESCHEDULE) TBA**

Around the region

SISTERSVILLE

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 20

The 2019 edition of the Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, April 20, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Sistersville City park. Prizes will be awarded and of course there's a chance to meet the Easter Bunny! Eggs will be filled by residents of the Sistersville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The event is sponsored by the Sistersville Community Service Organization.

HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY AVAILABLE, ORDER NOW

The Olive Branch and Friends Shop, 727 Wells St. in Sistersville, is taking orders for homemade Easter candy. Order now through April 12 and pick up your custom order the week of April 15 during normal store hours. Chocolate-covered filled eggs are available with peanut butter, maple cream or coconut cream. Prices are: ½-pound egg is \$5; flat egg is \$1 and solid bunnies are \$1.50.

LIBRARY OFFERS LEGO CLASS

Sistersville Public Library offers a Lego class for the young and young at heart every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Story Hour is held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call the library at 304-652-6701 for more information.

TABITHA'S CLOSET OFFERS CLOTHING

Tabitha's Closet now with a handicap-accessible storefront on Charles Street is a clothing ministry of the Sistersville Nazarene Church, serving anyone in the Tyler County area, regardless of job status, income level, etc. They emphasize they are not affiliated with WVDHHR and do not report to them nor do they accept their vouchers as all of their clothing is free one bag a week for adults and two for children. Additional bags above the weekly limit cost \$2 each. Clothing can also be purchased for a donation. Normal hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., then 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

SISTERSVILLE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

Sistersville Museum, 628 Wells St., has moved to a new schedule for the winter. Impromptu tours are available by calling 304-652-1707.

FOOD, CLOTHING HANDOUT WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday, the Sistersville Ministerial Association hands out food and clothing from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Baptist Church in Sistersville.

LIBRARY OFFERS ADULT COLORING SESSIONS

Sistersville Public Library offers adults a place to get their color on. The library



offers a coloring club for adults each Monday at 1 p.m. Come, enjoy and relax! Designs and markers provided. Call the library at 304-652-6701 for more information.

MIDDLEBOURNE

CLASSROOM AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE APRIL 17

When seniors take the AARP Driver safety classroom course, they learn proven safety strategies to maintain confidence behind the wheel. The next class is scheduled Wednesday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tyler County Senior Center. To register, call Belinda Stevens at 304-758-5154.

'THIS 'N THAT' SALE SET MAY 3-4

The 2nd annual "This 'n That" sale is Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, at the Friendship Center behind the Middlebourne United Methodist Church. Household items including bedding, towels, dishes, cookware, tables, chairs, lamps, baby toys and other similar items will be available. There will be no clothing or shoes. The event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

LENTEN FRIDAY FISH FRY RETURNS

American Legion Auxiliary Tyler County Unit 48 holds a Lenten Fish Fry every Friday through April 19 at the Stealey-Green Family Center in Middlebourne. From 11 a.m. until gone. Menu includes: Coleman's fish or shrimp dinner - \$8; fish sandwich - \$5; fries - \$2; sides of baked beans/green beans, coleslaw - 50 cents; homemade pies - \$1.50, includes free tea or coffee. This year's proceeds benefit: Memorial Day Services, two Veterans Scholarships at Tyler Consolidated High School and Rhododendron Girls State. Call 305-551-1602 for local delivery. Eat in or take out.

LEWIS & CLARK CIRCUS MAY 23-24

The Lewis & Clark Great American Circus will return to the Tyler County Fair-

grounds Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24, with shows at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day! Free Kids Tickets are distributed to convenience stores, fast food restaurants and other retailers in the community. These are valid General Admission for Children under 14 years of age. Anyone who is 14 years and above, must purchase an adult ticket. For more information visit their website at <http://www.lewisclarkcircus.com/>.

2019 RACING SCHEDULE AT TYLER COUNTY SPEEDWAY

Tyler County Speedway is 3½ miles south of Middlebourne on State Route 18 at the Tyler County Fairgrounds about an hour from Wheeling, Clarksburg & Parkersburg. For complete Tyler County Speedway event information, news stories, ticket info and schedule information for the season, visit www.tylercountyspeedwayonline.com or call the track at 304-771-5661 or 304-771-6874 or on Raceday at 304-758-2660.

April 13 (Sat.) DIRT CHEAP '80S NIGHT / \$8 General Admission / Hotmod Battle Royale Qualifier / Kids Club Pit Tour; April 20 (Sat.) 'MOUNTAINEER 40' BIG BLOCK MODIFIED TOUR / Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids; April 24 (Wed.) WEDNESDAY TEST N' TUNE / Mid-week open practice session!; April 27 (Sat.) RUSH NIGHT @ THE BULLRING featuring the RUSH Mod Tour & RUSH Sprint Car Tour / Kids Club Treasure Hunt; May 4 (Sat.) 31ST ANNUAL EARL HILL MEMORIAL \$5,000 to win Co-Sanctioned Ultimate Northeast & Ultimate MOV Late Model Tour / Kids Club Box Car Race Build; May 11 (Sat.) MOM'S the BOMB NIGHT featuring the 13th Annual Tammy Clegg Tribute for Hotmods WMWC Qualifier #1 / Kids Club Box Car Race; May 18 (Sat.) PACK THE TRACK 6 FREE ADMISSION NIGHT / Bring the Family as General Admission is 100% FREE courtesy of Hometown Racing Association / Autograph Night #1; May 26 (Sun.) BATTLE @ THE BULLRING / \$1,500 Steel Block Late Model (SB LM Summer Series #1) / RUSH Sprint Car Tour / \$1000 Modlite 9th

Annual Pat Herrick Memorial / UMP Modified Mega Qualifier / plus LM and Hotmods / Kids Club Banner Night.

5TH ANNUAL MODIFIED MEGA 100 — 'THE EAST COAST LARGEST OPEN WHEEL MODIFIED EVENT' May 30 (Thur.) PIT, PARTY & PRACTICE NIGHT featuring the \$1,500 Sunoco Sanction Shootout and \$1,000 Contenders Race (Non-Winners Race); May 31 (Fri.) RENEGADES OF DIRT MEGA 100 KICKOFF NIGHT Twin \$1,500 UMP Modified Features/ \$2,500 ULMS Late Models / B-Mod Battle Royale Prelims; June 1 (Sat.) 5TH ANNUAL MODIFIED MEGA 100 \$15,000 to win / \$5,000 ULMS Late Models / \$5,000 to win B-Mod Battle Royale / Plus FASTRAK Late Models.

June 8 (Sat.) KINGS OF KARNAGE / Full Size & Compact Demo Derby / School Bus Race / MAGA 100 Enduro #2 \$500 to win / HM, ML & MWRA / Kids Power Wheels Derby ;June 15 (Sat.) 18TH ANNUAL EATON/CHILDERS KING OF THE RING \$2,000 to win FASTRAK Special/ Bullring (Bomb)er Squad Spectacular, 3 Car Team Race / Kids Bike Giveaway; June 22 (Sat.) MONSTER TRUCK RACING LEAGUE / Ride Truck & Pit Party / Next Gen 400 MWRA Special / Plus Hotmod Pit Crew Challenge WMWC Qualifier #2 / ML & Bombers; June 29 (Sat.) FIRST RESPONDERS NIGHT / EMT, Fire & Police recognized pre-race & intermission (show ID \$5 GA) / plus PATRIOT 200 & HUGE FIREWORKS Unique 9 Division Feature Only Format (LM, FAST, MOD, HM, ML, SS, MWRA, Bomber).

July 5 (Fri.) 25th ANNUAL TOPLESS 50 LUCAS OIL DIRT CAR SERIES \$12,000 to win, See Bloomquist, Richards, Davenport Owens and more at the Bullring in America's 2nd Oldest Topless Late Model race! / Plus \$2,000 to win Renegades of Dirt 15th Annual Dickson Classic / Kids Club Candy Scramble; July 13 (Sat.) GREAT AMERICAN CRATE RACE \$7,000 to win FASTRAK Touring Series / Kids Club Trackside Treats Ice Cream Party;

Continued on facing page

HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND, April 6-7:

SISTERSVILLE — A benefit baked steak dinner is set for Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sistersville Volunteer Fire Department. Meal includes: baked steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans/corn, dinner roll, dessert and drink (tea, water or lemonade). Cost is \$10 for adult and \$5 for children age 5 and younger. To go orders may be placed by calling 304-652-7131 on the day of the dinner. Local delivery is available. All proceeds benefit the Sistersville Volunteer Fire Department.

MIDDLEBOURNE — Saturday it's time for the RENEGADES OF DIRT 8TH ANNUAL LET IT RIDE 55 with \$3,000 to win / Kids Club Gold Rush — For complete Tyler County Speedway event information, ticket info and schedule information for the season, visit www.tylercountyspeedwayonline.com or call the track at 304-771-5661 or 304-771-6874 or on Raceday at 304-758-2660. General admission is \$5, children 10 and under Free, Pits \$20. At the Tyler County Speedway located on the Tyler County Fairgrounds.

PADEN CITY — Paden City Volunteer Fire Company holds an all-you-can-eat breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. until noon



at the fire hall. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, hash browns, sausage gravy, biscuits, pancakes, toast, French toast and drinks. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids under 10. Take out available. Call (304) 337-9289 for more information.

PINE GROVE — Pine Grove FFA Alumni will host a chicken dinner Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Valley High School Commons. Dinner is \$10 and includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert and drink. Whole chicken is \$8 and half chicken is \$4. All proceeds benefit the 2019 Pine Grove FFA National Land Judging Team, which heads to Oklahoma City at the end of April to practice and compete in the National Contest May 2.

MATAMORAS — A community breakfast is held from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Matamoras Masonic Lodge #374, 301 Main St. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, sausage gravy, pancakes, toast, milk, orange juice and coffee. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.



Events

Continued from previous page

July 18 (Thur.) THURSDAY THUNDER / Steel Block Late Model Hillbilly Qualifier (SB LM Summer Series #2) / UMP Modifieds, HM, ML & MWRA / Kids Coloring Contest; July 20 (Sat.) NO RACING / RACING VACATION; July 27 (Sat.) FANVITATIONAL / Lots of winners on Fan Appreciation night.... get paired up with your favorite drivers for a chance to win CASH! / Autograph Night #2.

Aug. 3 (Sat.) SPEED N' FEED KIDS NIGHT / featuring the BUD WEIGLE MEMORIAL / Dollar Dogs & Backpack Giveaway / MiniWedge National Championship & Pizza Party; Aug. 10 (Sat.) NO RACING / TYLER COUNTY FAIR Track Events: ATV Drags, Racing, Rodeo, Demo Derby, Truck Pull & Mud Bog; Aug. 17 (Sat.) HILLBILLY QUALIFIERS & SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP / Coveted 2019 TCS Point Championships and guaranteed Hillbilly spots up for grabs! / 2019 HoF Inductions; Aug. 24 (Sat.) NO RACING / Prep for Hillbilly 100. 51ST ANNUAL HILLBILLY 100 WEEKEND 'AMERICA'S OLDEST DIRT LATE MODEL MAJOR EVENT' - HILLBILLY DAYS: Ms. Hillbilly, Kayak Race, Cornhole, Best Dressed Hillbilly, Best Campsite, etc. all weekend long! Aug. 30 (Fri.) Steel Block HILLBILLY 50 \$5,000 (SB LM Summer Series #3) / Hotmod, Modlite & Sportmod Prelims; Aug. 31 (Sat.) OUTHOUSE 30 \$5,000 Super Late Model, BROWN JUG 30 \$2,000 FASTRAK Touring Series, WHITE LIGHTNIN' 30 \$2,500 UMP Modifieds, LIL' HILLY 20 \$1,000 EDGE Hotmod, SOUR MASH 20 \$1,000 Modlite, MOONSHINER 20 \$1,000 Sportmod; Sept. 1 (Sun.) 51st ANNUAL HILLBILLY 100 \$30,000 to win Lucas Oil Dirt Car Series / \$2,000 BROWN JUG 30 FASTRAK Touring Series / (Raindate: Sept. 2 Mon.)

Sept. 28 (Sat.) WORKIN' MAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP \$2,000 to win Hotmods / Kings of Karnage Full Size & Compact Demo Derby / Trailer Race of Destruction / Smashing Pumpkin 100 Enduro #3 \$500 to win / Plus MWRA, Kids Power Wheels & Kids Trunk or Treat!

TYLER CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY SETS STORY HOURS

Story hour at the Tyler County Public Library continues Thursdays at 1 p.m. Please call the library at 304-758-4304 to register your children.

TYLER COUNTY FAIR AUG. 5-10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The 2019 Tyler County Fair will be back to the traditional week! Come out Aug. 5-Aug.10 and share in the fun! Watch their Facebook page for posts coming about events, entertainment, and polls asking for your interactions.



SHORTLINE RAMP FEST

PADEN CITY

VA MOBILE CLINIC AVAILABLE MONDAYS

The Veterans Administration mobile clinic will be in the parking lot behind the PCDA building, 425 South 4th Ave. in Paden City, the first four Mondays of each month.

FISH FRIES CONTINUE

The Paden City Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary will continue to host a fish fry on Wednesdays through April. Remaining date is April 17. Menu includes Coleman's fish sandwiches, french fries, baked beans, macaroni salad, potato salad, sloppy joes, green beans, cole slaw, drinks and desserts. From 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Paden City Fire Hall. Call 304-337-9289 to place a carry-out order.

PLAY BINGO EVERY TUESDAY

Let's play bingo! The Friendly Lions Club, in conjunction with the Paden City Development Authority, plays bingo each Tuesday evening at the Paden City Health & Recreation Center in Paden City. Doors open at 5 p.m., early birds start at 6 p.m. and regular games start at 7 p.m. The early bird session includes an odd/even coverall and a 4-game session. The regular session is a 20-game session that includes 5 caller's specials in the pack. A winner take all double bingo game and a progressive Lucky 7 game are also played during the regular session. Evening concludes with coverall that includes a first top line and first bottom line. Pull tab raffle tickets are also available for sale starting when the doors

open. Proceeds benefit the charities of the Friendly Lions Club and the Paden City Development Authority.

PCDA MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Paden City Development Authority meets the second Monday of each month in the reception/bingo hall of the Health & Recreation Building. The room is handicap accessible. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend.

TOPS MEETS WEDNESDAYS

Are you fighting the winter blues, the extra weight gain? Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) and get the help and support to reach your goal. Meeting Place: First Baptist Church, 600 S 4th Ave. in Paden City Wednesday mornings with weigh-in starting at 9, meetings at 10. Call Louise Hinkle 304-455-4196, or Barbie Criss 304-815-8591 for more info.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS TUESDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Paden City. For information call (304) 337-9145.

PCDA VENUES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

The Paden City Development Authority's Health and Recreation Building gymnasium and reception hall are available to rent. The gym can be rented to individuals and groups for parties, shoot-a rounds, or basketball practices. The price is \$20/hour and can be reserved by calling 304-337-8712. Reception hall rates are \$20/hour for the first 4 hours then \$15/hour after. A deposit may be required. The same number can be used to reserve the reception hall. Both facilities are equipped with free wifi.

FIRE HALL BENEFIT BREAKFASTS CONTINUE

Paden City Volunteer Fire Company holds an all-you-can-eat breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. until noon at the fire hall. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, hash browns, sausage

gravy, biscuits, pancakes, toast, French toast and drinks. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids under 10. Take out available. Call (304) 337-9289 for more information.

FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Second Harvest Food Pantry, in the basement of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 130 S. Fourth Ave. in Paden City, is open the second, third and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Food is offered for free for those who qualify. All SNAP recipients qualify. Donations may be dropped off at the church. For more information, call 304-337-9145 or 304-337-2150.

JOSEPHS MILLS

BINGO OFFERED MONTHLY

Josephs Mills Community Center, on Strong Run, just off Route 18, about a half mile before the Route 18 and Route 74 split, holds bingo on the second Friday of each month year-round.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

FEE-FREE WEEK AT NMPL

The New Martinsville Public Library will waive fees for late book returns Sunday, April 7, to Saturday, April 13. For more information, call 304-455-4545. Come support your local library.

NMPL BOOK SALE SET

New Martinsville Public Library will hold their annual book sale Monday, April 22, to Saturday, April 27. All books are 50 cents each or 5 books for \$1. Saturday, a bag of books will cost \$1.

EASTER EGGS FOR SALE

The United Methodist Women of the New Martinsville United Methodist Church are selling chocolate-covered Easter eggs in the following flavors: Peanut Butter, Maple Nut, Coconut, Cherry Nut and Pecan. Eggs are available in two sizes: 1 pound for \$10 and 1/2 pound for \$5. If you would like to order, call 304-455-1422. All proceeds benefit local missions.

Continued on page A8



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The Wells Inn
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Events

Continued from page A7

CHAMBER, WVNCC TEAM UP TO OFFER FREE CLASSES ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

West Virginia Northern Community College and the Wetzel County Chamber are hosting a program now underway on Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development. Classes will be held at WVNCC's New Martinsville Campus every Tuesday through May 21, from 6-9 p.m. Classes are free, but pre-register is required to reserve a seat. Participants can choose to attend all 10 sessions or pick and choose which ones they would like to attend. Sessions include management principles, business plans, marketing, bookkeeping, finances, HR, social media, customer service and more. Each attendee will receive a certificate upon completion of the program. Anyone interested in attending can register for the free program by calling 304-455-4684. This program is funded by EQT.

