

Issues & Needs Reports



4th Quarter 2012

WVVA-TV
Bluefield, WV
Quarterly Listing of Problems and Needs

1. **BUSINESS:** Need for jobs; tourism; industry; downtown revitalization; compensation; availability of liability insurance; more regional cooperation.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Strengthening of family unit, support for single parent families; child abuse; spouse abuse; sexual abuse; religion; need for resources for elderly; transportation and housing for poor and elderly; more problems for the elderly; needs for disadvantaged; nurses, doctors, and dentists; problems of alcohol and drug abuse; racial problems; lack of opportunities for blacks; charities.
3. **EDUCATION:** Need for upgrading of system and high educational standards; more money and support of system; education for non-traditional students; post-graduate educational opportunities; retaining and acquisition of new job skills; adaptation to high technology; more parental involvement.
4. **ORGANIZATIONS OF AND FOR YOUTH:** Problems of juvenile delinquency; lack of activities; drug and alcohol abuse; need for more jobs; teenage pregnancy; letter teen center; better communications and awareness of services available.
5. **RECREATION:** Need for more and improved facilities; more cultural programs. Community activities, more sports programs, playgrounds, etc.
6. **ELDERLY:** Services for elderly; seniors living with dignity; senior activities and facilities; transportation and housing for poor and elderly; senior nutrition.
7. **LABOR:** Lack of job opportunities; unemployment rate in WV; more upward mobility in jobs; job training.
8. **GOVERNMENT:** Need for adequate housing for poor and elderly; strong community leadership; community pride; increase/decrease population; more blacks in political community; long range community planning; community clean-ups; better enforcement of minimum housing codes; city-wide effort alcohol and drug abuse.
9. **ENVIRONMENT:** Problems of hazardous waste; weapons proliferation; nuclear energy; soil erosion; flooding; need for preservation of environment; conservation and recycling; pollution control.
10. **TRANSPORTATION:** Need for better highways, including interstate, rail services, maintaining air service, retain bus routes, city street repairs.

Locally Produced Programming



Station WVVA-TV programs to the ascertained problems and needs through a variety of programming vehicles. Being heavily community-oriented and interested in community problems and issues, the licensee devotes a very considerable amount of its news time to the coverage of significant problems, needs and issues facing the community. WVVA-TV has produced and broadcast the following programming material in response to the problems and needs of our viewing area.

IN FOCUS

Sunday 9:00-9:30 am (30 minutes)
If no network programming, repeat 12:00-12:30 pm (30 minutes)

In Focus is a public affairs program of WVVA TELEVISION, INC. that airs twice weekly. The first telecast is on Sunday, 9:00 am, with a repeat the same Sunday at noon (if no network programming). This program provides discussion of local, state and national issues affecting our audience.

10/21/2012

(1, 2, 4, 7)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guests: Brenda Woodward, Sharon Boggess, Heather Poff, Kelly Knowles, Wendy Aiello, and Kathy Kirk

Talking about the lack of jobs and all symptoms of it including poverty, drug abuse lack of resources- especially for children.

10/28/2012

(2)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Dr. Frederick Barker

Talking about Health care cooperation between Bluefield and Princeton WV.

11/4/2012

(2, 7)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Mauriel Gravely

Talking about substance and alcohol abuse, jobs, and training programs for single parents.

11/18/2012

(2)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guests: Jacki McCormick, Amanda Ellison, Tonya Jackson, Kimberley Mullens, Sharon Blackwell, Claudia Farmer

Talking about Drug Abuse and the crime that is caused by the drug abuse and drug dealing. No employment opportunities, and the lack of growth in Bluefield and the surrounding areas.

11/25/2012

(5)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Dreama Denver

Talking about getting the community engaged in worthwhile projects.

12/2/2012

(1, 4, 7)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Linda Hoagland

Talking about Job Loss and that there is nothing to keep the kids here in state.

12/9/2012

(2, 6)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Regina Sayers, Chase Patton

Talking about the increase of Baby Boomers in the region, the accessibility to primary care practitioners, and community service organizations & socialization opportunities. The more we focus on our aging population, the better we will be able to move forward as a community.

12/16/2012

(1, 2, 8)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Robert Shippey

Talking about low tax base, poverty and economic development.

12/23/2012

(2, 3, 7)

Moderator: Greg Carter

Guest: Delana Daniels

Talking about drugs, unemployment, and lack of education.

12/30/12

(1, 7)

Moderator: Greg Carter
Guest: Kimberley V. Newbill

Talking about unemployment and a decrease in opportunities that are available in other parts of the state.

NEWSCHANNEL 6

Monday – Friday 5:30-7:00 am (90 minutes)
Monday – Friday 5:00-5:30 pm (30 minutes)
Monday – Friday 6:00 - 6:30 pm (30 minutes)
Monday – Friday 11:00-11:30 pm (30 minutes)
Saturday – Sunday 11:00 - 11:30 pm (30 minutes)

WVVA News at 6 provides the most up-to-date information in the two Virginias with periodic in-depth background stories that deal with the problems and important issues of the communities we serve. Detail includes date telecast, length of in-depth story, number of specific problem or need, and topic. In most cases, the story was aired on both the 6:00 and 11:00 pm newscasts.