RECOVERY GROUP MEETS THURSDAYS

WHAT NOT TO WEAR... What is in your closet? Fear, unforgiveness, bitterness, guilt, shame, or anger. Are you looking for real hope and meaning in your life? Feeling overwhelmed? Life is hard. Have you ever heard of a program called Celebrate Recovery? Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives. Is Celebrate Recovery for you or someone you know? Are you or someone you know struggling with...Addiction; Anger; Codependency; Depression; Eating Disorder; Enabler; Fear; Food Addiction; Love & Relationship Addiction; Physical-Sexual-Emotional Abuse; Alcohol / Drug Addiction; Sexual Addiction, and/or Gambling Addiction? Together we can make a difference! Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at New Martinsville United

Methodist Church located behind Captain Richard's. Free child care provided. Thursday evenings begin at 6:30 in the MPR with a time of fellowship and snacks. At 7 p.m. they move to the sanctuary for large group, and begin with music, alternating each week with a testimony or lesson. Around 8 p.m. men and women form separate gender-specific groups that give "safe places" to give and receive positive support for individual needs. If you have any questions, please call the church and ask for Debbie. She can answer any question or point you in the right direction to find those answers. Come As You Are - It Will Change Your Life!

STORY TIME CONTINUES

Back to school means story time re-

turns to New Martinsville Public Library, starting at 11 a.m. Tuesdays. If Wetzel County schools are not in session, there will be no story time.

BIBLE STUDY SLATED

Bible study is held at the Wetzel County Career Center (Wetzel County Center for Children and Families) Saturdays from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Center is 2.5 miles east of Route 2 on Highway 7, on the left just beyond the twin bridges. Enter side door number 6. For more information call Daniel Morikone at 304-266-7504.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS SATURDAY

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. on Saturdays at the New Martinsville

United Methodist Church, at 10 Howard Jeffers Drive.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS OFFERED

Healing Hearts of Survivors of Suicide Loss meets Tuesdays at Saint Ann's Episcopal Church at 453 Maple Ave. in New Martinsville. The social begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7 p.m. This support group is run by Messages For Hope Inc. for those who have been personally touched by a suicide. For more info contact Debbie Cardwell by email debbie@messagesforhope.com or at (304) 389-8558. Local group facilitator Richard Heller can be reached at (304) 299-0892.

Continued on facing page



NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR INNFORMER STAFF

The INNformer has some new email addresses. Editor Debbie Browning is now at innformer.editor@gmail.com, with the previous innformerme@yahoo.com address slowly being phased out. Reach Business Editor Dan Tyson at innformer.business@gmail.com



Coe Thorn Post 67
515 Wells St Sistersville, WV
(304) 652-1534

LEGION ENTERTAINMENT

April 6 Capt Carl
April 13 Triple Threat
April 19 Debbie G

9pm-1am No cover charge

WORD SEARCH

Early Schools in Tyler County

X A S H L L E W E P O H H K B D A P H U
O R L U S B D G W D A H A K U I K F X Z
O X T Y G P I I D O M P P M A W S R J A
I K I Q E Y S L L I M S L L A F B I M L
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J Q Q F O P E C R R W Q O S Y O S W F N
O L A F F U B G I B R D H P N E C Z C G
O Y A W A N O C J K B A D G E R R U N X
G N R O I S L E C X E A N G T X X U R C

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Events

Continued from previous page

PINE GROVE

SHORTLINE RAMP FESTIVAL RETURNS APRIL 20

Saturday, April 20, annual 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m. with registration at 8 a.m. preregister by April 5 to receive a T-shirt. 5k starts/finishes at the Robert C. Byrd Center. New this year are age groups: Under 10, 10-18, 19-35, 36-55 and over 55. Entry fee is \$20. Entry proceeds go to fundraiser for: Short Line School "Engineer Energy Kids." Festival officially kicks off at 10 a.m. with the raising of the flag and national anthem then sign-up and decorate for kids box car race and the ramp taste-off begins; 10-3 p.m. meet race car drivers Travis Brown, Scott Irvin and Sonny Conley. 10:30 is the kids box car race. Also from 10-3 p.m. children's games and prizes, indoor crafters/vendors and live bluegrass music! From 10:30 to 2:30 there's chicken poop bingo. Ramp dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or while supplies last prepared by (and proceeds go to) FFA Alumni Association. Menu includes: ham, fried potatoes (with or without ramps), soup beans with ramps, corn bread, dessert and a drink, along with clean ramps ready for you to eat, all for \$8! At noon is a ramp tasting contest, then at 1 p.m. by the Little Miss/Mr. ramp personality contest followed by an Easter egg hunt. Also at 1 p.m. is a horseshoe tournament. Awards presentation is at 2:30 p.m. Bring the whole family and lawn chairs! Check their Facebook page: Shortline Ramp Festival often for updates on activities.

FAIRMONT

SATURDAY BIRD WALKS AT PRICKETT'S FORT

Come celebrate the joys of spring with a Saturday morning bird walk. The staff of the West Virginia Department



of Natural Resources will lead the public on this annual rite of passage at Prickett's Fort State Park. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring binoculars if you have them. Free and open to the public. Walks are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturdays, April 20, April 27 and May 4. Prickett's Fort State Park is located 2 miles off I-79 at exit 139, at 88 State Park Road, Fairmont. For more information contact Greg Bray at 304.363.3030 or website: <https://www.prickettsfort.org/>.

OPENING DAY APRIL 22 AT PRICKETT'S FORT

Come out and enjoy the very first day of their opening season Monday, April 22, from 10 1.m. to 4 p.m. Prickett's Fort State Park is located 2 miles off I-79 at exit 139, at 88 State Park Road, Fairmont. For more information contact Greg Bray at 304.363.3030 or website: <https://www.prickettsfort.org/>.

HEIRLOOM PLANT SALE MAY 4

The heirloom plant sale set for Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is provided by the Marion County Master Gardeners. All proceeds go to maintaining the gardens at Prickett's Fort State Park. The plant sale will be held inside

the Prickett's Fort Visitor Center and is free and open to the public. Prickett's Fort State Park is located 2 miles off I-79 at exit 139, at 88 State Park Road, Fairmont. For more information contact Greg Bray at 304.363.3030 or website: <https://www.prickettsfort.org/>.

MORGANTOWN

MOUNTAIN STAGE APRIL 28

Mountain Stage with Larry Groce has been the home of live music on public radio for more than 30 years. Each two-hour episode is produced weekly by West Virginia Public Broadcasting and distributed by NPR Music on more than 240 stations across America. While most of the shows are recorded in Charleston, WVU is proud to have served as the show's second home for the last decade. The show features performances from seasoned legends and emerging stars in genres ranging from folk, blues, and country to indie rock, synth pop, world, alternative and beyond. Each event showcases five artists as well as songs from the Mountain Stage band and soloist Julie Adams. The show culminates in the finale number where all five acts come to-

gether to perform a special song chosen by the show's producers. If you love live music, you won't want to miss Mountain Stage! Scheduled to appear as special guest host is Kathy Mattea! Also scheduled are Darlingside, Greg Brown, Lula Wiles, Si Kahn and The Looping Brothers and Sean McConnell. Event is Sunday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the WVU Creative Arts Center. Tickets start at \$27. WVU Student tickets start at \$10. Buy tickets online at ticketmaster.com.

HISTORICAL WARGAMING SETS SUMMER DATES

Stop by the Aull Center, 351 Spruce St., Morgantown, Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m. to participate in or watch a three-hour historical wargame! Additional summer dates are Saturdays, May 4, June 1, July 6, and Aug. 10. Gameplay will be guided by an experienced gamemaster. Historical wargaming is the recreation of historical battles through the use of a 3D terrain table over which are deployed model forests, roads, rivers and buildings as well as miniature soldiers and vehicles depicting the actual participants of the engagement. Each miniature represents a certain number of historical soldiers or vehicles and are painted to depict the same color schemes or uniforms as were used by the historical combatants. Detailed rules instruct the players on how they may move and launch their miniature forces in combat against each other, drawing on extensive research as to what happened historically and why. The rules, and also the reference chats that accompany them, regulate such things as combat formations, movement, command-control, morale and firepower. Dice, from 6 sided to 20 sided, are used to insert the uncertainty that has always been present in war into the game, and thus into the minds of the players as well. Be sure to join their Facebook group Aull Center Wargaming.

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL APRIL 22

There's never been a better time to experience Chicago, Broadway's razzle-dazzle smash. This triumphant hit musical is the recipient of six Tony Awards®, two Olivier Awards, a Grammy®, thousands of standing ovations and now the No. 1 longest-running American musical in Broadway history. Chicago has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping song after another; and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. It's no surprise that Chicago has wowed audiences from Mexico City to Moscow, from Sao Paulo to South Africa. And now it's coming to your town! Whether you're looking for your first Broadway musical, whether you've seen the Academy Award®-winning film and want to experience the show live on stage, or whether you've seen it before and want to recapture the magic, Chicago always delivers! Mature content! Chicago the Musical, Monday, April 22 • 7:30 p.m. at the WVU Creative Arts Center. Tickets start at \$54. WVU Student tickets start at \$29. Buy tickets online at ticketmaster.com.

'MOUNDVILLE' SCREENING, DIRECTOR Q&A APRIL 25

Stop by the Aull Center Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m. to view a screening of the 2018 documentary "Moundville" from directors David Bernado and John W. Miller. After the screening, there will be a director Q&A. "Moundville" is the economic biography of a classic American town, from the prehistoric burial mound it's named after, through the rise and fall of industry, to the age of Wal-Mart and shale gas, and a new generation figuring it all out. Told through the voices of residents, the story covers an arc that includes Moundville's Native American origins, white settlement, Marx toy plant (it made Rock'em Sock'em robots), legendary prison, first African-American mayor, post-industrial decline and current small businesses. By reckoning with deeper truths about the heartland and its economy, without nationalist nostalgia, liberal condescension, stereotypes or talking about Trump, "Moundville" plants seeds for better conversations about America's future. <https://moundville.org/>.

CABARET NIGHT FIRST THURSDAYS

Enjoy an evening of live musical theatre songs performed by West Virginia Public Theatre singers and friends accompanied by R.J. Nestor, and hosted by Lee Blair. Hors d'oeuvres available. Donations accepted at the door. This event will occur every first Thursday of each

Continued on page A10

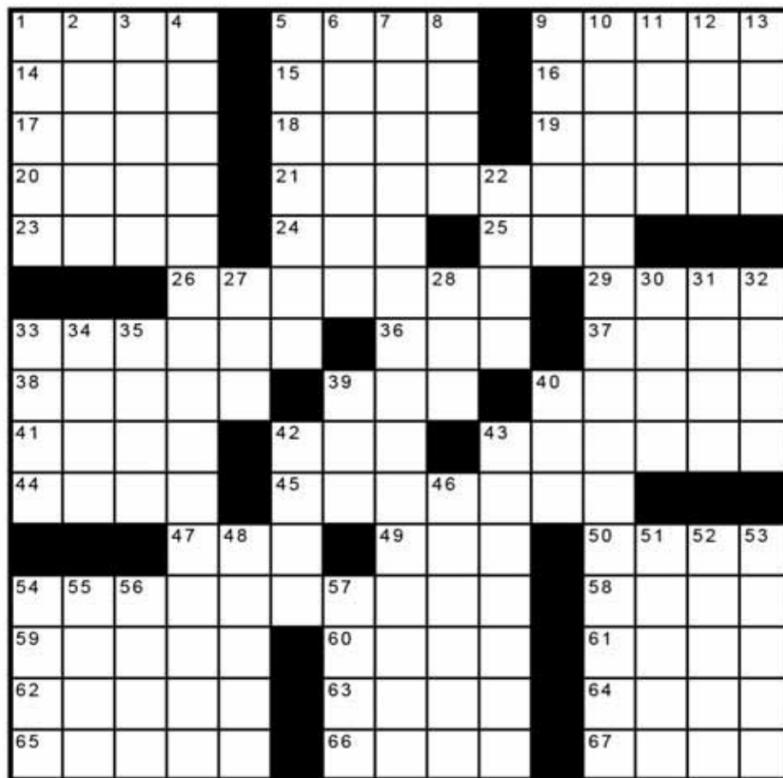
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Shower
5. Pole
9. Pool stroke
14. Corm of the taro
15. Cote d' ____
16. Kind of alcohol
17. Mine entrance
18. Bishop of Rome
19. Muse
20. Agricultural implement
21. Something preferred
23. Big rig
24. Comparative suffix
25. Neither's partner
26. Tenseness
29. Melville novel
33. Edible clam
36. PBS benefactor
37. Juniors, perhaps
38. Spring up
39. Mom-and-pop org.
40. Land measures
41. Move suddenly
42. Keats work
43. Lively Spanish dance
44. "Casablanca" role
45. Flapjack
47. Compass dir.
49. Rockers Steely ____
50. Pealed
54. Mountain chain
58. Bassoon relative
59. At full speed
60. Bartlett's abbr.
61. Back talk
62. Intervening, in law
63. Home of the Bruins
64. Rapper born Tracy Marrow
65. Catches
66. Stains
67. Team

Down

1. Harvests
2. Discombobulate
3. Dialect
4. In spite of



5. The act of making maps
6. Islands in the N Atlantic
7. School VIP position
8. Not kosher
9. Paris subway
10. Arterial plaque deposit
11. Type of guard
12. Harmony
13. Actress Sommer
22. "Orinoco Flow" singer
27. Fair-hiring abbr.
28. Some like it hot
30. Oliver Twist's request
31. Doozy
32. ____ buco (veal dish)
33. Muslim judge
34. Russian range
35. Broadcasts
39. Palm Pilot, e.g.
40. Hunky-dory
42. German auto
43. Wildly enthusiastic
46. King of pop
48. Dressed to the ____
51. Primitive calculators
52. Snooped (around)
53. Beau ____
54. Engine parts
55. Predictive sign
56. Tabula ____
57. Extol

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Answer on page A10

Events

Continued from page A9

month at Vice Versa, 335 High St Rear, Morgantown. 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

-Ohio-

NEWPORT

BINGO AT FIRE HALL

Play bingo at the Newport Fire Department every Monday. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo begins at 7 p.m. Concessions available. For more information call the non-emergency number: 740-473-1506.

SARDIS

PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR UNDERWAY

Dally Memorial Library, 37252 Mound St. in Sardis, will hold preschool story hour at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. Story hour runs on the school schedule: When school is cancelled or on delay there is no story hour. Each session includes reading, crafts and a snack for the children.

MATAMORAS

COFFEE BREAK SET APRIL 8

Marcus McCartney from the OSU Extension Office will give tips & pointers about creating container gardens. He may also provide seedlings to get everyone started on cultivating their own green thumbs! The event is Monday, April 8, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at New Matamoras Public Library, 100 Merchant St., New Matamoras. Coffee Break is a li-



brary-sponsored program featuring guest speakers from around the community. Attendance is free and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information or if you are interested in speaking at a program, call the library at 740-865-3386.

COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS ON FIRST SATURDAY

A community breakfast is held from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Matamoras Masonic Lodge #374, 301 Main St. Menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, sausage gravy, pancakes, toast,

milk, orange juice and coffee. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS RESUME

The Matamoras Area Historical Society meets April through December on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m.

SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Carroll Senior Center, 606 Broadway

Ave., New Matamoras, is holding its annual membership drive. Yearly dues are \$12. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

If you would like to run your community service announcement in The INNformer, please send it via email to innformer.editor@gmail.com, or in a private message on The INNformer's Facebook page.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

E	D	S		S	E	Y	D	S	A	G	N	S
T	E	I		A	C	L	U	E	S	N	E	M
S	A	S		N	O	N	A	N	A	I	N	A
E	B	O		A	R	A	L	I	C	O	R	C
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				R	N	R	I	E	R	I	S	E
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L	H	Y		E	T	R	Z	A	D	O	D	O
E	A	S		M	A	S	T	M	A	S	A	I

The Tyler County Public Library in Middlebourne is looking for an part-time Assistant Librarian.

This person will work in close contact with the Library Director and will be training to fill in for director as needed.

Send resumes to: Tyler County Public Library PO Box 125 Middlebourne, WV 26149

Help Wanted

The Council of Senior Tyler Countians has immediate Full Time and Part Time opening for **In-home Careproviders**. Applicant must pass a background check and be CPR and First Aid certified, with a valid drivers' license and dependable transportation. Addition training provided by the agency RN.

Resumes are accepted at the Senior Center in Middlebourne, Monday – Friday 8am-4pm and at the Senior Center in Sistersville Monday- Friday 8am-1pm. Or call (304) 758-5154 or (304) 758-4919. Applications are available at both sites.