October 19, 2012

(2)

DUO (WVVA) - Fire has destroyed a home in Greenbrier County.

The blaze occurred late Thursday night off Beech Knob Road near Duo -- then rekindled Friday morning.

Several area departments were called to put out the fire.

The home and its contents were a complete loss.

No one was home when the fire began. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

October 21, 2012

(2)

SPEEDWAY (WVVA)--- Multiple crews responded to a fire that fully engulfed a home in Mercer County Sunday.

Mercer County 911 says that the fire is on Keatley Road in Speedway.

They say that the fire started in the garage of the house and that it spread into the home.

It is unknown at this time of any injuries, how the fire started, or if anyone was home at the time.

Multiple crews in Mercer and Summers counties responded to the fire that started just before 11 PM Sunday evening.

October 22, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA) - A Mercer County man charged with murder has pleaded not guilty to the crime.

Gerald Little entered pleas of not guilty to charges of murder, burglary, robbery and failing to register as a sex offender in court Monday morning.

Little is accused in the March 1, 2012, stabbing death of Princeton resident Jerry Buckner.

Buckner was found dead at his home by a friend after he failed to show up for work at the Bluefield Post Office.

Police believe the motive was robbery. They say Little was an acquaintance of Buckner, who was living with some people who were renting from Buckner.

Police said Little had done some odd jobs for Buckner.

Little's trial date was set for Jan. 22, 2013.

Judge John Hrko -- specially appointed from Wyoming County -- will preside in the case against Little.

A special judge was requested due to the close relationship between the victim and several people in the Mercer County court system.

The victim is the brother of former Mercer County sheriff and magistrate Harold Buckner.

October 22, 2102

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - The Tazewell Police Department is currently investigating two separate breaking and entering incidents.

The first occurred Saturday at Hayes Pharmacy on East Fincastle. The second occurred Monday at the Stop-In convenience store on West Riverside drive.

Further details on the break-ins were not released.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Tazewell Police Department at 276-988-2503 or the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office 911 Center at 276-988-0645.

October 22, 2012

(1)

RUPERT (WVVA) - A coal company with operations in Greenbrier County is in line for an upgrade.

The South Fork Coal Company has received approval to begin construction on a new processing plant and rail loading facility, according to a press release from parent company Xinerger Ltd.

Xinerger says construction is expected to begin before the end of the year.

The project will take between 6-9 months to complete and cost approximately \$20 million.

Following is the full press release:

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, Tuesday, October 16, 2012 – Xinerger Ltd. (TSX:XRG) ("Xinerger" or the "Company"), a Central Appalachian coal producer, today announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, South Fork Coal Company, LLC, received requisite approvals to begin construction of its preparation plant and rail loading facility at its mid-volatility metallurgical coal project in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

The Company will begin site preparation work immediately and plans to commence construction during the 2012 fourth quarter. Construction of the preparation plant and rail loading facility is expected to take six to nine months at a capital cost of approximately US\$20 million. Consistent with prior guidance, the Company expects to produce 300,000 to 400,000 tons of premium-quality, Sewell seam mid-vol metallurgical coal in 2013, reflecting a rate of approximately 50,000 tons per month following completion of the preparation plant and rail load-out. Xinerger continues to anticipate cash costs of approximately \$100/ton once this production rate is achieved, and believes South Fork will have capacity of approximately 80,000 tons per month.

For further details regarding reserves and quality, see the Technical Report for the project entitled "An Independent National Instrument 43-101 Report Summarizing Mineral Exploration, Development and Production Activities of South Fork Coal Company, LLC Mining Reserves, Greenbrier County, West Virginia" dated of March 16, 2011 by James S. Canterbury, P.E., M.B.A. of Summit Engineering, which is available on the SEDAR website (www.sedar.com).

Matt Goldfarb, Xinerger's CEO, commented: "Today marks a significant milestone for our Company, reflecting the perseverance and commitment of our entire West Virginia team. Bernie Mason, our President, and our engineering and permitting group in West Virginia have done an admirable job in the face of an extremely challenging regulatory environment in advancing our South Fork mid-vol project to position the Company for a long-awaited step-change in our production profile. Despite near-term weakness in metallurgical coal pricing, the Company remains bullish on the long-term fundamentals for the global steel industry and, in particular, believes that its ultra-premium South Fork mid-vol met reserves will preserve a niche market position for Xinerger through the cycle."

James S. Canterbury, P.E., M.B.A. of Summit Engineering is the Qualified Person in accordance with National Instrument 43-101 responsible for the technical content of this release and has reviewed and approved it accordingly.

About Xinerger Ltd.

Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, Xinerger Ltd., through its wholly owned subsidiary Xinerger Corp. and its subsidiaries, is engaged in coal mining in eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. Xinerger sells high quality thermal and metallurgical coal to electric utilities, steelmakers, energy trading firms and industrial companies. For more information, please visit www.xinergercorp.com.

For further information contact:

Chris Halouma
Director, Investor Relations

Michael R. Castle
Chief Financial Officer

865-474-7000

October 22, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - The Sophia Police is on the lookout for a suspect wanted in connection with a third-degree sexual assault.

The suspect is identified as Larry Dante Stoumle, 25, of Beckley. The alleged involved an underage juvenile and allegedly took place earlier this month.

If you have any information on Stoumle's whereabouts, contact Crimestoppers at 304-255-STOP.

October 22, 2012

(2)

NEWHALL (WVVA) - A male who was unaccounted for immediately following a house fire in McDowell County Monday night has been confirmed dead, the Associated Press reports.

NEWHALL (WVVA) - McDowell County 911 confirms at least one person is dead in a fire in the Newhall area of McDowell County.

The War and Berwind fire departments worked to extinguish the blaze at the home on Main Street Monday evening.

Neighbors tell WVVA'S Josh Frketic at the scene that the home belonged to a 68-year-old female named Willie Malone.

Authorities have not confirmed the identity of the body recovered from the fire, only that it was a female.

A male who neighbors said lived at the residence remains unaccounted for.

One neighbor told WVVA News he heard an explosion before the fire. The neighbor said the blast knocked him from a ladder he was standing on at the time.

The state fire marshal is on the scene.

October 22, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - In case you missed it live, or would like to re-watch it, you can now view Monday's Virginia Ninth Congressional District between Republican Rep. Morgan Griffith and Democratic challenger Anthony Flaccavento here, in the player above.

Monday's debate was held at Tazewell Middle School and hosted by WVVA.

To better form your opinions on the candidates in this and other races in Virginia and West Virginia, we also invite you to explore [our Candidates and Issues section](#), which features biographies and video messages from candidates who chose to participate.

October 23, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Crews were still on the scene Tuesday morning, after responding to a fire at the West Virginian Manor in downtown Bluefield.

The fire began at the apartment building on Federal Street early Tuesday morning.

According to Mercer County 911, the fire started in the trash chute and produced a large amount of smoke.

Firefighters from Bluefield, Va., assisted Bluefield W.Va. crews at the scene.

October 23, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA) - Firefighters responded Tuesday morning to reports of a machinery fire at Conn-Weld Industries in Princeton.

East River Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene at approximately 8:30 a.m.

According to a statement from Conn-Weld, employees noticed smoke coming from a dust collector outside the building. The plant was immediately evacuated and emergency crews were contacted, according to the release.

The release says there were no injuries and the situation was contained by the fire department.

Employees were released to return to work after the situation was secured.

The source of the ignition is being investigated. All involved equipment was shut down at the time the news release was issued.

Earlier this year, a fire at the same facility injured three workers. Clarence Worrell and Brad Gillespie were severely injured when a sand blaster exploded and caught fire.

Worrell, 51, died in May at a Huntington hospital from injuries he received in the March 5 fire.

October 23, 2012

(3, 5)

BLUEFIELD, W.Va (WVVA) -- One local elementary school is thinking outside the box to get its students engaged in the classroom.

In some classes at Whitethorn Elementary School in Bluefield, the teachers have traded chairs in for stability balls. The balls allow the kids to bounce and release energy while they are learning. Staff at the school say the balls actually help the kids to focus on their school work.

In addition to improving behavior, the balls also strengthen the core and improve posture.

October 23, 2012

(2)

The suspension of a local football coach is confirmed by the Mercer County School Board. The board approved the suspension of 28-year-old Justin Havens of Bluefield by unanimous vote during its regular meeting.

Havens was arrested last Wednesday night for breaking into a home on Sandlick Road in Princeton -- as well as for staging an armed robbery of a woman.

Havens was an assistant coach at Montcalm High School. He has been banned from having any contact with students...in person or via social networking.

October 24, 2012

(2)

GREENBRIER COUNTY (WVVA) - A man accused of sexually abusing two children has entered a not guilty plea.

Edward Drennen, 29, of Greenbrier County, is charged with two counts of first-degree sexual assault.

He is also charged with two counts of displaying obscene matter to a minor.

Both alleged victims were under the age of 6.

October 24, 2012

(2)

MATOAKA (WVVA) - The town of Matoaka has received \$80,000 to help prevent future flooding.

The town has been attempting to raise money to remove sediment from a creek in order to reduce flooding.

The Shott Foundation presented the town the check, which will cover the full amount to pay the contractors to do the required work.

The mayor is hoping that reducing flood risks will help local businesses start up and keep running.

October 24, 2012

(2)

The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is hoping someone will recognize a suspect in the attempted breaking and entering of the Claypool Hill Pharmacy. On the evening of Tuesday, October 23rd, deputies responded to an alarm at the pharmacy. When they arrived, officers found evidence proving someone had attempted to break into the pharmacy.

Surveillance video footage shows what appears to be a female wearing a light colored hoodie and jeans. Captain Neil Turley is asking that anyone with any information that may be helpful to the case to please contact the Detective Division of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office at 276-988-5970. Officers with the Detective Division are continuing to evaluate evidence found at the scene and investigating vehicles that were in the area during the time of the incident.

October 25, 2012

(2)

GRASSY MEADOWS (WVVA) - A Greenbrier County man was airlifted Wednesday after crashing his ATV.

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Departments says Danny Ray Fitzwater, 40, of Alderson was driving a Honda four-wheeler when he lost control, flipping the vehicle.

Police say Fitzwater was thrown from the ATV and suffered non-life threatening injuries. He was not wearing a helmet.

Fitzwater was airlifted to a Charleston hospital.