LENTEN FISH FRY

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American Legion Auxiliary Tyler County Unit 48

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FISH SANDWICH \$5.00

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 Peanut Butter
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½ pound eggs- \$5.00
 Flat Eggs- \$1.00
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WNF recreation season begins in April

By Charles Winslow

MATAMORAS, Ohio – When the Wayne National Forest’s recreation season begins in April visitors will once again be able to use Leith Run Campground, located on Ohio Route 7, south of Matamoras.

Last year the popular riverfront campground and picnic area was closed all summer due to damage caused by last February’s flooding, opening briefly for a two-week period following Labor Day.

Elsewhere in the Wayne, designated trails will open for bikes, equine, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding starting April 15 and will be available through mid- December. Hiking is allowed on all trails year-round. While permits are no longer necessary for riding bicycles and horses on the Wayne’s trails, they are still required for OHV users with the exception of designated fee waiver days.

Digital e-permits will be available for OHV trail use starting April 1 and may be purchased through the national forests’ website at www.fs.usda.gov/wayne. Motorized trail users may also purchase paper trail permits at the Wayne’s visitor center beginning April 8 and from designated vendors three days later.

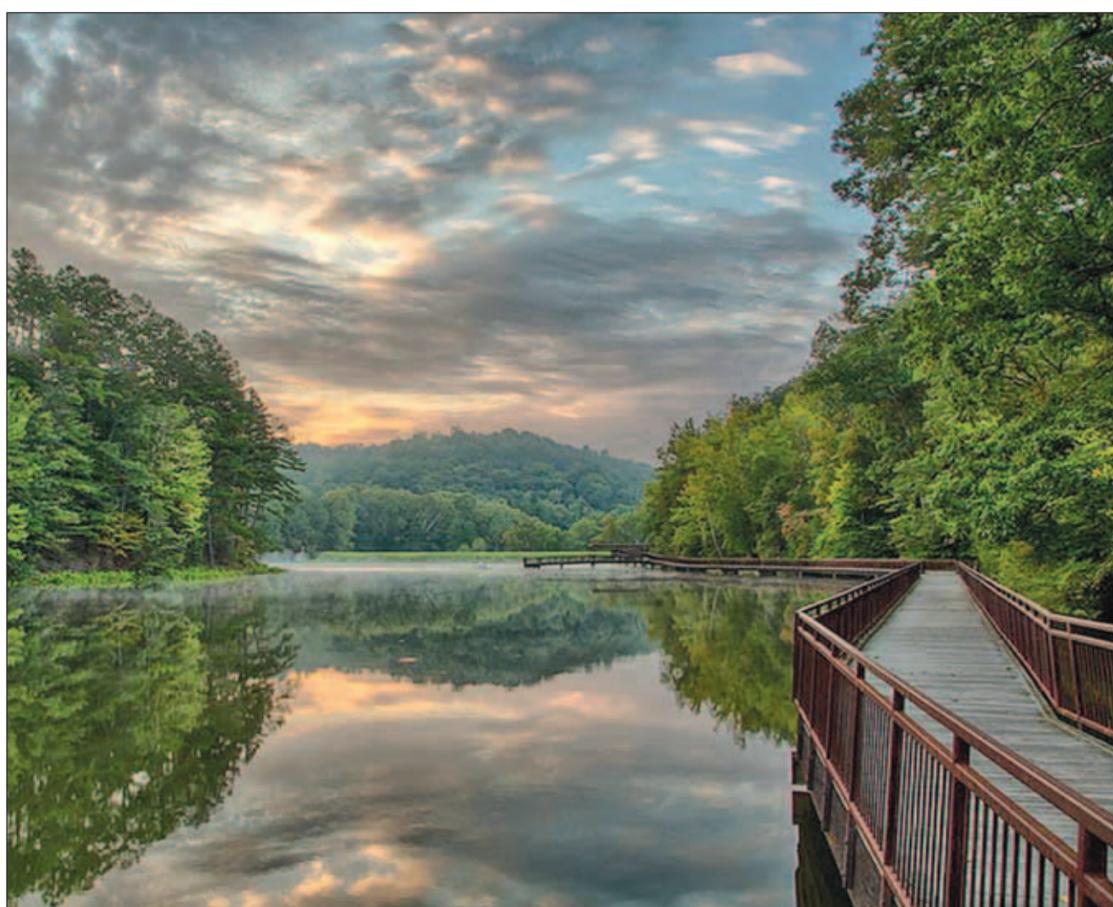
A copy of permits must be carried when riding OHV trails and may be printed or displayed on mobile devices. Costs of the permit remains unchanged from last year: a season pass is \$35 and a 3-day pass is \$20.

The campgrounds at Lake Vesuvius open Friday, April 5, with all others opening April 15.

Reservations can be made online through the National Recreation Reservation System (www.recreation.gov) for Leith Run Campground and its group picnic shelter, Oak Hill Campground, Iron Ridge Campground, Two Points Group Campground and Picnic Shelter, Lake Vesuvius’ Roadside and Furnace Group Picnic Shelters.

Lamping Homestead Campgrounds, Burr Oak Cove, Lane Farm, Hune Bridge and Ring Mill are all on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The 244,000-acre Wayne National Forest is the Buckeye State’s only national forest and has more than 400 miles of trails.





King's Corner

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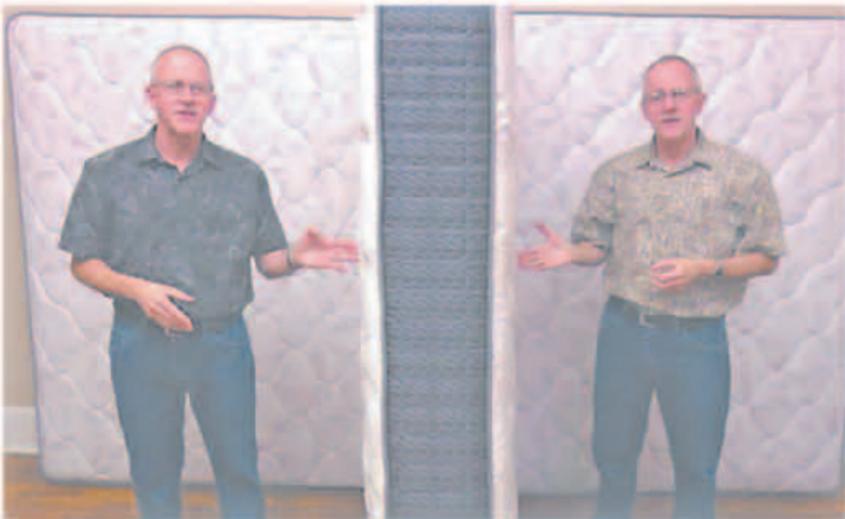


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KING SIZE SETS \$1,098

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Accent



Brunch makes Easter easy after sunrise service, egg hunt

Compiled by Mary Crawley

Getting everyone out of the house to the sunrise service then back again for the egg hunt is a major feat and deserves a bit of a rest. But it's Easter and that means feed the family, so no rest for you! However, you can ease the way by serving brunch instead of a regular sit-down feast. The assortment here includes yummy sticky buns, pancakes, a few casseroles and some egg dishes that will knock that chore down to size so you can sit back and relax. Enjoy!

VERY STICKY STICKY BUNS

FOR THE BUNS:

- Cooking spray
- 1 1/4 cups lukewarm milk
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tsp. granulated sugar, divided
- 2 1/2 teaspoons or 1 (0.25-oz.) package active dry yeast
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened and cut into cubes

FOR THE FILLING:

- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 Tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup toasted finely chopped pecans
- 4 Tablespoons melted butter

FOR THE TOPPING:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) melted butter
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup toasted chopped pecans

Make bun dough: Grease a large bowl with cooking spray. In a small bowl or liquid measuring cup, add lukewarm milk and 1 teaspoon sugar and sprinkle yeast on top. Let sit until frothy, about 10 minutes.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, combine flour, brown sugar, remaining 1/2 cup granulated sugar, salt, and baking soda. Add milk and yeast mixture, and eggs. Mix at medium speed until a very soft dough forms, about 5 minutes. Increase mixer to medium-high speed and add butter a tablespoon at a time, mixing well after each addition, until dough pulls away from sides of bowl, about 15 minutes.

Transfer dough to greased bowl, cover and let rise in a warm spot until doubled in size 1 to 1 1/2 hours. (At this point, you can refrigerate dough before letting it rest. Bring to room temperature and let it double in size before proceeding to next step.)



Make filling: In a medium bowl combine sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and pecans.

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease a 9"-x-13" baking pan with cooking spray. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and dust with more flour. Roll out into a large square, about 18" square. Brush with melted butter all over, then sprinkle filling mixture evenly on top. Roll dough tightly into a log and cut into 12 evenly sized pieces about 1 1/2" wide.

Make topping: In a medium bowl, stir together melted butter, sugar, honey, and vanilla. Pour into prepared pan and spread evenly. Top with chopped pecans. Place rolls in pan, leaving 1/2" between each roll. Cover and let rise again until doubled, about 30 minutes.

Bake until golden, about 20 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, then flip onto a cutting board. Let cool 10 minutes before serving.

EASTER BREAD

FOR THE BREAD:

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup lukewarm milk
- 1/2 cup plus 1 teaspoon granulated sugar, divided
- 2 1/2 teaspoons or 1 (0.25-oz.) package active dry yeast
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened and cut into cubes
- Egg wash, for brushing
- Sprinkles, for topping

FOR THE EGGS:

- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup boiling water, divided
- 2 teaspoons distilled white vinegar, divided
- Food coloring

Grease a large bowl with cooking spray. In a small bowl or liquid measuring cup add warm milk and 1 teaspoon sugar and sprinkle yeast on top. Let sit until frothy, about 8 minutes.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, combine flour, remaining 1/2 cup sugar, and salt. Add milk and yeast mixture and eggs. Mix until a very soft dough forms, about 5 minutes. Increase to medium-high speed and while still mixing add butter a tablespoon at a time, mixing well after each addition, until dough pulls away from sides of bowl, about 15 minutes.

Transfer dough to greased bowl, cover and let rise in a warm spot until doubled in size 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Meanwhile make hard boiled eggs: Place eggs in a medium pot and cover with water. Over medium heat, bring to a boil. Cover and turn off heat. Let sit for 11 minutes, then remove from pan and dunk in ice water.

Place 1 cup boiling water in 2 separate bowls. Add 1 tsp vinegar and desired food coloring to each bowl. Add one egg at a time in and let sit 5 to 10 minutes, depending on preferred color. Use a slotted spoon to remove from bowl and let dry on a wire rack fitted over a baking sheet.

Preheat oven to 375° and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, divide dough

into 3 equal parts. Roll each piece into a 16" long rope. Place ropes side by side lengthwise on prepared baking sheet. Pinch top ends together, then tightly braid ropes. Bring ends together to form a circle and pinch together.

Press dyed eggs into braids, then cover dough and let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes.

Brush top with egg wash and top with sprinkles. Bake until golden, 30 minutes. (*Don't eat the eggs*)

BISCUITS AND GRAVY BAKE

- Cooking spray
- 2 lb. Ground breakfast sausage
- 3 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 2 (16-oz.) cans refrigerated biscuits
- 2 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 Tablespoon freshly chopped chives, for garnish

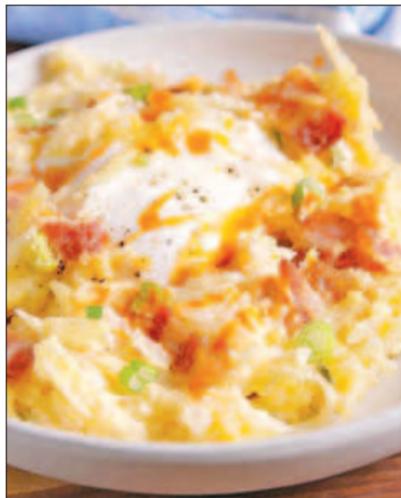
Preheat oven to 375° and grease a 9"-x-13" baking pan with cooking spray. In a large skillet over medium heat, add sausage and cook, breaking up meat with a wooden spoon, until no longer pink, about 6 minutes. Add flour and cook 1 minute more. Pour in milk and whisk to combine. Season with salt, pepper, and cayenne pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until thickened, 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

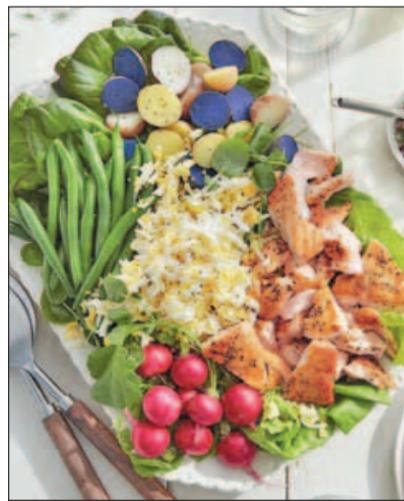
Cut biscuits into quarters and add half to prepared pan. Pour gravy over biscuits, then top with remaining biscuits. Brush biscuits with melted butter and season with black pepper. Bake until golden and cooked through, 20 minutes. Garnish with chives before serving.

BEST-EVER HOT CROSS BUNS

- 1 cup whole milk, warm
- 2 (0.25-oz.) packages active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for kneading
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

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Recipes

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1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 cup dried currants, plumped in hot water then drained
1 teaspoon lemon zest
Egg wash, for brushing

FOR THE GLAZE:

2 cup powdered sugar
2 Tablespoons whole milk
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest

In a medium bowl, combine milk, yeast and a pinch of sugar. Let sit, without stirring, until foamy, about 20 minutes. Whisk butter, egg yolk and vanilla into the yeast mixture. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, remaining sugar, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and add the yeast mixture. Stir with a wooden spoon until the mixture is a thick, shaggy dough. Stir in currants.

Turn the dough onto a heavily floured surface and knead until the dough is soft and elastic, 8 to 10 minutes. Shape the dough into a large ball.

Grease the inside of a large bowl with butter and put the dough in the bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise at room temperature until doubled in size, about 1 1/2 hours.

When the dough is ready to form into rolls, butter a 9"-x-13" baking pan. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and pat it into a large rectangle. Divide the dough into 12 portions with a sharp knife or pizza wheel.

Shape each piece into a roll, tucking the edges under, and place each roll seam side-down into the butter pan. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until the rolls have doubled in size, about 45 minutes.

After the second rise, preheat oven to 375°. Brush tops of buns with egg wash. Bake until golden and puffy, 22 to 25 minutes.

Make glaze: Whisk together powdered sugar, milk, and lemon zest until smooth. Transfer to a medium resealable plastic bag and make a small cut in the corner of the bag. Pipe a thick cross shape over each bun. Serve warm or at room temperature.

PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN PANCAKES

1 cup Bisquick Mix
1 cup cake mix
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
1 can pineapple rings, juices drained
1 jar maraschino cherries (without stems)

Lightly grease a large sauté pan or griddle over medium-low heat. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together pancake mix, cake mix, milk, vanilla, and eggs. Use measuring cup to pour 1/3-cup pancakes onto pan.

When bubbles start to form in the batter, gently add a pineapple ring. Place a maraschino cherry in the center of the ring. Let it cook for another minute

or so before flipping the pancake.

Cook other side until lightly golden. Serve with maple syrup.

CARROT CAKE BANANA BREAD

FOR THE BANANA BREAD:

Cooking spray, for pan
1/2 cup melted butter
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 large eggs
1/4 cup whole milk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3 large ripe bananas, mashed
1/4 cup grated carrots
1/4 cup chopped pecans, plus more for garnish

FOR THE FROSTING:

8 oz. block cream cheese, softened
1 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Make banana bread: Preheat oven to 350°, then grease a 9"-x-5" loaf pan with cooking spray and line with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, stir together butter and sugars until combined. Add eggs, milk, and vanilla and mix until combined. Slowly add in flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, and nutmeg and stir until completely incorporated. Gently fold in bananas, carrots, and pecans and mix until fully combined.

Pour batter into prepared pan and smooth top with a spatula. Bake about 1 hour, until a toothpick comes out with moist crumbs, then let cool.

Make frosting: In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in vanilla, salt, and powdered sugar until fluffy.

Once cool, frost bread and garnish with pecans.

SLOW-COOKER HASH BROWN CASSEROLE

2 lb. refrigerated hash browns
1 cup whole milk
8 slices cooked bacon, chopped
8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
1 large onion, diced
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar
1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack
4 green onions, thinly sliced
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
4 Tablespoons butter, cut into cubes
6 large eggs

Combine hash browns, milk, bacon, cream cheese, onion, cheeses, and green onions in the bowl of a slow cooker. Season with salt and pepper and toss until evenly combined.

Top hash brown mixture with butter and cover. Cook on high for 3 hours,

or until hash browns are tender and warmed through and cheese is melted.

Heat broiler. Make wells on top of the cooked hash browns, then crack an egg into each well. Season eggs with salt and pepper.

Remove the bowl of the slow cooker and place it under the broiler. Broil until egg whites are set, about 3 minutes. Serve immediately.