Police say alcohol use is suspected in the crash.

The incident is being investigated by Capt. Livingston of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department.

October 25, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - The family of a man killed by a bow and arrow in Beckley earlier this year says they want justice.

The family of Christopher Saunders marched in protest outside the Raleigh County Courthouse Wednesday, questioning the decision not to press charges in the 23-year-old's June 29 death outside a residence on Carmellia Street in Prosperity.

Charges were not filed in the case following the preliminary investigation. Witness statements corroborated the claim that the homeowner fired in self defense.

The name of the shooter has not been released.

Raleigh County Prosecutor Kristen Keller said that even if the case went to trial, it would be dismissed by a judge.

"The person who fired the shot -- the arrow -- was under the law and acting in self defense," Keller said.

Keller said under the 'Castle Doctrine,' homeowners have a legal right to protect themselves.

October 25, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY, W. Va (WVVA) -- Beckley police arrested three men on a search warrant Wednesday around 3 PM, according to Detective Gant Montgomery.

It happened at 115 Mason Street in Beckley. The police team seized about 113 grams of crack cocaine worth about \$5000 and around 30 Oxycodone pills worth about \$600 total, along with seven guns and three assault rifles from the home.

The three suspects, Lashawn Walters, Kenny Walters, and Leoundus Whittenberg are now being held at Southern Regional Jail.

The Walters brothers are charged with being convicted felons in possession of firearms, and Whittenberg is charged with possession with intent to deliver cocaine and oxycodone, said Montgomery.

Police told WVVA they have been investigating that home for months.

October 25, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY, W.Va. – U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin announced today that a Summers County man pleaded guilty in federal court to possession of child pornography. Alan L. Grimmatt, 50, of Hinton, Summers County, W.Va., admitted that on June 7, 2011, he knowingly possessed on his computer more than 600 images and videos depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, that is, actual or simulated sexual intercourse and the lascivious exhibition of the genitals and pubic area of the minors. The defendant admitted that he knew the images and videos constituted child pornography. Grimmatt also admitted to possessing images of prepubescent minors and some images that involve material that portrays sadistic or masochistic or other depictions of violence.

In addition, Grimmatt further admitted that the images he possessed were downloaded using the Internet, and the images had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce by means that included a computer.

Grimmatt faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on February 14, 2013 by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger.

Homeland Security Investigations and the West Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Johnston is in charge of the prosecution.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals that sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.justice.gov/usao/wvs/PSCpage.html>. For more information about internet safety education, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc and follow the link named "Resources."

October 25, 2012

(2)

HINTON, W. VA --

The Hinton Police Department arrested Marsha Micole Brown, 35 of Hinton on Wednesday.

According to police, Patrolman T. A. Withrow received a call Wednesday evening about a burglary in progress on 12th Avenue.

He observed someone had broken a window on the front of the residence and went inside. During a search, he found Brown hiding upstairs concealing herself in a mattress box spring.

Brown was arrested and charged with burglary and petit larceny. police say she is currently in SRJ on bond.

October 25, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY, W.Va. – U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin today announced that a Beckley man was sentenced to two years in federal prison for requiring illegal kickbacks from former employees. Alfred Williams, 72, a former operator of Beckley-based Williams Mechanical, Inc., previously pleaded guilty in June. Williams admitted that for approximately 10 years, he routinely required at least one-third of his

employees to return cash to him from their paychecks as a condition of their continued employment with the company. Williams further admitted that throughout the illegal scheme, he received between \$600 and \$1,000 cash each week from the employees.

At the time of the defendant's illegal scheme, Williams Mechanical, Inc. performed work as a plumbing sub-contractor for numerous public works projects that were financed with government funds. According to state and federal law, the company was required to compensate employees with prevailing wages and report the wages paid on certified payrolls. The prevailing wage established by the government is an hourly wage, which also includes benefits and overtime compensation for particular work performed. Williams admitted that he was aware of the legal requirements, yet failed to meet those obligations. The defendant also admitted that he required employees to return cash to him from their paychecks, which hid the fact that he was paying less than the prevailing wage. Also, during the scheme, Williams misreported the hours employees actually worked and paid them based upon improper job classifications.

In 1998, the West Virginia Division of Labor forced Williams to pay 13 employees more than \$25,000 for failure to pay prevailing wages to which they were entitled. The defendant agreed to pay restitution of up to \$520,000 at his June plea hearing.

The U.S. Department of Labor conducted the investigation, with assistance from the West Virginia Division of Labor. Assistant United States Attorney Hunter P. Smith handled the prosecution. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger.

October 29, 2012

(9)

RAINELLE, W. Va (WVVA) -- As the storm predicts between three inches and over twenty four inches of snow for Greenbrier County, residents are stocking up on supplies and preparing for the worst.

Convenience store owners told WVVA people have been flocking in to buy the essentials-- milk, bread, propane, and even kerosene.

Greenbrier County Homeland Security and Emergency Management director, Al Whitaker, says there will be several shelters open if there is a power outage or if the interstate shuts down.

If you live in Greenbrier County and want to know which shelters are open or near you, you can call 304-646-5260.

Whitaker stressed the shelters will not open until conditions take a turn for the worse, but "you can always call an emergency number and we will assist you in any way we can."

Whitaker also said the county issued a local state of emergency on Monday evening. He recommends that after tonight, residents stay at home until the storm is over.

"Run out to the store and get supplies so you can be prepared, if you haven't done so," he adds, "before it gets too bad to safely be out."

Citizens are asked to report power outages to the power company. As far as Monday evening, no roads were closed but residents are warned about potential power outages.

October 29, 2012

(2)

RAINELLE, W. Va (WVVA) -- Police ask for your help identifying the suspect in the above photo.

They say the suspect, caught on surveillance video stealing \$200 from an ATM, was wearing an oversized sweatshirt and safety glasses during the crime. According to police, the suspect also tried to get another \$53 from the ATM, but the transaction was declined.

Police describe the thief as female, between 29 and 32 years old, and likely a resident of Rainelle.

If you have any information you are asked to call the Rainelle Police Department at (304) 438-7772 or the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office.

October 29, 2012

(2, 9)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Shelters have opened -- or are prepared to open -- in several counties affected by the snowstorm.

In Mercer County:

The Salvation Army in Princeton and Bluefield, along with the Red Cross and the Union Mission have made plans to open shelters in the Mercer County area -- if needed in the wake of the impending snow storm.

The groups are working with Tim Farley, director of emergency services in Mercer County, to establish the shelters.

Shelters to be opened, if needed, include:

- **Salvation Army in Bluefield:**
- 900 Highland Ave.
- Captain Lester: 304-952-2705
- **Salvation Army in Princeton:**
- 300 Princeton Ave.
- Lieutenant Michaels: 304-952-1952

Those in need of assistance may also call:

Craig Hammond of the Union Mission at 304-327-8167 or Phyllis Sheets with the Red Cross at 304-922-8565

In Tazewell County:

Several warming shelters have been established in Tazewell County, according to the sheriff's department Facebook page.

- 945 Rescue (Abbs Valley/Pocahontas areas)
- Bluefield VA Rescue (Falls Mills/Bluefield areas)

- Richlands Police Department (Wordell/Raven/Doran/Richlands areas)

These will be Warming shelters only. Those utilizing the shelters should bring their own snacks and drinks.

In Raleigh County:

Raleigh County has activated its Emergency Operations Center and will open three shelters in anticipation of the coming snowstorm.

Shelters will be established at the following locations:

- Beckley Dream Center
- Raleigh County Community Action
- Raleigh County Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging site is set up specifically for those displaced individuals who might have oxygen-related needs.

In Greenbrier County:

Two shelters in the county -- at the Rainelle Fire Department and at the Rhema Church in Fairlea have closed due to lack of need, but remain on standby. For status, call 304-646-5260.

In Buchanan County:

Shelters that were open at River View Elementary and Twin Valley High School have been closed due to lack of need.

In McDowell County:

A Red Cross shelter has been established at Premier Learning Center 750 Stone Coal Branch Road, Welch WV 304-436-4961

In Fayette County:

First Church of God in Fayetteville

October 30, 2012

(2)

OAK RIDGE (WVVA) - Fayette County authorities are searching for a suspect wanted in the armed robbery of a grocery store.

The incident occurred at 7:46 p.m. at Ball's Grocery Store in Oak Ridge when a masked man entered the store brandishing a knife and demanded money.

The suspect took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the scene in an older model white Jeep Cherokee.

The vehicle left southbound on Route 16.

The suspect has been identified as Randy Colton Treadway, 20 of Beckwith. The suspect vehicle may bear the WV registration 3TC563.

The suspect is described as a thin white male, 5'8" tall, 150 pounds with dark hair and eyes. He was wearing a dark blue 'OP' jacket, blue jeans and boots.

Criminal charges including armed robbery will be immediately pending.

The incident remains under investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident can contact the Fayette County Sheriff's Department at 304-574-3590.

October 30, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG, W. Va (WVVA) -- Greenbrier County bears the storm, dealing with many power outages.

Greenbrier County's Emergency Management Agency said two shelters are open, one at the Rainelle Fire Department and one at the Rhema Church in Fairlea. They said they assessed the need, and determined to open these two at this time.

"Others may open as needed," said director, Al Whitaker.

Local businesses are also feeling the effects of Sandy's blizzard.

The Wild Bean in Lewisburg was one of the only businesses open on that side of town. Typically a hangout for residents, customers were still trickling in around midday.

Coulter Lewis, who works at the coffee shop, told WVVA Tuesday morning may have turned out all right, but there were some challenges in opening the store.

"We couldn't use credit cards or internet, so a lot of people weren't very happy about that," he said, "but so far we're doing all right."

The county courthouse is also open, but only for early voting. The other offices within are closed.

October 31, 2012

(2, 9)

FAYETTEVILLE (WVVA) - Over half of Fayette County is still without power Wednesday evening. Emergency workers are putting in extended hours and won't rest until they get clear answers from electric companies.

"[We're asking] do you have an estimated time of restoration on these homes, and what is the reason why, so we can give [residents] some kind of estimate on why they're still out of power," says Theresa White, Director of Emergency Services in Fayette County.