HAVARTI SOUFFLÉ WITH SCALLIONS AND DILL

1 red bell pepper
5 Tablespoons butter
3 Tablespoons breadcrumbs
1 1/2 cups milk
1 clove garlic
1 bay leaf
1/4 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
5 large egg yolks
7 large egg whites
2 cups grated Havarti cheese
2 large scallions
2 Tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Roast pepper directly under broiler or over an open flame, turning it frequently, until blistered and blackened on all sides, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer pepper to a large bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap, and let sit for 20 minutes to steam. When cool enough to handle, remove plastic wrap and use a paring knife to peel off skin. Slit pepper down one side; remove stem and seeds. Finely chop pepper and set aside.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F, with a rack in the lower third of the oven. Coat an 8-cup (2-quart) soufflé dish or casserole, at least 4 inches deep, with 1 tablespoon butter. Dust with breadcrumbs; shake out any excess. Set aside. In a medium pot over medium-high heat, bring milk, garlic, and bay leaf to a simmer. Reduce heat to low. In another medium pot over medium heat, melt remaining butter. Whisk in flour and cook for 3 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to remove garlic and bay leaf from milk mixture; then, while continuously whisking, add the milk to the butter-flour mixture in a slow, steady stream. Cook until mixture thickens and begins to boil, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, and add salt and pepper; stir.

In a medium bowl, temper egg yolks by whisking in a cup of the milk-flour mixture in a slow, steady stream. Continuing to whisk, transfer tempered yolks in a slow, steady stream to remaining milk-flour mixture. Stir in cheese until melted, and transfer mixture to a large bowl. Stir in scallions, dill, and reserved red pepper.

In a medium bowl, using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat egg whites to stiff but not dry peaks. Using a spatula, stir one-third of the egg whites into the cheese mixture, then fold in remaining whites. Pour into prepared dish. Bake until soufflé is golden brown and has risen about 3 inches, and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. (Do not open oven door until soufflé has baked at least 30 minutes.)

Garnish with dill, if desired. Serve immediately.

BANANAS FOSTER BAKED FRENCH TOAST

1/2 cup butter, cubed
2/3 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
1/4 cup chopped pecans, optional
3 large bananas, sliced
12 slices egg bread or challah (about 3/4 pound)
1-1/2 cups 2 percent milk
3 large eggs
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Place butter in a microwave-safe bowl; microwave, covered, until melted, 30-45 seconds. Stir in brown sugar, cream, cinnamon, allspice and, if desired, pecans. Add bananas; toss gently to coat.

Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Arrange bread over top, trimming to fit as necessary.

Place remaining ingredients in a blender; process just until blended. Pour over bread. Refrigerate, covered, 8 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 375°. Remove French toast from refrigerator while oven heats. Bake, uncovered, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 35-40 minutes. Let stand 5-10 minutes. Invert to serve.

SEARED SALMON, WATER-CRESS, AND POTATO SALAD WITH OLIVE DRESSING

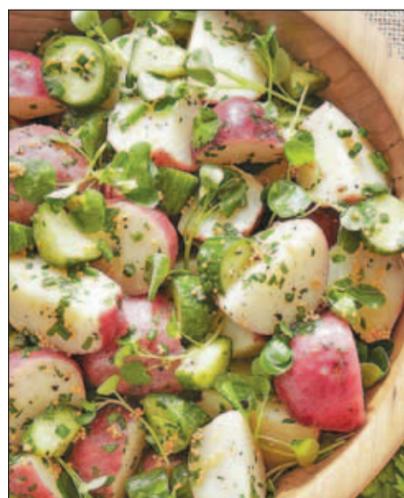
1 lb. baby new potatoes
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
8 oz. green beans, trimmed
3 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
4 skinless salmon fillets (about 1 pound total)
4 Tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1/3 cup pitted kalamata olives, chopped
1 Tablespoon capers, rinsed
3 Tablespoons fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
1 Tablespoon fresh tarragon, chopped
4 hard-cooked eggs
1 head butter lettuce
1 bunch watercress
1 bunch radishes, trimmed

Place potatoes in a large pot; cover with cold salted water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until tender, 10 to 12 minutes; drain and run under cold water to cool. Meanwhile, steam green beans until crisp-tender, 3 to 4 minutes; run under cold water to cool.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Season salmon with salt and pepper. Cook until golden brown and opaque throughout, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate; let cool. Flake into large pieces.

Whisk together vinegar, mustard, and remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a bowl. Add olives, capers, parsley, and tar-

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Fear of unknown stalls search for new job

By Katie Logan,
Life Coach
Special to The INNformer



This week I was very excited about a question posed to me. “Dear Katie, I am looking for a new job but am afraid to take the next step. What should I do?” This is a fantastic topic as I have yet to meet someone during adult life who has not encountered this scary transition.

I myself have been in this situation a few times and each time suffered through the same human emotional rollercoaster that comes along with the “fear of the unknown” and taking a leap into a new chapter in life.

The first part of transition into a new job, or any aspect of your life for that matter, is to expect some amount of anxiety and depression associated with the change, and even grief. It is normal to feel scared, intimidated, or sad about a new job. Even when you know that it is the right career move for yourself and your family, you will probably grieve the loss of the job you held before. The important thing here is to understand that these feelings are normal. Process them, accept them, and allow yourself time.

It is OK to be upset about leaving a job that you may have thought you would be at for life. Feel what you are feeling, but do not wallow in it. Take time to pause and reflect on the things you have learned and grown from in your previous job. Be grateful for the opportunities presented to you. Understand that change is a normal part of life.

The stress of a new job should be approached as a challenge, not a threat. This is not the first transition you have been through and it most certainly will not be the last. Reflect on the previous point of change you have conquered and know you will master this one as well.

Approach the new job with positive thoughts. Realize this is the start of a new chapter. There are so many opportunities in front of you. Maybe you didn’t like the place you were when you started your old job.



Maybe you started it during another big transition such as a move or a divorce or a death in the family. Your former co-workers may have caught glimpses of you in low points. They may have held that over you.

Now you have the chance to redefine yourself and present yourself in the manner you want to be perceived by your peers and management. This is a fantastic opportunity and one that should be approached with excitement, focus and drive. Understand that when you accept change into your life, you allow your cognitive growth to flourish and avoid the dreaded sense of complacency.

Make sure you are mentally and intellectually prepared for the start of your new job. Have a clear un-

derstanding of the expectations they have for you and what your job tasks will be. Get clarification if you do not understand.

The first 90 days are always a transition/probationary period. This is not just to allow your new employer to learn about you, but it gives you the chance to learn about them and ensure this will be a good fit for you. Seek out the help of role models in your life who can act as a sounding board and be there to encourage you. Maintain connections with friends, family and even former co-workers so you can still have the comfort of the familiar.

Do not forget that as an employee, you are still a company asset. Put a value on yourself and respect your worth and what you bring to the table. Be confident but not arrogant. Take the time to discover where you can be most valuable to the company, where your skills can fill gaps they may not even have known they had.

Observe and ask questions – plenty of them. Learn from your peers and management. Find out what the company culture is and try to comply. Limit the drama. Do not divulge too many details of your personal life. Most people are not there to make friends and they will use your stories as a weakness against you when given the opportunity to advance in your place.

Limit any preconceived notions you have about the new company, your role there and your potential. There is always opportunity for growth if you are open-minded and creative. You may be hired into one position and several months later may see an opportunity for you that cannot be passed up.

Most successful businesses love the (respectful) input of their staff, which helps them improve their company and increase profit and customer loyalty. Build relationships with your co-workers. Socialize and engage in conversation. Be upbeat and helpful. Volunteer for everything you can. Go above and beyond and anticipate the needs of others. This causes you to be an invaluable asset and one they will not ignore.

Set realistic time frames for your assimilation. Do not put too much pressure on yourself to have everything mastered by the first week. Take notes when you can. Establish a new routine where you can to develop that “muscle memory” that will make your day easier. This will limit the stress on you as you settle comfortably into your “new norm.”

Just remember to breath and focus on the present. Anxiety is induced from worrying about the future and lamenting the past. You have control of yourself in the present time. The proper attitude, intent and drive will allow you to be successful in whatever you encounter in the workplace and in the rest of your life.

If you have an issue or a question you would like Katie to address anonymously in a future column, feel free to email her at askkatie.innformer@gmail.com.



Recipes

Continued from previous page

ragon and stir to combine. Grate eggs on the large holes of a box grater.

Place lettuce, watercress, potatoes, green beans, eggs, radishes, and salmon on a serving platter. Serve with olive dressing alongside.

ASPARAGUS HAM STRATA

12 slices white bread
12 ounces process cheese (Velveeta), diced
1-1/2 pounds fresh asparagus, trimmed
2 cups diced cooked ham
6 large eggs
3 cups whole milk
2 Tablespoons finely chopped onion
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground mustard

Using a doughnut cutter, cut 12 circles and holes from bread; set aside. Tear remaining bread in pieces and place in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish.

Layer with cheese, asparagus and ham; arrange bread circles and holes on top. Lightly beat eggs with milk. Add onion, salt and mustard; mix well. Pour egg mixture over bread circles and holes. Cover and refrigerate at least 6 hours or overnight.

Bake, uncovered, at 325° for 55 minutes or until top is light golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.



PEARL COUSCOUS WITH LEEKS AND PEAS

1 1/2 cups pearl or Israeli couscous
1 1/2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
3 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 leeks (white and light green parts only), thinly sliced
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
1 cup frozen green peas, thawed
1/3 cup toasted pine nuts
6 radishes, thinly sliced

Cook couscous per package directions; drain and transfer to a bowl. Stir in lemon juice and 1 tablespoon oil.

Meanwhile, heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add leeks, and season with salt and pepper. Cook, covered and stirring occasionally, until tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Add peas and cook, stirring occasionally, until heated through, 2 to 4 minutes. Add leek mixture, pine nuts, and radishes to couscous and stir to combine.

Serve warm or cold.

TANGY POTATO SALAD

2 1/2 lb. new potatoes
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
2 Tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 Tablespoons Dijon mustard
1/2 cup chopped half-sour pickles, plus 2 tablespoons pickle brine
2 teaspoons mustard seeds



2 cups watercress
1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
1/3 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Place potatoes in a large pot; cover with cold salted water. Cover and bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer until tender, 15 to 18 minutes. Cut into halves or quarters, if large.

Meanwhile, whisk together oil, vinegar, Dijon, and pickle brine in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add potatoes, pickles, and mustard seeds, and toss to coat. Fold in watercress, chives, and parsley.

CORIANDER-MAPLE GLAZED CARROTS

2 1/2 lb. rainbow carrots, halved crosswise and thick ends quartered
2 Tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons whole coriander seeds, crushed
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2 Tablespoons pure maple syrup
1 teaspoon grated lime zest, plus 1 tablespoon lime juice

Heat oven to 425°F with the racks in the bottom and middle positions.

Toss together carrots, oil, and coriander in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Divide among 2 rimmed baking sheets. Bake, stirring and rotating the pans halfway through, until golden brown and tender, 18 to 20 minutes. Toss with maple syrup and lime zest and juice.

RHUBARB AND STRAWBERRY COFFEE CAKE

1-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
3 Tablespoons sugar
3/4 cup chopped fresh strawberries
3/4 cup chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
1 Tablespoon water

FILLING:
1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup sugar
1 large egg, lightly beaten

CAKE:
2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup cold butter, cubed
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 large egg, room temperature, lightly beaten
3/4 cup fat-free sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°. Line bottom of a greased 9-in. springform pan with parchment; grease parchment. In a small saucepan, mix cornstarch and sugar; stir in strawberries, rhubarb and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until thickened, 6-8 minutes, stirring occasionally. For filling, in a small bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg.

In a large bowl, combine flour and sugar; cut in butter until crumbly. Reserve 3/4 cup for topping. Stir baking powder, baking soda and salt into remaining flour mixture. In a small bowl, whisk egg, sour cream and vanilla until blended; gently stir into flour mixture (do not overmix).

Spread batter onto bottom and 1/2 in. up sides of prepared pan. Spread filling over crust, leaving a 1/2-in. border around edge of pan. Spoon strawberry mixture over top; sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture.

Bake until edges are golden brown, 50-60 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 20 minutes. Loosen sides from pan with a knife. Cool completely. Remove rim from pan.

Refrigerate leftovers.

2019 WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / BILL TRACKER

BILLS SPONSORED BY AREA LAWMAKERS

1823 bills were introduced in the 84th WV Legislature, 1142 bills in the House, 681 in the Senate.

DEL. DAVID KELLY

Sponsor on 49 bills 03.09.19
Lead sponsor on 2 bills



HB 2190 Modifying bail requirements *Senate Judiciary Committee* 01/22/19

HB 2462 Issuing certificate to correctional employees to carry firearms *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 12, 2019)*

HB 2521 Relating to permitting fur-bearer parts *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 16, 2019)*

HB 2530 Creating a voluntary certification for recovery residences *Vetoed*

HB 2531 Permitting trained nurses to provide mental health services in a medication-assisted treatment program *Vetoed*

HB 2602 Including possession of known stolen property in the offense of receiving or transferring stolen property *Senate Judiciary Committee* 01/30/19

HB 2661 Relating to natural gas utilities *Vetoed*

HB 2686 Relating to permitting the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia to create a family drug court pilot program *Senate Judiciary Committee* 02/08/19

HB 2807 Creating an additional modification to the West Virginia adjusted gross income of shareholders of S corporations engaged in banking *Vetoed*

HB 2830 Establishing Next Generation 911 services in this state *Senate Government Organization Committee* 02/26/19

HB 2846 Relating to special vehicle registration plates, including a "Back the Blue" plate in support of law-enforcement personnel *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 6, 2019)*

HB 2872 [lead sponsor] Authorizing law-enforcement officers to assist the State Fire Marshal *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 4, 2019)*

HB 2975 Relating to imposition of sexual acts on persons incarcerated *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

HB 3141 Relating to expanding areas of the Capitol Complex *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

DEL. DAVE PETHEL

Sponsor on 29 bills 03.09.19
Lead sponsor on 2 bills



HB 2420 Establishing the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority *Senate 2nd Reading* 03/06/19

HB 2532 Allowing certain donations by persons renewing their driver's license or vehicle registration *2nd Reading* 02/21/19

HB 2661 Relating to natural gas utilities *Vetoed*

HB 2720 [lead sponsor] Authorizing certain investigators and first responders to carry firearms *Senate Health and Human Resources Committee* 02/14/19

HB 2743 Eliminating reference to municipal policemen's pension and relief funds and firemen's pension and relief funds in section restricting investment *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 30, 2019)*

HB 2779 Providing that proceeds from certain oil and gas wells to persons whose name or address are unknown are to be kept in a special fund *Rejected by Senate* 03/09/19

HB 2831 Finding and declaring certain claims against the state and its agencies to be moral obligations of the state *Signed Effective from passage - (March 8, 2019)*

HB 2866 Relating to the termination, expiration, or cancellation of oil

or natural gas leases *Senate Judiciary Committee* 02/27/19

HB 3095 Establishing a minimum monthly retirement annuity for certain retirants *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)*

HB 3140 Relating to the Division of Natural Resources Infrastructure *Signed Effective from passage - (March 4, 2019)*

SEN. CHARLIE CLEMENTS

Sponsor on 57 bills 03.09.19
Lead sponsor on 11 bills



SB 1 Increasing access to career education and workforce training *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 3 Establishing WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act *Signed Effective from passage - (March 5, 2019)*

SB 4 Relating generally to Municipal Home Rule Program *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 28 Removing hotel occupancy tax limit collects for medical care and emergency services *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 62 Requiring participation in drug court program before discharge of certain first-time drug offenses *House Judiciary Committee* 02/01/19

SB 124 [lead sponsor] Creating felony offense for actions of cruelty to animals which causes serious injury or death of animal *House 1st Reading* 03/07/19

SB 153 Providing greater flexibility for making infrastructure project grants *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 256 Allowing certain deductions from individual personal income tax refunds *House Finance Committee* 02/01/19

SB 259 Expanding Coyote Control Program *House Finance Committee* 02/28/19

SB 285 Relating to sale of homemade food items *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 324 Relating to Commissioner of Agriculture employees *Signed Effective from passage - (Feb. 7, 2019)*

SB 356 Requiring MAPS provide state and federal prosecutors information *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

SB 357 Relating generally to Division of Administrative Services *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 358 Exempting Purchasing Division purchases for equipment to maintain security at state facilities *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

SB 373 Relating to financial responsibility of inmates *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 3, 2019)*

SB 383 [lead sponsor] Creating WV Healthy Food Crop Block Grant Program *House Finance Committee* 02/25/19

SB 392 Relating to payment of invoices received by Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation for contract work *House 2nd Reading* 03/07/19

SB 393 Protecting right to farm *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 3, 2019)*

SB 440 Relating to Antihazing Law *Vetoed*

SB 441 Relating to higher education campus police officers *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 2, 2019)*

SB 538 [lead sponsor] Relating to WV Highway Design-Build Pilot Program *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 542 [lead sponsor] Relating to registration fees for military-related special registration plates *House Finance Committee* 02/26/19

SB 544 Increasing salaries for members of WV State Police over

three-year period *Signed Effective July 1, 2019*

SB 554 [lead sponsor] Relating to moving salary caps for director of State Rail Authority *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 664 Authorizing certain members of federal judiciary perform marriages *Signed Effective from passage - (March 5, 2019)*