Still, some parts of the county might not have power restored until next week. Shelters are open at the old Gauley Bridge High School and the First Church of God. The church has its doors open around the clock for people in need of food and a warm place to stay. "There's showers for men and women, and

we got cots and blankets, so anyone who needs to come in – we can take care of them," says Mike Parsons, Director of the Board of Trustees at First Church of God.

Those seeking refuge at the old Gauley Bridge High School are asked to bring their own food, but the shelter has means for you to cook it.

Other residents in this largely recreational area were well prepared and have been managing on their own since Monday. "I prepared extra fuel for my camp stove, canned goods just stored up over the years, rice, oatmeal, beans," says Matthew Hook, "I try to take care of myself."

Emergency officials recommend unplugging larger appliances before the power comes back on to avoid more problems. "There could be times when it comes on and goes off, comes on and goes off, and that people are careful for power surges because that's something that could happen as the lines get fused back up," says White.

Until that time comes though, those in Fayette County will keep depending on each other and weathering the storm.

October 31, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG, W. Va (WVVA)-- Many families are turning to alternative heating as power outages still plague communities.

While Appalachian Power works to restore the electricity in those areas, households turn to generators and kerosene heaters to stay warm.

But in some cases, these methods can backfire.

To keep safe, fire officials urge you to keep generators outdoors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning from the exhaust they emit. Also, make sure you disconnect the main power to your home, or shut it off, before powering up the generator. This prevents electrical shock.

House fires can result from carelessness around kerosene heaters, officials also warn. They say you should always turn them off when you are not available to monitor them.

October 31, 2012

(8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and U.S. Senator Joe Manchin will assess damage and meet with local emergency management officials in Braxton, Nicholas, Fayette and Raleigh counties. The governor continues to work closely with all state agencies and utility companies to coordinate our state's efforts to restore power and keep all West Virginians safe.

The storm is expected to begin moving out of the state over the next 24 hours, and we are making progress with our recovery efforts. As of this morning, approximately 220,000 customers in West Virginia are without power. Both state highways and forestry workers are working closely with the utility company crews to help clear the roads and restore utilities.

Storm damage continues to evolve and now includes structural collapses. Our local first responders and National Guard continue to monitor potential flooding and are on standby should there be any other structural collapses. Approximately 60 shelters and warming stations are open around the state and are providing meals for people who have been displaced or do not have electricity.

The governor continues to urge West Virginians to remain patient. "The last couple days have been difficult, and unfortunately due to the damage to our power lines, many West Virginians will be without power for several days," said Gov. Tomblin. "I ask all West Virginians to remain patient, and to do what West Virginians do best-take care of your neighbors."

"As West Virginians cope with this disaster, I will make sure that the federal government provides our state with the resources we need to recover," said Sen. Manchin. "There's no better way to get a handle on the situation than to see it firsthand and talk with the families that don't have power or are struggling with the harsh effects of this weather. I want to reassure all West Virginians that I will continue to share what I find with Secretary Napolitano, FEMA, the Red Cross and other organizations."

November 15, 2012

(1)

GREEN VALLEY (WVVA)--- In times where local first responders are cutting back on spending, one local fire department is doing the opposite, they went out and bought a brand new truck.

The Green Valley/Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a 2013 7400 International Fire Truck that is equipped with 4-wheel drive and an extended cab.

"This is a large truck, everyone calls it the beast," said Chief Dave Thompson of the Green Valley/Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department.

"We are just hoping that it can do what we need it to do for the community."

The 4-wheel drive will be a big asset for the department that has to deal with a lot of back roads in Mercer County.

"We are hoping it is going to be a real advantage to us in the past like I said we had to chain stuff we had to chain part of our trucks, leave other trucks unchained."

Tune in tonight on WVVA News at 11 to see the new truck and a full report from WVVA's Josh Frketic

November 16, 2012

(2,3,4)

WELCH (WVVA) - Bullying is a big problem at schools across the nation, and in McDowell County, officials are trying to make a difference by giving kids advice on how to respect one another.

Mount View High School hosted a seminar on the effects of bullying Thursday. The event featured speaker Jim Kennedy of 'Rachel's Challenge' -- a group established in the memory of Rachel Scott, a victim of the 1999 Columbine massacre.

David Sanders, parent of a Mount View student, says his son has been a victim of bullying. He says it's an issue that has been going on for several weeks.

"I'm concerned with the situation up at Mount View with the bullying by other students," Sanders said.

Kennedy says it's the belief of Rachel's Challenge that a message of kindness is the answer.

"Our belief is through kindness and compassion if we can inflict schools with kindness and compassion and the students get that message than all those things like bullying and disrespect just have a hard time existing."

On Thursday, the students were given advice on how to make their environment a positive place.

Students said the message really hit home to hear about the Columbine shooting and the message Rachel wanted to get out about showing kindness and compassion to others...which proves she is still making an impact today.

November 16, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - Police are investigating the theft of two catalytic converters stolen off of vehicles parked at Raleigh General Hospital.

Catalytic converters contain precious metals desirable to thieves. The parts can be removed quickly and sold for a high price.

West Virginia state law requires any salvage yard that receives a catalytic converter to report the name of the person bringing it in.

Hospital officials say they are working with authorities on the incident.

November 16, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin announced that a Fayette County woman was sentenced on Thursday to two years in federal prison for her role in a 2008 pharmacy robbery scheme.

Christina Foster, 34, of Montgomery, W.Va., previously pleaded guilty in August to conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States. Foster admitted that on June 19, 2008, she drove co-conspirator Kevin Ian Davis, 31, of Pittsburgh, to the New River Family Health Center Pharmacy located near Scarbro, Fayette County, W.Va. Foster admitted that she knew co-conspirator Davis intended to rob the pharmacy of prescription pills containing oxycodone and morphine. Davis then used a handgun to rob the pharmacy.

Foster further admitted that after co-conspirator Davis completed the robbery, she immediately drove him away from the location.

Davis previously pleaded guilty in August to conspiracy to commit pharmacy robbery and awaits sentencing scheduled for December 3, 2012. Davis faces up to ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The replacement cost of the prescription drugs stolen from the pharmacy is \$2412.34 worth of oxycodone pills and \$629.07 worth of morphine pills.

This case was prosecuted as part of an ongoing effort led by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia to combat the illicit sale and misuse of prescription drugs. The U.S. Attorney's Office, joined by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, is committed to aggressively pursuing and shutting down illegal pill trafficking, eliminating open air drug markets, and curtailing the spread of opiate painkillers in communities across the Southern District.

The West Virginia State Police conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John File handled the prosecution. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston.

November 16, 2012

(2)

After months of investigation, police say they have arrested two people responsible in a multi-county crime spree. Clinton Hall, a 37-year-old from Mossy, and his alleged partner in crime, Vernon Estep, were caught early Friday morning after the Taco Bell in Smithers was broken into.

Police seized \$2,500 in cash plus equipment – they say Hall is way beyond the average burglar.

"When I say professional, [I mean] he's not out breaking windows," says Chief Deputy Mike Fridley of the Fayette County Sheriff Dept. "It's... planned out very well. He's using good tools, using masks, wears gloves."

Investigators accuse Hall of stealing more than \$50,000 and using the money to buy drugs. He is a suspect in 11 robberies in Fayette, Boone, Raleigh, and Kanawha counties. Police have been tracking the two men for several months.

"They all have the same mode of operation... How they got in, what they did when they got in, what they took," says Fridley.

Police say the break-ins started in July at the Custard Stand in the Lochgelly area. They tell WVVA News, even though they have their suspects in custody, their investigation doesn't stop now.

"He's caught, but there's still more pieces to the puzzle to make it complete. Then all charges will be brought up against him, and he'll be indicted," says Fridley.

If convicted of all the charges in Fayette and Boone counties thus far, Hall could be facing up to 60 years in prison.

November 16, 2012

(3)

WAR (WVVA) - A McDowell County Middle School was the site of a staged shooting Tuesday -- all done in an effort to prepare emergency officials for the worst.

The McDowell County Office of Emergency Services in Cooperation with local, county, and state law enforcement agencies, county fire and EMS services, and the McDowell County School system, conducted the drill Tuesday at the South Side Middle School in War.

Law enforcement staged an emergency situation which consisted of two shooters coming into the school to retaliate against the principal. Officials coordinated a plan to get inside, stop the shooters, and rescue a group of students.

The scenario is meant to prepare law enforcement agencies in case an emergency situation should ever occur.

Students from the Criminal Justice Studies Program at River View High School helped out during the drill.

November 17, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The state is awarding nearly \$1.5 million in recycling assistance grants to 32 agencies and other recipients around West Virginia.

The grant money totaling \$1.45 million is heading to solid waste authorities, private industries and counties to purchase vehicles, education campaigns, containers and other purchasing to assist in recycling programs.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection said the recycling assistance grants are generated through a \$1 assessment on every ton of solid waste disposed at state landfills.

Two of the bigger grants are heading to Berkeley and Braxton counties, which are each receiving funding topping \$125,000.

The grants are being spent on the purchase of a box truck, a forklift and site improvements at recycling centers.

November 18, 2012

(2)

RAVEN (WVVA)--- A sheriff's deputy is hit by a car while trying to make an arrest late Saturday night in Tazewell County.

Major Harold Heatley of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office says 33-year-old William McNew has been arrested with multiple charges.

Police say that McNew left the scene of a domestic incident where sheriff's deputies were looking for him. While deputies were questioning neighbors, McNew pulled into a nearby driveway.

Deputy Jonathan Caldwell approached the vehicle and told McNew to get out of the car.

McNew refused and police say that he refused to acknowledge the deputies presence. While Deputy Caldwell knocked on the window, McNew looked at the deputy, turned the steering wheel towards him and hit the gas.

Deputy Caldwell was tossed to the ground and in the process fired his weapon. The shot went through the rear drivers side window and did not hit McNew.

McNew fled the scene and abandoned the vehicle but was later found at the original address.

Caldwell was treated and released from a local hospital with minor injuries.

McNew is being charged with attempted Capitol Murder, DUI, Refusal, Driving Suspended DUI and additional charges are pending. He is in Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority without bond

November 19, 2012

(2)

PROSPERITY (WVVA) - Fire consumed a Raleigh County home over the weekend.

The blaze occurred on Patteson Street in Prosperity Sunday.

The home was fully engulfed by the time firefighters arrived on scene.