SB 669 Allowing appointment of commissioners to acknowledge signatures *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 671 Eliminating State Fire Marshal report on transfer of authority and responsibility of providing fire service to counties *House Government Organization Committee* 02/28/19

SEN. MIKE MARONEY

Sponsor on 102 bills 03.09.19
Lead sponsor on 14 bills



SB 255 Relating to Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 2, 2019)*

SB 256 Allowing certain deductions from individual personal income tax refunds *House Finance Committee* 02/01/19

SB 259 Expanding Coyote Control Program *House Finance Committee* 02/28/19

SB 263 Limiting number of days legislators may be compensated during extended and extraordinary sessions if budget bill not enacted *House Finance Committee* 02/11/19

SB 285 Relating to sale of homemade food items *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 348 Relating to tobacco usage restrictions *House Health and Human Resources Committee* 02/28/19

SB 354 Expiring funds to balance of Auditor's Office - Chief Inspector's Fund *Signed Effective from passage - (Feb. 8, 2019)*

SB 356 Requiring MAPS provide state and federal prosecutors information *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

SB 373 Relating to financial responsibility of inmates *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 3, 2019)*

SB 379 Permitting county board of education to include faith-based electives in drug prevention programs *House Education Committee* 02/28/19

SB 402 Authorizing Division of Forestry investigate and enforce timber theft violations *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 421 Relating to annual legislative review of economic development tax credit *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 440 Relating to Antihazing Law *Vetoed*

SB 441 Relating to higher education campus police officers *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 2, 2019)*

SB 487 [lead sponsor] Relating to admissibility of health care staffing requirements in litigation *Vetoed*

SB 489 [lead sponsor] Relating to Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act *Signed Effective from passage - (Feb. 26, 2019)*

SB 496 Transferring authority to regulate milk from DHHR to Department of Agriculture *Signed Effective from passage - (March 8, 2019)*

SB 510 Relating to medical professional liability *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 29, 2019)*

SB 516 Relating to attorney fees in subsidized adoptions *House Judiciary Committee* 02/18/19

SB 518 [lead sponsor] Restricting sale and trade of dextromethorphan *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 31, 2019)*

SB 519 [lead sponsor] Requiring

county emergency dispatchers complete course for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 3, 2019)*

SB 520 [lead sponsor] Requiring entities report drug overdoses *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 3, 2019)*

SB 522 Creating Special Road Repair Fund *Vetoed*

SB 539 Relating to accrued benefit of retirees in WV State Police Retirement System Plan B *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 544 Increasing salaries for members of WV State Police over three-year period *Signed Effective July 1, 2019*

SB 546 Relating to health care provider taxes *Signed Effective July 1, 2019*

SB 550 Declaring certain claims to be moral obligations of state *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 564 Expanding comprehensive coverage for pregnant women through Medicaid *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 574 [lead sponsor] Permitting authorized physician order involuntary hospitalization of individual if physician believes addicted or mentally ill *House Judiciary Committee* 03/02/19

SB 593 [lead sponsor] Permitting critical access hospital become community outpatient medical center *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 30, 2019)*

SB 596 Adjusting voluntary contribution amounts on certain DMV forms *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 7, 2019)*

SB 605 Permitting Secondary Schools Athletic Commission discipline schools for not following protocol for concussions and head injuries *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 6, 2019)*

SB 613 [lead sponsor] Requiring DNR include election of organ donation on hunting licenses *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 640 Regulating sudden cardiac arrest prevention *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 6, 2019)*

SB 641 [lead sponsor] Relating to Primary Care Support Program *Signed Effective from passage - (March 4, 2019)*

SB 642 [lead sponsor] Providing options in living wills and combined medical powers of attorney and living wills *House Judiciary Committee* 02/27/19

SB 653 Relating generally to practice of medical corporations *Signed Effective 90 Days from Passage - (June 5, 2019)*

SB 668 Relating to physician assistants collaborating with physicians in hospitals *PASS Completed Legislation* 03/06/19

SB 671 Eliminating State Fire Marshal report on transfer of authority and responsibility of providing fire service to counties *House Government Organization Committee* 02/28/19

SB 674 Supplemental appropriation to Division of Human Services *House Finance Committee* 02/28/19

SB 677 Supplemental appropriation to Division of Health and Division of Human Services *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 678 Supplemental appropriation from State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to Office of Technology *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 679 Supplemental appropriation to Division of Finance *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 680 Supplemental appropriations to various divisions in DMAPS *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

SB 681 Supplemental appropriation from Lottery Net Profits to Educational Broadcasting Authority *Signed Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

2019 WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / BILL TRACKER

Completed legislation

294 bills: 155 Senate Bills, 139 House Bills.
Gov. Justice signed 264 bills and vetoed 30, two of those were revised during session then signed. One bill, HB2934, became law without his signature.

Senate Bill 1 increases access to career education and workforce training by creating a new grant program to provide tuition for qualifying students up to the amount of tuition less any other scholarships or money available from other sources. The bill also expands existing ACE programs, which connect secondary schools with community and technical colleges to prepare students for post-secondary education, from 1,000 participating students to 2,500 and to public four-year institutions that offer two-year associate's degree programs. Six universities in the state would qualify. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 3 would establish the WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act which establishes a process for wireless providers to access public rights-of-way. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective from passage - (03/05/19)**

Senate Bill 4 establishes municipal home rule as permanent statute in the state of West Virginia. The program is currently statute in many municipalities, allowing them to pass ordinances and establish levies and taxes according to their individual needs. The passage prevents the program from succumbing to its sunset clause in July 2019. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 13 would restore \$11 million to the purse funds for racetrack horses in the racing industry. This bill would restore money that was taken from the purse funds by the state in 2005 to help fund needed worker's compensation cases. **Signed 3/7/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 24, 2019)**

Senate Bill 16 would authorize the Wyoming County Commission to spend surplus funds to establish a K-9 Unit for drug searches. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 17 relates to probation eligibility. The bill would allow for the option of psychological examinations to be available to certain criminals seeking parole in West Virginia. Currently, according to statute, those seeking probation must go through a series of treatments and studies. This bill would add the option of a psychological exam with the proper documentation to that list. **Approved by Governor 2/11/19 - Effective from passage - (Jan. 29, 2019)**

Senate Bill 18 relates to crimes committed on State Capitol Complex. The bill states that a person who may otherwise lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her vehicle if locked and out of view. **Approved by Governor 2/25/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 13, 2019)**

Senate Bill 26 would permit employees of educational services cooperatives to participate in the State Teachers Retirement System. The bill permits persons employed by educational services cooperatives to participate in the State Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System. **Signed 3/7/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 26, 2019)**

Senate Bill 27 would remove current restrictions on where certain KENO themed lottery games may be played. The bill would allow these games to be sold at all traditional lottery licensed retail locations. **Approved by Governor 2/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/06/19)**

Senate Bill 28 would remove the current \$200,000 limitation on the amount collected by the county via the hotel occupancy tax that may be used for medical care and emergency services. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 30 would eliminate the 1% tax on the annuity currently collected by life insurers in the state of West Virginia effective in the fiscal year of 2020. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 36 provides protections for any person who retires under an employer-provided defined benefit pension plan. If that pension plan terminates prior to or after the retirement of that person and the pension plan is covered by a guarantor whose maximum benefit guarantee is less than the maximum benefit to which the retiree was entitled, the protection provided by the bill would be then put into place. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 40 establishes the Military Service Members Court Program, which functions to serve military veterans who suffer with arduous issues. The program has been shown to significantly help combat veterans struggling with mental health issues as well as substance abuse. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 60 would license the practice of athletic training. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

Senate Bill 61 would add certain crimes that a prosecutor may apply for a wiretap: first and second degree murder, first degree robbery, treason and participation in an organized criminal enterprise. **Vetoed by Governor 3/1/19; Senate amended, re-passed bill as result of governor's veto, House concurred: Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

Senate Bill 72 would create a Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights: 1. The right to receive a forensic medical examination; 2. The right to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit tested and preserved; 3. The right

to be informed of the results of any forensic medical examination (if such disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation); 4. The right to receive notification of evidence obtained from a forensic medication examination no fewer 60 days prior to the date of the intended destruction or disposal of said evidence; 5. The right to have said evidence to be preserved for an addition period not to exceed 10 years as a result of a written request. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 90 relates to the Safety and Treatment Program; transferring it from the Department of Health and Human Resources to the Division of Motor Vehicles; waiving license reinstatement fees in some circumstances; and providing for a method to reduce the license revocation period. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 100 increases court fees from \$2 to \$12 to fund law enforcement standards training and expenses. The fees have not changed since 1982. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

Senate Bill 101 would equalize penalties for intimidating and retaliating against public officers and employees, jurors and witnesses; increases penalty for intimidation of such persons to a felony, and establishes criminal penalties. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 103 relates generally to Public Defender Services and would transfer initial authority to review, approve, modify, or refuse panel attorney vouchers from circuit courts to Public Defender Services as well as a pay raise for public defenders – the first in nearly 30 years. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 119 specifies that documents prepared by a licensed health care provider for the purpose of improving the quality, delivery, or efficiency of health care is confidential, and is not subject to discovery in a civil action or administrative proceeding. Assessments, tests, procedures, and quality controlled documents would also be privileged information. **Signed 2/8/19. Effective 90 Days from Passage - (April 29, 2019)**

Senate Bill 147 would shift funds from the Solid Waste Landfill Closure Assistance Program to county solid waste assessment fees. Current law provides that county or regional solid waste authorities impose a \$.50 fee per ton upon the disposal of solid waste in the county. Also, a DEP solid waste assessment fee of \$3.50 per ton is assessed for disposal at a solid waste disposal facility. This bill would raise the county solid waste assessment to \$1.50 and lower the DEP to \$2.50. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 152 would authorize the judicial expungement of certain misdemeanors and non-violent felonies from a person's criminal record, including allowing a person to petition for expungement for the allowable misdemeanors one year after completion of incarceration or any period of supervision, whichever is later. A petition to expunge a felony may be filed three years after incarceration or the end of supervision, whichever is later. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 153 provides greater flexibility for making grants to infrastructure projects. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 154 requires county boards of education to allow school facilities be used for the funeral or memorial service of a community member of distinction who was a military service member, veteran or first responder. It also prohibits a funeral or memorial service held at a school facility from disrupting classroom instruction, other scheduled school event, or other official governmental use such as when a school serves as a polling place for an election. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 157 allows a vendor's contract to be cancelled if it was awarded in error, allows related parties to a debarred vendor to be debarred, authorizes the Purchasing Division to recalculate a vendor's extension price provide for reciprocal preference in limited circumstances and providing requirements to claim the preference, allow for best-in-class solutions in evaluating requests for proposals and allow for standardization of commodities. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (02/28/19)**

Senate Bill 163 includes eight other rules all relating to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The bill would modify an existing DEP rule that establishes a program of national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants as promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Clean Air Act. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/05/19)**

Senate Bill 175 would add hospital emergency rooms and departments to the list of mandatory reporters to the Department of Health and Human Resources and would expand reporting requirements to include reports on not only suspected overdoses but reported or confirmed overdoses. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)**

Senate Bill 177 is a Fire Commission rule relating to State Building Code and would add a required sunset provision and update an energy efficiency standard for commercial buildings from the 2007 edition to the 2010 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code. **Approved by Governor 2/14/19 - Effective from passage - (Jan. 31, 2019)**

Senate Bill 187 relates to the State Tax Department and exchange of information between State Tax Division and certain state agencies. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)**

Senate Bill 190 relates to a rule proposed by the State Personnel Board for a new pay plan for the DOH that allows salaried and hourly classified serv-



ice employees to be compensated for hours worked after the accumulation of 40 hours for the work week, even if annual or sick leave was used during that time. The employee must occupy a position that is paid either premium [time and a half] or straight-time for overtime hours worked. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 199 authorizes certain miscellaneous agencies and boards promulgate legislative rules, including the Athletic Commission, Secretary of Agriculture, Board of Medicine, Board of Osteopathic Medicine, Board of Pharmacy, Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board, Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, Secretary of State, the Board of Social Work Examiners and the Treasurer's Office. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

Senate Bill 223 would authorize Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)**

Senate Bill 237 improves the ability of law enforcement to locate and return missing persons by requiring law-enforcement agencies with jurisdiction to accept a missing person complaint, and specifies the minimum information that law-enforcement agencies must attempt to collect from a complainant as well as requiring law-enforcement agencies receiving a missing person complaint to ensure a report of the complaint and relevant information is entered into the state-level West Virginia Automated Police Network and when applicable, several other national databases, including those maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The bill also prohibits a law-enforcement agency from delaying a missing person investigation pursuant to a written or unwritten policy requiring a certain time period pass from receipt of complaint or the date on which the person was last seen before an investigation may commence. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 238 would increase the fines and period of license suspension for passing a stopped school bus as well as provide for the installation of forward-facing and rear-facing cameras on all school buses. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 240 would repeal certain legislative codes that are obsolete or are no longer authorized. The codes that would be repealed would have no impact to citizens of the state. **Approved by Governor 2/19/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 11, 2019)**

Senate Bill 241 permits the county clerk, with authorization from the county commission, to scan and record certain documents in electronic form rather than in books, not prepare indices of those documents in separate books, and replace existing books by scanning them in an approved electronic format. The bill provides that existing books be retained. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 255 reconstitutes the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council to include three more members, which include "three persons from the general public who are voting members." The bill also re-formats some provisions and clarifies appointment of other members. This bill passed last session but vetoed by the Governor. **Signed 2/14/19 - Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 2, 2019)**

Senate Bill 264 relates to requiring courts to order restitution to victims of crime where it is economically practicable; providing for consideration of economic hardship within the order; and providing for the definition of any person compensating a victim for loss to include the West Virginia Crime Victims Compensation Fund for purposes of receiving restitution for funds paid to a crime victim. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 267 would require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy detailing the appropriate level of computer science instruction available to students at each programmatic level and requires the Department of Education to develop and offer professional development opportunities. The bill would also authorize the Department to partner with high-quality computer science professional learning providers in developing those opportunities. **Approved by Governor 2/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 12, 2019)**

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2019 WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / BILL TRACKER

Completed

Continued from page B5

Senate Bill 268 updates the meaning of federal taxable income in WV Corporation Net Income Tax Act. *Signed 2/27/19 Effective from passage - (02/05/19)*

Senate Bill 269 updates terms used in WV Personal Income Tax Act. *Signed 2/27/19 Effective from passage - (02/05/19)*

Senate Bill 270 makes the process for utilities to gain access to DOH rights-of-way more efficient. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 21, 2019)*

Senate Bill 272 updates code relating to Commission on Special Investigations. *Vetoed by governor 2/11/19. Senate amended to meet objections of governor, repassed House. Approved by Governor 2/28/19 - Effective from passage - (Feb. 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 285 would regulate sale and distribution of homemade food. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 291 relates generally to survivor benefits for emergency response providers; changes the name of the West Virginia Fire and EMS Survivor Benefit Act to the West Virginia Emergency Responders Survivor Benefit Act; makes Division of Forestry personnel who die as a proximate result of participation in wildland fire fighting, emergency response, or disaster response operations eligible for survivor benefits. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective July 1, 2019*

Senate Bill 295 includes court security officers and correctional officers in the definition of people who could be criminally prosecuted for obstructing a police officer, adding protection for court security personnel and bailiffs as it relates to the potential to charge individuals for obstruction of such officers. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Ninety Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 310 would prohibit a health insurance contractor that covers dental services or a participating provider that has an agreement with a dentist from setting fees unless the services are covered services. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019*

Senate Bill 316 provides municipalities the option of recalculating overpayments of previously awarded retirement benefits, or upon a majority vote, authorizing continued overpayments of retirement benefits at the expense of the municipality. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)*

Senate Bill 317 authorizes three or more contiguous counties to form a multicounty trail network authority. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 318 would transfer the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to the Attorney General's office and continue the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the Attorney General's office after Oct. 1, 2019. *Signed 03/25/19 Effect Oct. 1, 2019*

Senate Bill 323 would establish revenue fund and source to support Department of Agriculture's improvement to facilities. *Approved by Governor 2/25/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 13, 2019)*

Senate Bill 324 would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture to employ a general counsel and any other such personnel necessary to perform the duties of the office. *Approved by Governor 2/19/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 7, 2019)*

Senate Bill 329 relating to agricultural education in high schools; including encouraging agricultural programs be made available to high school students; requiring State Department of Education to assist in establishing agricultural programs in certain instance; and requiring report to Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability when funding is the primary reason that an agricultural program is not established. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)*

Senate Bill 330 would require contact information be listed on a state agency's online directory and on the website of each agency, if an official or employee uses a mobile phone either furnished by the employer or service is paid by the employer for the official's or employee's personal phone use in state business. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)*

Senate Bill 340 would repeal obsolete provisions of code formerly enacted for the initial formation and operation of the West Virginia Physicians' Mutual Insurance Company. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)*

Senate Bill 344 would amend statutes relating to the operation and management of state-owned farms by the Department of Agriculture. *Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/05/19)*

Senate Bill 345 provide a simpler alternative for fire departments and fire companies to document their use of state funds for safety equipment and training, and to provide sanctions, including forfeiture of state money, for failure to provide required documentation or for spending state funds for improper uses. This bill also provides procedures for notification to the fire department or company that is subject to sanctions and to correct or contest determinations of improper expenditures. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 352 clarifies the purchasing authority for Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, establish a new fund, and provide guidance in the disposal of surplus property. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)*

Senate Bill 354 is a supplemental appropriation requested by the State Auditor's Office that would expire \$1.5 million from the Auditor's Office Securities Regulation fund and appropriate it to the Auditor's Office



WV Legislative Photography, Photo by Perry Bennett

Chief Inspector's Fund. *Approved by Governor 2/19/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 8, 2019)*

Senate Bill 356 requires Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety personnel provide information to state and federal prosecutors. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 357 relates to the Division of Administrative Services; designating Division of Administrative Services as staffing agency for certain agencies by providing executive and administrative support services; designating the division as the state administrative agency responsible for criminal justice and juvenile justice systems, and providing for posting of human trafficking assistance notices. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 358 would exempt from the State Purchasing Division purchases made by the Division of Protective Services for security equipment to maintain security in state buildings. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 360 would regulate third-party litigation financing. *Signed 03/25/19 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 369 requires that when a pharmacist substitutes a generic drug, the patient receive the savings which shall be equal to the difference in acquisition cost of the product prescribed. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)*

Senate Bill 373 would allow the Department of Corrections to subtract monies from civil judgments and settlements to be paid toward court ordered obligations of inmates. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)*

Senate Bill 377 excludes seasonal amusement park workers from the definition of "employee" for the purposes of maximum hours' standard. *Signed 3/1/19 - Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 21, 2019)*

Senate Bill 387 relates to extradition, adds language to clarify that persons in other states who are improperly released from custody before completion of a sentence and subject to extradition. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 393 would protect the right to farm and protect agricultural operations from nuisance litigation if the facility has been in operation for more than one year. *Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)*

Senate Bill 396 waives occupational licensing fees for low income individuals and military families. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)*

Senate Bill 398 would fix the rate of per diem compensation for senior judges or justices by statute and limit the combined annual total of per diem compensation and retirement benefits that may be paid to a senior judge or justice. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)*

Senate Bill 400 allows the West Virginia Board of Dentistry to create specialty licenses. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)*

Senate Bill 402 authorizes Division of Forestry to investigate and enforce timber theft violations on all lands; clarifying criminal penalties for violations and modifying said criminal penalties. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 404 alters certain sediment control requirements during commercial timber harvesting operations. The bill increases the threshold amount before a logger must follow certain licensing requirements regarding sediment control; requires the logger to notify the Director of the Division of Forestry at least three days before timbering begins, and requires certain training requirements prior to recertification of certified loggers. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 405 relates to the sale of tax liens by the State Auditor; increasing the limit to \$500 on additional expenses a purchaser may recover in preparing notice list for redemption of purchase and for licensed attorney's title examination; and requiring any amounts above the surplus of 20 percent of the gross amount of the operating fund be paid to the General School Fund at the end of each fiscal year. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 408 clarifies administrators or Public

Defender employees have the authority to make determinations of indigency for purpose of eligibility for public defender services. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/02/19)*

Senate Bill 421 would provide additional reporting requirements for the Development Office's annual report to the Joint Commission on Economic Development regarding the economic development tax credit. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 424 provides a supplemental appropriation to Civil Contingent Fund. *Signed 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

Senate Bill 435 provides a supplemental appropriation to the State Department of Education and Vocational Division. *Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)*

Senate Bill 440 is a direct result of events at West Virginia University in 2018. Five fraternities disassociated themselves from the University, and were subsequently banned from rejoining the University again for the next 10 years. Under current law, the anti-hazing law only relates to greek chapters that are a part of a higher education. SB 440 would amend the current code to include any students who are enrolled in a school of higher education, and are a part of a greek chapter, can be prosecuted for hazing, whether a chapter is associated with a school or not. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 441 would authorize institutions of higher learning to appoint all qualified individuals to serve as campus police officers. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/02/19)*

Senate Bill 442 would supplement, amend, and decrease appropriation to Insurance Commission. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 443 would provide supplemental appropriation of federal moneys to DHHR divisions. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 22, 2019)*

Senate Bill 444 would provide supplemental appropriation to DHHR divisions. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 23, 2019)*

Senate Bill 452 would provide supplemental appropriation to the Second Chance Driver's License Program. *Signed 3/7/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 21, 2019)*

Senate Bill 453 would amend and re-enact West Virginia code relating to background checks of certain financial institutions by the Division of Financial Institutions, formerly known as the Division of Banking. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)*

Senate Bill 461 provides for personal income tax withholding on certain lottery winnings. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)*

Senate Bill 481 provides that no more than two appointed members of the Judicial Vacancy Advisory Commission may be residents of the same state senatorial district. *Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)*

Senate Bill 485 would clarify notification requirements for property insurance purposes. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/07/19)*

Senate Bill 487 relates to the admissibility of health care staffing requirements in litigation. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 489 would provide for licensure of pharmacy benefit managers with the Insurance Commissioner, sets forth minimum reimbursement rates, and requires PBMs report data to PEIA. *Signed 3/11/19 - Effective from passage - (Feb. 26, 2019)*

Senate Bill 491 would extend the statutory deadline for implementation of automatic voter registration in conjunction with certain Division of Motor Vehicles transactions July 1, 2021. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)*

Senate Bill 493 corrects terminology referring to racing vehicles illegally on the street. *Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)*

Senate Bill 496 transfers the authority to regulate milk from the Department of Health and Human Resources to the Department of Agriculture. *Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)*

Senate Bill 499 would amend West Virginia tax laws

Continued on facing page

2019 WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / BILL TRACKER

Completed

Continued from previous page

to conform to changes in partnerships for federal income tax purposes. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 502 would exempt sales of investment metal bullion and investment coins from state sales tax. **Signed 03/09/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 510 would amend the prerequisites for filing a medical professional liability claim. Prior to filing a medical professional liability claim in West Virginia, a 30-day notice is required signed by a health care provider qualified as an expert under the West Virginia Rules of Evidence. This is known as a certificate of merit. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/29/19)**

Senate Bill 511 revises certain wine code sections, including alternating wine proprietorships as permitted under federal law, clarifies wine sampling procedures for wineries and farm wineries up to two fluid ounces at certain fairs and festivals along with wine bottle sales for off-premises consumption. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 518 prohibits a person from selling or trading a drug product containing dextromethorphan to a person under the age of 18. It also prohibits a minor under the age of 18, unless emancipated, from purchasing the product. The bill does not relate to valid prescriptions. A person found guilty of violating these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$100 to \$250. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/31/19)**

Senate Bill 519 adds training requirements of people working as a dispatcher in a county emergency dispatch center. Also adds requirement they have training in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 520 would permit the Office of Drug Control Policy to adopt a specific information technology reporting platform for overdose reporting. All mandatory reporters would be required to submit their report within 48 hours after the provider responds to the incident and via an appropriate technology platform. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 522 creates the Special Road Repair Fund to be administered by the Division of Highways. The bill lists provisions of how counties would control the procedures and how procedures are to be administered for road repair. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 529 would clarify provisions of the Non-intoxicating Beer Act by creating a temporary license for nonintoxicating beer floorplan extensions of existing licensee floorplans among other changes. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 531 relates generally to workers' compensation claims. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

Senate Bill 537 would establish a workgroup to review hospice need standards. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 538 would authorize the design-build program to be used for projects financed with bonds under authority of the Roads to Prosperity Amendment of 2017 with an obligation limitation of \$350 million per project. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

Senate Bill 539 would modify the West Virginia State Police Retirement System Plan B accrued benefit for Plan B members to 3 percent beginning July 1, 2019. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 543 relates generally to automobile warranties and inspections; including changing annual mandatory state inspections of motor vehicles to inspections every two years; adjusting inspection sticker fee and charge for vehicle inspections; providing that a used motor vehicle may be sold "as is" under certain circumstances. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 544 increases annual salaries of West Virginia State Police by \$3,000 per year for three consecutive years. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 545 eliminates outdated HIV testing protocols used by insurers. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/02/19)**

Senate Bill 546 would impose a contingent tax increase on eligible acute care hospitals to increase practitioner payment fee schedules. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 550 declares certain claims against the Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Racing Commission to be moral obligations of state and directing payments thereof. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

Senate Bill 554 removes the minimum and maximum salary caps for the director of the State Rail Authority, allow the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to set the salary with the consent of the authority, and allow the salary to be consistent with the salary for similar positions in state government. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 561 permits the Alcohol Beverage Control Administration to request assistance of law enforcement; implements a \$100 operations fee and establishes special revenue account and fund; clarifies consumption of alcoholic liquors in public is unlawful; clarifies West Virginia licensees can only sell liquor by the drink; creates a private fair and festival license, among others. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 564 expands comprehensive coverage for pregnant women through Medicaid. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 566 would authorize the State Athletic Commission to compensate individual commissioners for attendance and participation in public meetings. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 587 sets the amount the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency will reimburse air-ambulance providers for transportation of individuals covered by its plans. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

Senate Bill 593 would permit a critical access hospital to become a community outpatient medical center. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

Senate Bill 596 adjusts the suggested voluntary contribution amounts on certain DMV forms to benefit veterans. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 597 conforms state law to federal law for registration of appraisal management companies. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 600 establishes procedures for preservation and disposal of biological evidence obtained through criminal investigations and trials. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

Senate Bill 601 relates to mandatory supervision of adult inmates. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

Senate Bill 603 would exempt certain activities from the licensing requirements for engaging in the business of currency exchange, transportation, or transmission. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 605 would permit Secondary Schools Athletic Commission discipline schools for not following protocol for concussions and head injuries. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 613 requires Commissioner of the Division of Natural Resources to include an organ donation election on hunting and fishing licenses and to require publication of such. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

Senate Bill 617 allows a municipality to prepay its required contributions to the municipal police and municipal fire pensions funds. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 622 relates to regulating and oversight of campaign financing. This legislation would raise the state's public contributions to the federal limits. It raises independent expenditures from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The proposed legislation also raises the following: Contributions to a candidate in a primary or

general election campaign up to \$2,800 per election. Current code permits contributions up to \$1,000. – Contributions to a state party executive committee, or a local subsidiary thereof, or to a caucus campaign committee of up to \$10,000 per calendar year. Current code permits contributions up to \$1,000 in a calendar year. – Contributions to a PAC, of up to \$5,000 per election. Current code permits contributions up to \$1,000. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 624 would allow county boards of education to use an alternative assessment, such as the ACT, provided for in Every Student Succeeds Act. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 625 would clarify and define the authority of the State Athletic Commission to issue, suspend or revoke various licenses related to boxing and mixed martial arts events; to clarify the appropriate rules for sanctioning amateur boxing events; and to require a license to act as a boxing or mixed martial arts matchmaker. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 627 authorizes Commissioner of Agriculture to utilize other governmental entities, in addition to State Treasurer, to service the Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program and exempts the loan program from having to utilize the State Agency for Surplus Property to dispose of repossessed items. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

Senate Bill 632 improves student safety by requiring safety and security checks from county boards and multi-county centers. They must upgrade the measures as necessary and report these to the WVDE annually. County boards must also ensure placement of video cameras in self-contained classrooms. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 633 authorizes the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to conduct state and national criminal background checks on applicant's seeking their initial license. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 635 relates generally to coal mining activities and includes a provision that would charge individuals who trespass on the state's coal mines with a felony. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

Senate Bill 636 authorizes legislative rules of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical College Education. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/04/19)**

Senate Bill 640 creates the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, sets forth guidelines for the program, including training and education; rulemaking; and removal from athletic activity. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 641 changes the Primary Care Revolving Loan Fund to a grant fund. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/04/19)**

Senate Bill 653 relates generally to the practice of medical corporations. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 655 clarifies the State Conservation Committee may operate and administer a conservation grant program providing financial assistance to conservation districts and others to promote approved conservation practices. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 656 raises the tax liability threshold at which taxpayers must file and pay electronically. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

Senate Bill 657 would include self-propelled agricultural vehicles in the definition of motor vehicle for the purpose of consumer protections related to express warranties by manufacturers of agricultural vehicles. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

Senate Bill 658 authorizes the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to grant an exemption to persons applying for motor vehicle salesperson license who have been convicted of a felony, if the felony did not involve a financial transaction involving the sale or purchase of a motor vehicle. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/07/19)**

Senate Bill 664 allows certain members of federal judiciary to perform marriages. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/05/19)**

Senate Bill 667 would create the West Virginia Motorsport Committee. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

Senate Bill 668 provides requirements for physician assistants collaborating with physicians in hospitals. The bill requires written notice to the appropriate licensing board, requires rulemaking, and specifies practice requirements. **Signed 03/25/19**

Senate Bill 669 would allow the appointment of commissioners to acknowledge signatures performed in or out of the State of West Virginia by persons residing in or out of the State covering deeds, leases, and other writings pertaining to West Virginia property for recordation in the State. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

Senate Bill 670 relates to WV College Prepaid Tuition and Savings Program and expands eligible educational institutions under the program to include private or religious primary, middle, or secondary schools. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

Senate Bill 672 authorizes School Building Authority to promulgate legislative rules. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/07/19)**

Senate Bill 673 increases efficiency in higher education by eliminating requirement for a state-wide master plan for public higher education and state and



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institutional compacts, and modernizing and streamlining data collection and reporting process. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

Senate Bill 675 requires DEP create and implement Adopt-A-Stream Program. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)**

Senate Bill 676 requires digital road maps to be capable of displaying or indicating roads or highways types using specified classifications. **VETOED 3/27/19**

Senate Bill 677 provides a Supplemental appropriation to Division of Health and Division of Human Services **Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

Senate Bill 678 provides a supplemental appropriation from State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to Office of Technology **Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

Senate Bill 679 provides a Supplemental appropriation to Division of Finance **Signed 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

Senate Bill 680 provides supplemental appropriations to various divisions in DMAPS **Signed 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

Senate Bill 681 provides a Supplemental appropriation from Lottery Net Profits to Educational Broadcasting Authority **Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

House Bill 2001 would repeal the state's income tax on Social Security benefits. West Virginia is one of just 13 states to tax Social Security incomes. The bill creates a state income tax exemption to be phased in over 3 years. For taxable years beginning Jan. 1, 2020, 35 percent of the Social Security benefits are exempt; in 2021, 65 percent, and in 2022 and thereafter, 100 percent. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2004 provides for instruction in workforce preparedness by encouraging communication between those in public West Virginia high schools preparing to go into a technical field, and the community and technical colleges that offer corresponding programs. The bill facilitates the ability for students to earn credit toward licensure while they're still in high school, making it a seamless transition into their technical programs. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2009 creates a specialized program within the Innovation and Education Grant Program to recognize state schools that meet or exceed certain benchmarks as "mastery" schools, increasing a school's merit. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2010 updates regulation of foster care in West Virginia. The changes include: – Mandates the transition of the foster care population into managed care. – Requires Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) transition foster care system into a managed care system by Jan. 1, 2020. – Creates a foster care child and parent investigator. – Implements performance-based contracting. – Studies kinship care. – Requires DHHR to update their legislative rule to ensure normalcy for the foster child. – The bill extends the time a foster family is certified from one to three years. – Clarifies amount DHHR will pay for court-ordered services. – Changes policies of child residential providers with the goal of keeping children in West Virginia. – Clarifies type of assessment performed on a foster child. – States that the use of Medication Assisted Treatment may not be the sole reason parental rights may be terminated. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

House Bill 2020 is the state Budget Bill, which appropriates money necessary for the discharge of duties and responsibilities of the state and its agencies during fiscal year 2020. **Approved by Governor with deletions and reductions 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 8, 2019)**

House Bill 2036 would allow vehicles with disabled veterans' special registration plates park in spaces reserved for people with mobility impairments. **Signed 3/9/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 26, 2019)**

House Bill 2049 provides additional language regarding how an employee may seek wages and/or fringe benefits from a prime contractor in the event a subcontractor does not pay those wages and benefits in a manner consistent with the Wage Payment and Collection Act. Private companies could not be held liable for attorney fees. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2079 would remove certain limitations on medical cannabis grower, processor and dispensary licenses **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2083 facilitates a released inmate's reintegration into society, by requiring the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to provide an identification card for inmates who do not have a West Virginia identification card or driver's license within 7 days of their request. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2183 would clarify where a charge of DUI may be brought against an individual. This would allow people who are under the influence and driving on their own property to be protected from DUIs and drunk driving offenses, unless injury is caused to another person. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 2191 would allow licensed West Virginia Lottery operators also be licensed as lottery retailers in 10 state locations. The bill also removes restric-



tions on bill denominations accepted by limited video lottery terminals, and fixes video lottery revenues at 50 percent. **Approved by Governor 2/25/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 12, 2019)**

House Bill 2193 provides for escheatment of ownership of U.S. savings bonds to the State of West Virginia after a court ruling the bonds are abandoned under the terms of the statute. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2204 prohibits state licensing boards from hiring lobbyists and declare the director, board counsel and appointed board members may lobby on behalf of the board. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2209 would allow military veterans who meet certain qualifications to qualify for examination for license as an emergency medical technician. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2307 would create a provisional license for practicing barbering and cosmetology. **Approved by Governor 2/19/19**

House Bill 2311 stops requiring full year reportage of short term merchant licensees. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2324 would allow licensing for auricular acupuncture, which is used to draw out toxins from the ear. This therapeutic model can be used by those working in substance abuse prevention fields to help relieve the side effects of drug withdrawal. **Signed 3/11/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 22, 2019)**

House Bill 2351 aims to streamline PEIA authorization documents. The bill would establish an objective guideline for forms and deadlines that PEIA, managed care organizations, and private commercial insurers would abide by when it comes to prior authorization. **Approved by Governor 3/11/19 Effective from passage - (February 20, 2019)**

House Bill 2359 would exempt commercial motor vehicle operators employed with a farm-related service industry from the commercial driver's license requirements. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 2362 is known as the Ardala Miller Memorial Act and would place language that allows counties to adopt a policy which allows any qualified voter to vote by emergency absentee ballot who is confined to a specific location within the county on or after the seventh day preceding an election and prevented from traveling to a polling place and voting in person because of; illness, injury, physical disability or immobility to extreme advanced age. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2363 extends and enhances the Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency Program to June 30, 2024, with annual reports due every Oct. 1, with the final report due Oct. 1, 2024. This program is an effort to revitalize the upper areas of the Kanawha Valley, an area that has been economically struggling since the closure of a community college within the region. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2378 relates to grounds for revocation of a teaching certificate and allows automatic revocation of state teaching licenses from individuals who must register as sex offenders or been convicted of a crime regarding the possession or transfer of a controlled substance. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2396 would create the WV Fresh Food Act, which would require all state-funded institutions to purchase a minimum of 20 percent of fresh produce from in-state producers. The intent of this bill is to stimulate economic growth for the state's agricultural industry. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2405 imposes a tiered tax on managed healthcare providers within the state. If passed, the tax would be applied at the beginning of fiscal year 2021. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2412 relates to criminal acts concerning government procurement of commodities and services. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2422 changes the time frame of "Cele-

brate Freedom Week" from the week of Sept. 11 to a week selected by the county board of education and adds the Emancipation Proclamation to the list of documents to be studied. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2439 simplifies how WV volunteer fire departments document use of state funds by allowing filing of bank statements and check images instead of sworn statements of expenditures. The bill also provides a mechanism to issue penalties to volunteer fire departments who misuse or misappropriate state funds, by allowing the state to withhold money in future instances. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 2446 establishes a Blue Alert Plan that would aid in locating a law-enforcement officer who has disappeared in the line of duty or locating dangerous suspects. **Approved by Governor 2/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 14, 2019)**

House Bill 2452 would allow the West Virginia Office of Technology to establish a Cybersecurity Office within their department to facilitate a software program to strengthen the cyber security checks within state agency devices. This bill would be applied to all state agencies except institutions of higher education, the State Police, the WV Legislature and the WV Judiciary. Agencies would be subject to cyber security risk assessment, adherence to enterprise standards, and plans of action in the event of a cyber-attack. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2459 exercises authority to exempt individuals domiciled within the state from certain restrictions contained in federal law. **Signed 2/28/19 - Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 21, 2019)**

House Bill 2462 relates to the authority for correctional employees and parole officers to carry and use firearms. This was originally a right of corrections officers but the section of code that allowed this right was at some point lost during legislation. **Approved by Governor 2/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 12, 2019)**

House Bill 2474 prescribes minimum standard of valuation for health insurance contracts. The legislation is needed for the State of West Virginia to remain accredited with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2476 would authorize the valuation of a motor vehicle involved in an insurance claim; requiring an amount equal to the consumers sales tax applicable to the sale of motor vehicles be added to a cash settlement arising from a total loss of a motor vehicle. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/02/19)**

House Bill 2479 requires insurers writing more than \$500 million, or insurance groups writing more than \$1 billion, in annual premium to maintain an internal audit function providing independent, objective and reasonable assurance to the insurer's or insurance group's audit committee regarding the insurer's governance, risk management, and internal controls. The bill also requires an insurer or insurer group to annually provide a confidential disclosure regarding its corporate governance practices. The legislation is needed for West Virginia to remain accredited with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2480 provides authority to designate state insurance commissioner to act as a group-wide supervisor for an internationally active insurance group. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2481 would permit the retail sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays after 1 p.m. **Approved by Governor 2/28/19 - Effective from passage - (Feb. 19, 2019)**

House Bill 2486 would remove barriers to employment for individuals with criminal records who seek licensure or certification in an occupation governed by this article, with certain exceptions. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2490 would prevent the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources from proposing or enforcing any rules which prevent pub-

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lic pools from making repairs that do not exceed \$25,000. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2492 revises communication mechanism in which abuse and neglect cases could be reported within the state. It would allow the WV Department of Health and Human Resources to explore other methods of reportage that victims could access, such as an electronic portal. **Signed 2/28/19 - Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 20, 2019)**

House Bill 2503 would amend certain procedures in child neglect or abuse cases and issues additional protections to unprotected parents who are seeking counsel, and provides a mechanism for individuals between the ages of 18-21 to have access to housing in the event they are involved in an abuse and neglect case. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2509 clarifies that theft of a controlled substance is a felony in the state. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2510 relates to special funds of boards of examination or registration. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2515 would exempt the sale and installation of mobility enhancing equipment from sales and use tax. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2521 would permit the selling, trading, and bartering of fur-bearer parts, including carcasses for the making of lures and baits, carcass parts, including glands, skulls, claws, and bones, and fur-bearer urine; and providing that the hide and tails of legally killed squirrels may be sold, traded or bartered. **Approved by Governor 2/28/19 - Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 16, 2019)**

House Bill 2524 permits a West Virginia licensed pharmacist to move prescriptions for maintenance drugs that are for 30 days to be 60- or 90-day prescriptions when needed. Mostly applies to such medications as birth control, which are taken by a patient long term, and permitting a pharmacist to refill a prescription in an emergency. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2525 would permit licensed pharmacists to administer tobacco cessation therapy drugs to people over age 18 in West Virginia without having to have a prescription. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2530 would create a voluntary certification for state recovery residencies, if they choose to become a part of the certification process. The DHHR would have discretion over how they facilitate accreditation and how they evaluate the practice of the certified residencies. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2531 would permit advanced nurse practitioners with a specialization in psychology to provide mental health services in a medication-assisted treatment program. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2538 would provide banking services for services provided under the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (03/05/19)**

House Bill 2540 would prohibit the waste of big game animals and game fish, and create a misdemeanor with criminal penalties for the violation thereof. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2541 would update safety measures for public K-12 schools in West Virginia by requiring county boards to implement a safety plan for public schools, containing the following requirements: visible room numbers on the outside of the building, provide updated school floor plans to local first responders and law enforcement by Sept. 1 each year, and provide active shooter and first aid training to teachers and students. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2547 changes the election prohibition zone from 300 feet to 100 feet. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 2550 would create a matching program for the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program with matching funds paid from the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Investment Fund. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**



House Bill 2579 relates to the collection of tax and the priority of distribution of an estate or property in receivership. The bill seeks to clarify conflicts within the code and create uniformity relating to the collection of taxes, the priority of distribution of an estate and to limit the liability of a fiduciary charged with distribution of the estate. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2583, the Family Planning Access Act, would permit a pharmacist to dispense a self-administered hormonal contraceptive under a standing prescription drug order. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2600 amends state code relating to publication of sample ballots. Currently, counties do not interpret the current statutes in place so there is no uniform understanding. This bill would help clarify this for the counties by specifying that sample ballots required to be printed as legal advertisements ahead of elections in counties where electronic voting has been adopted may consist of a facsimile of the absentee ballot; providing that when sample ballots for the precincts within a county contain different districts for certain offices or municipal wards, the facsimile shall be altered to include each of the various districts in the appropriate order. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2601 would ensure the review and approval of state property leases by requiring two signatures, in most cases, and the review and approval of leasing of state property to nongovernment entities. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2607 makes certain technical changes to existing code regarding the licensure of nursing homes and revise the reportage requirements for licensed nursing homes in the state. **Signed 3/11/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 21, 2019)**

House Bill 2608 would repeal the requirement of printing date a consumer deposit account was opened on paper checks. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2609 would prevent unnecessary reporting and administrative costs associated with reporting of accounts and other property held by a financial organization for active customers of the financial organization. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/02/19)**

House Bill 2612 would authorize the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to update rules regarding the source water protection plans throughout the state. Currently, each public water utility is mandated to report the status of their water and a water protection plan to the state commission every three years. This bill would allow the timeframe to be more flexible to give these water utilities more time to review the status of their water protection. **Approved by Governor 3/6/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 24, 2019)**

House Bill 2617 relates to the form for making offer of optional uninsured and underinsured coverage by insurers and requires the Insurance Commissioner to provide for the use of electronic means of delivery and electronic signing of the form for making an offer of optional uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage by insurers. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2618 includes undue influence as a factor in the definition of financial exploitation of an elderly person or protected person. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2647 would create a limited lines insurance license for self storage providers and to establish procedures for regulatory authority by the offices of the Insurance Commissioner. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2661 relates to the powers of the Public Service Commission and the regulation of natural gas utilities, and would permit a natural gas utility to make a request for proposal for incentivized gas drilling where dependable, lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available. The bill permits a natural gas utility to recover the cost reasonably necessary to convert a customer to an alternate fuel source when gas service to that customer has been abandoned. The bill permits natural gas utilities to recover those costs. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2662 provides for the automatic termination of a service personnel employment contract and the automatic revocation of a bus driver's certificate if the employee or bus driver are convicted of certain crimes. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2665 provides a supplemental appropriation for PEIA Rainy Day Fee. **Signed 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 9, 2019)**

House Bill 2666 would appropriate \$6.2 million in general revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to the Department of Veteran's Assistance with \$6 million going to the state's Veteran's Nursing Facility. **Approved by Governor 3/11/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 21, 2019)**

House Bill 2667 is a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, Division of Corrections. **Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 7, 2019)**

House Bill 2668 would appropriate \$15.3 million from the general revenue to Department of Administration - Public Defender Services. **Signed 3/11/19 Effective from passage - (Feb. 21, 2019)**

House Bill 2673 would create the Oil and Gas Abandoned Well Plugging Fund for use by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to plug abandoned oil and gas wells without a responsible operator. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2674 would create a student loan repay-

ment program for a mental health provider. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2690 relates to guaranty associations and would update an article to maintain consistency with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Model Act. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/29/19)**

House Bill 2691 would change the expiration dates for newly issued concealed carry permits in the state of WV to the applicant's birthday after the permit has been active for five years. This would ensure simplicity as to when the licenses expire, and aligns the expiry of concealed carry licenses with state drivers' licenses expiration dates. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective from passage - (03/04/19)**

House Bill 2694 relates to the state's ability to regulate hemp production via the Industrial Hemp Development Act. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2703 relates to refunds of excise taxes collected from dealers of petroleum products under certain circumstances, and eliminating a cap on the amount of tax that may be refunded for fuels lost through evaporation. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2709 would exempt the list of names, addresses and contact information for hunting license holders from public disclosure with certain exceptions. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2715 creates a specialized Class Q hunting permit for disabled persons. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2716 relates to motorboat lighting and equipment requirements to conform with federal navigation laws and rules. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2734 would expand the utilities that currently can apply to the West Virginia Public Service Commission for special reduced rates for low income utility customers to include privately owned sewer utilities and combined water and sewer utilities. West Virginia individuals receiving TANF, Social Security, and other specific forms of government assistance would be eligible to apply for these reduced utility rates if this bill passes. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2737 provides professional training to the State Tax Division employees. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2739 makes it a criminal offense for any participating public employer of any retirement system administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board to fail to make required contributions, and authorizes the State Auditor, county commission and sheriff to withhold any money due the participating public employer by the state or county and to remit the moneys to the applicable retirement system. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2740 would specify that in the state of West Virginia, a parent cannot take their child's inheritance if their parental rights have been or could have been taken away. It also provides that as long as there isn't a present will, a child can reap inheritance from a parent who does not have parental rights. This bill would ensure that a child can still receive inheritance. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2743 makes technical updates to code regarding pension funds by deleting a reference to municipal policemen's pension or municipal firefighter's pension as restrictions on pensions funds are contained in another section. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2746 would provide a mechanism to allow counties to close outstanding and unclaimed estates. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/29/19)**

House Bill 2759 allows a personal representative to file an affidavit to evidence the probate of a nonresident's will in another jurisdiction. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2761 modernizes self-service storage lien law in West Virginia and provides an effective date for all rental agreements entered into or extended or renewed after July 1, 2019. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective July 1, 2019**

House Bill 2768 relates to reducing the use of certain prescription drugs and clarifies certain provisions within the Opioid Reduction Act 2018. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2770 would create the Fairness in Cost-Sharing Calculation Act by establishing cost sharing calculations for health plans and pharmacy benefits. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2807 would create an additional modification to the West Virginia adjusted gross income of shareholders of S corporations engaged in banking. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2809 would establish penalties for failing to remain within and on a designated and marked trail within the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2813 would facilitate the collection of West Virginia use taxes from out-of-state retailers that do not have a physical presence in the state but do "have an economic nexus" on and after July 1, 2019. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2816 removes the terms "hearing im-

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2019 WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / BILL TRACKER

Completed

Continued from page B9

paired,” “hearing impairment,” and “deaf mute” from the West Virginia Code and substituting the terms “deaf or hard of hearing,” “hard of hearing,” “hearing difficulties,” or “difficulties in hearing” according to context. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2821 would make a financial adjustment within the National Guard to clarify the recipient of command and clerical pay and to allow for an appropriate annual adjustment. **Signed 3/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (May 26, 2019)**

House Bill 2827 removes residency requirements for hiring deputy assessors. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/29/19)**

House Bill 2828 promotes investment and business growth in low-income communities in West Virginia and provides mechanism to exempt corporate net income tax and personal income tax for new businesses in Qualified Opportunity Zones located in West Virginia. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2829 would terminate the state severance tax on the extraction of limestone and sandstone starting in 2021. The bill comes with a fiscal note of \$1.2 million, but because the Division of Highways is the largest purchaser of limestone and sandstone in the state, a lot of that cost would be directly funneled back into the state. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2831 finds and declares certain claims against the state and its agencies to be moral obligations of the state and directing the Auditor to issue warrants for the payment thereof. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/08/19)**

House Bill 2846 relates to special vehicle registration plates, including designating a “Back the Blue” plate in support of law-enforcement personnel; a special beekeeper pollinator plate; establishing fees related to plates, and permitting extension of registration fee exemption to military-related special registration plates. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2848 relates to the WV ABLE Act. This bill would raise the age requirement for eligibility from 21 to 26, thus matching the federal ABLE act. It also clarifies that family members and attorneys are permitted to manage a beneficiary’s ABLE account. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2849 relates to establishing different classes of pharmacy technicians; establishing application process for a registered pharmacy technician to obtain endorsement as a pharmacy technician; establishing an application process for nuclear pharmacy technician endorsement; expanding scope of practice for a registered pharmacy technician endorsement; and defining scope of practice for a nuclear pharmacy technician endorsement. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2850 provides a commercial license instruction permit may be issued to persons 18 years of age who have held a graduated Class E, Class E or Class D license for at least one year. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2853 establishes a council to facilitate and encourage the use of open education resource materials in both higher education and kindergarten through 12th grade in West Virginia schools. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2854 adds limitation that fundraisers last no more than 14 consecutive days and be held not more than 18 times during any 12-month period. This bill was requested by State Tax Division. The bill exempts sales by not-for-profit volunteer school support groups from consumers sales and service tax and use tax when sale is for the purpose of raising funds for schools, regardless of whether organization holds, or does not hold, an exemption under the Internal Revenue Code. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 2856 relates to the administration of the operating fund of the securities division of the Auditor’s office including update of percentage of funds to be remitted to the General Revenue Fund at the end of the fiscal year, and to remove outdated provisos. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2872 addresses a gap in the code and would allow state law enforcement officers to assist the state fire marshals. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2907 would require a form of a certified commitment order to the division of corrections and rehabilitation. **Signed 03/22/19 Effective from passage - (03/06/19)**

House Bill 2926 requires the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to study the housing needs of veterans. The bill requires a report. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 2933 would modify the criminal penalties imposed on a parent, guardian or custodian for child abuse resulting in injury and child abuse or neglect creating risk of injury. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 2934 would authorize interactive wagering as West Virginia Lottery interactive wagering activities. **Became law without signature Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2945 assists small business vendors by only requiring a single annual fee for a permit issued by a local health department; and that fee is only re-



quired for an initial permit, and any subsequent permits issued that year, by that or other local health department, any permit fees shall be waived.

Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)

House Bill 2947 would permit a telemedicine physician prescription/order for a Schedule II pharmaceutical in the hospital setting for immediate administration in the hospital. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2954 relates to ethics and fairness in insurer business practices and define certain terms used in insurance. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2958 would authorize the West Virginia State Auditor to conduct regular, 5-year audits of West Virginia Volunteer fire departments to ensure the proper use of state money. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/04/19)**

House Bill 2968 would authorize the addition of remote service units, or RSUs, to customer bank communications terminals. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2975 protects persons incarcerated or under corrections or court supervision from sexual exploitation by persons supervising them. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/05/19)**

House Bill 2982 updates for the licensure requirements of auctioneers, provides for exemptions to licensure, requires auctioneers to submit to background checks, and provides penalties for unlicensed auctioneers. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 2992 relates to governmental websites: requiring executive branch agencies maintain a website that contains specific information; requiring county commissions maintain websites with specific information; requiring county commissions to provide certain information to the Secretary of State; requiring municipalities to maintain websites with specific information available to the public at no charge; requiring information to be updated; and requiring updated information be provided to the Office of Technology. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 3007 would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture to require background checks within their hiring process. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 3016 conforms statute to actual duties of the State Aeronautics Commission, which administers grant programs to encourage and support needed capital improvements to the state’s public airports. Airports meeting criteria for Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program funds also qualify for funding from state program. Currently, airports that meet the commission’s criteria can qualify for up to half of the local share required to match FAA funds. The grant program is supported by state tax on aircraft fuel and general revenue funds. The commission is not a law enforcement or regulatory agency, so those sections are being repealed. The new language continues the commission and authorizes grant administration. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 3020 authorizes an institutional governing board, the Higher Education Policy Commission or the Community and Technical College Council to enter into contracts financial services, and providing for specified flexibility entering into agreements with certain affiliated nonprofit corporations. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3021 relates to the disposition of permit fees, registration fees and civil penalties imposed against thoroughbred horse racing licensees. **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 3024 creates a pilot program, West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program, including to encourage utility infrastructure development to certain lands; to provide the Public Service Commission with the authority to allow certain public utility infrastructure projects to recover certain costs via ratemaking. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 3044 would require the Commissioner

of Highways to develop a formula for allocating road funds among districts, for the benefit of the counties; to make legislative findings; to require the commissioner to solicit and consider public comments; to require the commissioner to consider certain factors when developing the formula; and to require the commissioner to submit the formula to the Legislature for approval as a legislative rule. **VETOED 3/27/19**

House Bill 3045 would exempt complimentary hotel rooms provided by a hotel operator to guests without charge from the hotel occupancy tax. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 3057 updates the language of the Adult Drug Court Participation Fund and establish how money of the fund is to be used. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3083 adds temporary work during legislative session as exclusion to the term employment for purposes of unemployment compensation. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 3093 would change the phrase “residential design standards” to “any ordinance or regulation.” The bill is designed to address the holding in *Russell v. Town of Granville* in which the West Virginia Supreme Court found that the phrase “residential design standards” was insufficient to prohibit a municipality from enacting ordinances that discriminate against factory-built housing. The language was originally put into code in 2006 by SB 47, the short title of that bill was “Prohibiting local ordinances from discriminating against factory-built housing.” **Signed 03/25/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (05/30/19)**

House Bill 3095 would establish a minimum monthly retirement annuity for certain retirants of the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement and State Teachers Retirement systems, with 25 or more years of credited service. **Signed 03/19/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/03/19)**

House Bill 3131 authorizes Department of Health and Human Resources to develop a special merit-based system for specified employees at state-operated acute care, long-term care, psychiatric care, clinical, and medical facilities and provides that WV Public Employees Grievance Act apply to employees of the special merit-based system. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3132 exempts medical providers serving no more than 30 patients from complying with certain legislative rules and only attest to services being provided. Also exempts licensed behavioral health centers providing office-based medication-assisted treatment from the separate registration process for other office-based medication-assisted treatment programs, and only have to attest to their services. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/06/19)**

House Bill 3135 would expire funds to the balance of the Department of Commerce, Development Office. **Approved by Governor 3/14/19 Effective from passage - (March 7, 2019)**

House Bill 3139 creates the PEIA rainy day fund and changes certain requirements imposed on the PEIA Finance Board. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective from passage - (03/09/19)**

House Bill 3140 would amend state code to clarify the DNR Director’s ability to authorize repair, renovate, and rehabilitate existing facilities, buildings, amenities, and infrastructure. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective from passage - (03/04/19)**

House Bill 3141 would clarify and expand the areas of the state Capitol building and surrounding complex requiring the capitol building commission authorization for renovations. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3142 would reduce the severance tax on thermal or steam coal incrementally over three years; providing for a total reduction of 2 percent of the coal severance tax at the conclusion of the three-year period; providing for elimination of the severance tax on limestone or sandstone; and establishing minimum amounts of distribution of portion of severance taxes on coal dedicated for use and benefit of coal-producing counties. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3143 relates to requirements for making consumer loans in West Virginia. The bill limits the loans where finance charges may be imposed and clarifies the need for a license from the Division of Financial Intuitions. **Signed 03/26/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3144 creates the North Central Appalachian Coal Tax Rebate, which would be allowed for capital investment in new machinery and equipment directly used in severing coal for sale, profit or commercial use and coal preparation and processing facilities placed in service or use on or after the effective date of this article. The rebate amount would be 35 percent of the cost of the new machinery and equipment. The rebate amount is limited to 80 percent of the State portion of the severance taxes attributable to the additional coal produced as a result of the new machinery and equipment. Rules are provided to protect the existing severance tax base attributable to the production of coal. **Signed 03/27/19 Effective 90 Days from Passage - (06/07/19)**

House Bill 3148 makes a supplementary appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Human Services line item Medical Services. **Vetoed by Governor 3/14/19 VETOED**

Coal mining, medical cannabis banking bills signed

MARION COUNTY – Gov. Jim Justice signed three bills into law which will directly impact the health, safety and job security of West Virginia coal miners during a March 27 ceremony at the Harrison County Coal Company's Harrison County Mine outside Mannington.

"These bills will ensure the protection of our vital coal mining jobs for decades to come," Justice said. "Together, these bills will help us incentivize job creation by coal companies which puts more hardworking miners back to work, and they will help us protect the health, safety and well-being of our miners and the brave men and women who serve on our mine rescue teams.

"From day one I've strongly supported our coal miners and I know how much our coal jobs are worth. These miners bring so much goodness to our state it's unbelievable," the governor added.

Those bills were House Bill 3144, House Bill 3142 and Senate Bill 635.

Earlier in the week in Charleston Justice had signed into law House Bill 2538, ensuring West Virginia will remain in compliance with federal law while handling funds associated with the state's medical cannabis program.

"I always have, and I always will fully

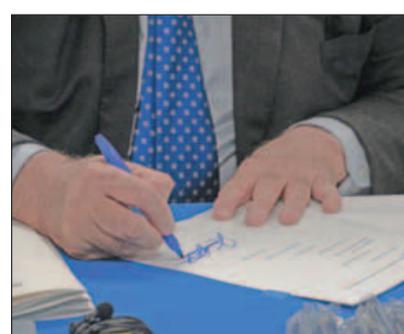


support medical cannabis for our people who are in so much pain that their physicians deem it absolutely necessary," he said.

"I will say, adamantly, I am one hundred percent against recreational marijuana. But we have a lot of people and families out there who are truly hurting and if medical cannabis can help, we need to do everything we can to make life better for those West Virginians," Justice added.

Specifically, HB 2538 allows the State Treasurer to select, by competitive bid, one or more financial institutions to provide banking services for the fees, penalties and taxes collected in association with West Virginia's medical cannabis program.

The bill also establishes the Medical Cannabis Program Fund, which is meant to collect and send all fees, penalties and taxes authorized under the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act.



HB 2538 establishes another fund, the Treasurer's Medical Cannabis Fund, allowing the Treasurer to charge fees for providing banking services under the Act, including fees for expenses incurred, oversight and compliance.

The West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act was signed into law by Gov. Justice in 2017.



Governor explains his veto of legislation

CHARLESTON – Gov. Jim Justice issued the following statement about his legislation vetoes:

"Unfortunately, I had to veto 15 bills from the 2019 Legislative Session for purely technical reasons. I am working with the Legislature to fix the technical errors and get these bills added to the Special Session call. If this happens, and the Legislature passes the bills during Special Session, I will have an opportunity to sign them in time for them to take effect on July 1."

The bills contained various technical issues such as creating laws that would contradict or altogether eliminate other laws that are already in state code, containing language that could be interpreted too broadly, or containing a title that did not provide notice of all of the bill's contents, among other things.

Bills rejected for technical reasons were:

SB 633, HB 2503, HB 2661, HB 2674, HB 2703, HB 2734, HB 2933, HB 3024 – title is defective. See State ex rel. Davis v. Oakley, 156 W.Va. 154, 191 S.E.2d 610 (1972) (requiring bill titles to provide notice of a bill's contents).

HB 2079 – While the Legislature has authority to classify different businesses and to tax them differently, the classifications must be (1) reasonable, (2) based on pertinent and real differences, and (3) have as their object a purpose that is germane to the enabling legislation. Applying this test, it is impossible to justify the classifications in the bill.

HB 2412 – too vague

HB 2530 – 'Certifying agency' is undefined but is required to be under contract with DHHR.

HB 2531 – If approved, this bill would effectively delete current sections of West Virginia Code with no notice to the members of the legislature who voted for this bill.

HB 2673 – I believe it would be to the detriment of the State and to the many causes to which general revenues are put to allow for such an increase in the amount of natural gas and oil produced with an effective tax rate of 0 percent once \$4 million has been deposited to the Fund, in order to direct funding to a purpose more efficiently funded from general revenues.

HB 2807 – numerous technical flaws

HB 2828 – numerous technical flaws

Senate Bill 147 shifts \$1 of the solid waste assessment fee, currently \$3.50, to county and regional solid waste authorities. The \$1 per ton reduction in the assessment would affect the Landfill Closure Assistance Fund administered by Department of Environmental Protection, which is used to close landfills in an environmentally protective and sound manner and to pay ongoing maintenance costs on the closed landfills as they age. The annual reduction in this Fund is approximately \$2.1 million. This bill is concerning because the fee reduction to the Closure Fund will severely impair the DEP's ability to continue maintenance on the already closed landfills and to the ability to close the

upcoming ones in a safe manner; posing a threat to the health and safety of our citizens.

Senate Bill 190 fails to recognize the difference between employees entitled to overtime under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and those employees exempt from the overtime requirements of the act. Employees that are exempt from FLSA are not entitled to earn overtime, although an employer can elect to pay those employees overtime. Employees who are exempt from FLSA are those who are employed in a "bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity."

Senate Bill 440: Language is overly broad and encompasses numerous organizations outside of the higher education community. For example: "any organization whose members include students of an institution of higher education," could include organizations such as the West Virginia Legislature or the American Civil Liberties Union, if any of their members were enrolled in classes at an institution of higher education in the state.

Senate Bill 487 amends the Medical Professional Liability Act, which involves liability cases from injuries or deaths resulting from falls in a healthcare facility. SB 487 provides a conclusive presumption that "appropriate staffing was provided" in any legal action alleging inappropriate staffing if a healthcare facility or provider demonstrates compliance with minimum staffing requirements under West Virginia law. The presumptions created in Senate Bill 487 are poor public policy because compliance with minimum staffing state regulations do not ensure adequate and competent care to meet the needs of West Virginia's nursing home population. Quality of care, based on the needs of the patient and their care plan, must be considered, in addition to nurse staffing levels.

Senate Bill 522 represents a legislative encroachment into executive functions. The bill would have the county supervisor, with consultation of the county commission and the legislators representing that county to compile a list of secondary roads projects in the county and prioritize those projects. Maintaining our state and secondary roads system, including assigning priority to particular projects, is without question an executive function.

Senate Bill 624 provides an assessment option for county boards of education to use as an alternative to the currently contracted assessment in statewide contract with a vendor selected by a competitive bid process. Senate Bill 624 directly conflicts with West Virginia Code and would put the WV Board of Education in the untenable position of having to decide which statute to follow. WV Code requires "the comprehensive statewide student assessment adopted prior to the testing window of the 2017-2018 school year shall continue to be used for at least a total of four consecutive years."

Senate Bill 676 revises existing road classification categories currently contained on the Division of Highways digital road map. DOH already creates and publishes a digital road map with road classifications

very similar to these categories and, therefore, this bill is unnecessary, and duplicative.

House Bill 2363: Certain provisions attempt to encroach upon the authority of the West Virginia Board of Education, and the State Superintendent as its chief executive officer, to provide for the general supervision of public schools in West Virginia, which authority must be equitably exercised across the state without disparate treatment between districts.

House Bill 2486 conflicts with existing code and parts are vague and subjective.

House Bill 2579 destroys the trust fund nature of collected consumers sales and service taxes, withheld employer withholding taxes and collected motor fuel excise taxes held in trust for the State by a business that is in bankruptcy, foreclosure or receivership; and eliminates the personal liability of a fiduciary for failing to remit collected trust fund taxes.

House Bill 2992 is overly broad, requiring "contact information of each staff member, including office location." There is no exception for employees who are engaged in undercover law enforcement operations, for employees whose office location is their personal residence, or for employees whose safety would be at risk by publishing their office location.

House Bill 3044: The West Virginia Division of Highways is a maintenance organization first and foremost, dedicated to keeping the roads and highways of this state in good working order and repair. While a formula may prove useful in predicting where federal and state road money should be spent over a long period, I believe being required to follow a formula for the actual dollar allocation would limit the Division's ability to dedicate funds to maintenance projects where and when needed around the state.



Maroney reflects on 84th legislative session

By Daniel Tyson

Revamping West Virginia's foster care system was more than just the high point of the recent legislation session for State Sen. Mike Maroney.

Passage of the state's new foster care regulations "was the best moment in the three years I've been in Charleston," Maroney said one day after Gov. Jim Justice signed the legislation, HB 2010, into law March 26.

With about 7,000 youth in the state's foster care system, Maroney, a Wheeling radiologist who chairs the Senate's Health and Human Resources Committee, said the program is in a "crisis."

The new law shifts oversight of children's health care to a managed care system, a move the state's Department of Health and Human Resources said was inevitable after West Virginia's foster care population increased by more than 60 percent in about four years. The cause, politicians, social workers and health care providers agree is West Virginia's ongoing opioid addiction epidemic.

The new law limits placement of a child in foster care in out-of-state facilities unless they are closer to the child's family or the child has a health issue that cannot be addressed by an in-state facility.

During hearings on the legislation, family advocacy groups and social workers expressed skepticism to many aspects of the bill. Key among their concerns was hiring a for-profit managed care system to operate aspects of the foster-care program. Sen. Maroney said studies do not support that concern.

"The government, be it state or federal, doesn't do as good a job as the private sector does," he said. He noted that the law is written with tight guidelines on safety, referrals and other key components of managing a foster care program.



Maroney continued that residential homes do not have incentives to return children, but instead can see foster care children as a "commodity." One of the new law's goals is to "get children back to their parents or into a stable home."

The highlight of this bill, he said, is the incentive for kinship care, a provision his Health and Human Resource Committee placed in the bill. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines that as the care of children by relatives or close family friends.

The new law, he said, is not only better for the children in foster care, but for the taxpayers. Before foster care reform the system experienced "a lot of fraud" because of the fee-for-service model DHHS employed.

Maroney said he was disappointed to

see the controversial Education Omnibus bill die during the legislative session. He described its cause of death as being by "a loud minority who hadn't read the bill."

He said educators expressed displeasure the bill died. "I had three education administrators in my district tell me it was a good bill," Maroney said. The 2nd District includes: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer (part), Marion (part), Marshall (part), Monongalia (part), Ritchie, Tyler and Wetzel counties.

At issue in the bill was creating seven charter schools in the state, education savings accounts and eliminating seniority. A special legislative session is scheduled for June to discuss the topic.

"During the special session [Republicans] will bring back something very

similar" to SB 451, he said. "The majority of [West Virginians] are in our corner." Maroney added that various news organization, such as The Wall Street Journal's editorial page and Federalist.com, blasted Gov. Jim Justice for siding with the union.

"Sorry to say, Republican Gov. Jim Justice surrendered so fast that West Virginians should start calling him the former Governor. On Tuesday he promised to veto the reform if it passed, and legislators in the state House of Delegates shelved the bill indefinitely. The de facto Governor now is teacher's union chief Dale Lee. The losers are the state's children, who score below the national average in test results," the Wall Street Journal opined in a Feb. 19 editorial.

The state's deteriorating road conditions was another talking point for Maroney during a recent interview, especially the are-the-funds-there-are-they-not bill known as SB522. He said the gutting of the bill was a low point.

At the core of SB522 was a new Special Road Repair Fund intended for secondary road maintenance – those roads not eligible for federal funding, a large majority of West Virginia's roads.

The initial version of SB 522 drew on \$220 million from the Rainy-Day Fund and two-fifths of state severance tax collections. However, the Senate Finance Committee changed that to two \$110 million appropriations from general revenue for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.

Then the House changed it again, keeping the Special Road Repair Fund but stripping out any money. The bill then went to conference committee which gave the Division of Highways authority to place up to \$80 million each year into the fund in Special Road Repair Fund. The bill was vetoed by the governor as encroaching on executive branch functions.



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