No one was at home when the fire began. The home was a total loss.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

November 19, 2012

(2)

WEST AUGUSTA, Va. (AP) -- Authorities have called off the search for a Staunton man who went missing a week ago while hiking on Shenandoah Mountain.

Sixty-year-old Robert Fitzgerald dropped his cell phone while hiking on the Confederate Breastworks Trail with a friend on Nov. 11. Authorities believe he returned the next day to find the phone. He hasn't been seen since then.

A five-day search that began Thursday yielded no signs of Fitzgerald.

Billy Chrimes with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management tells The News-Leader that authorities decided Monday night to call off the search.

November 20, 2012

(3)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The West Virginia Board of Education is delaying a decision on hiring a new schools superintendent so it can focus on an audit of the public school system.

The board plans to hold a special meeting Wednesday to discuss the audit. The superintendent issue was added to the agenda after board members fired former Schools Superintendent Jorea Marple last week.

Department of Education spokeswoman Liza Cordeiro tells media outlets that board members want to focus on their response to the audit.

The wide-ranging audit describes a low-performing education system rigidly controlled by a state-level bureaucracy and a stack of policy-directing laws. It lists more than 100 recommendations.

The West Virginia Education Association plans to hold a vigil Tuesday night in Charleston to show support for Marple.

November 20, 2012

(2)

GLEN DANIEL (WVVA) - A man and woman suspected in the armed robbery of a Raleigh County retail store have been arrested.

Jimmy Ivan Harper, 32, and Bobby Michelle Harper, 33 -- both of Harper -- were apprehended by State Police Tuesday.

Police say the suspects, both wearing hooded sweatshirts and ski masks, entered the Family Dollar in Glen Daniel brandishing clubs around 8:30 p.m. Monday.

The suspects allegedly ordered all customers inside the store to the ground, demanded money from a cashier and fled the scene.

The incident is being investigated by Cpl. H.F. Blevins of the Beckley detachment of the West Virginia State Police.

If you have any information regarding this incident, call the State Police at 304-256-6700.

November 23, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The Bluefield Union Mission did its part Thursday to try and make sure everyone had a hot meal to be thankful for.

For some families in the Two Virginias it can be hard to choose between putting food on the table or trying to pay the bills or for their medicine.

The Union Mission prides itself on trying to make sure everyone is fed in the area especially during a holiday that signifies giving.

The Union Mission was also benefited from WVVA's 20 Days of Giving campaign.

November 26, 2012

(2)

HARPER HEIGHTS (WVVA) - Police are searching for an armed suspect who robbed a Raleigh County convenience store.

According to the Raleigh County 911 dispatch, the robbery occurred at the Go Mart on Harper Road in Harper Heights on Sunday.

Further details on the incident were not available. The Raleigh County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

November 26, 2012

(2)

SOPHIA (WVVA) - Fire destroyed a storage building in Raleigh County Sunday.

The building was located on Pinetta Court in Sophia. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time, but according to Jeff Pittman with the Sophia Fire Department it is suspicious.

November 26, 2012

(1, 2, 7, 8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- West Virginia officials are hopeful that coal mining layoffs have eased this year.

The state's unemployment benefits program counted more than 4,700 mine workers filing initial claims earlier this year.

But program acting Executive Director Russell Fry says mining-related filings dropped to 2,500 last month.

Fry says that suggests the rest have gone back to work elsewhere. But he also notes the drop could reflect such other factors are retirements.

West Virginia is the nation's second-biggest coal producer. A downturn blamed partly on cheap natural gas has triggered mine shutdowns and layoffs.

Fry was among several speakers called Monday by a House-Senate committee studying coal's future in the state.

State Division of Energy Director John Herholdt told lawmakers the state has more than a century's worth of coal to mine.

November 26, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Private nonprofits in three counties have less than a month to apply for federal disaster loans to recover from severe weather in March.

The deadline to apply for economic injury disaster loans is Dec. 24.

The U.S. Small Business Administration said Monday it's making the loans available in Lincoln, Logan and Mingo counties to homeless shelters, libraries and other private nonprofits that don't critical services. Loans of up \$2 million are available.

Severe storms in March caused flooding, mudslides and landslides in the three counties.

November 27, 2012

(2)

EDMOND (WVVA) - The Fayette County Sheriff's Office is investigating a burglary in the Edmond area.

A call was received thru the Fayette County 911 Center at 5:44 pm reporting a home invasion robbery. When Deputies arrived at the scene they were told that a 23 year-old man was upstairs in his parents' residence when he heard the dogs barking and a noise downstairs.

When he went to check out the noise he found an individual burglarizing the home. The victim stated that the suspect brandished a small handgun at him and forced him to return upstairs where the suspect locked the victim in a bathroom.

The victim stated that he waited until his parents returned home before contacting 911 to report this crime.

The suspect is described as male, approximately 6-00, 250 pounds, wearing a black ski mask, a black hooded jacket and blue jeans. He was reportedly armed with a short-barrel dark-colored revolver.

The suspect allegedly fled from the scene on some type of ATV.

Items stolen from the residence included jewelry and firearms. This incident remains under investigation by Detective-Sergeant G.A. Chapman of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office.

Anyone with info can contact Crime Stoppers at (304) 255-7867 or the Sheriff's Office at (304) 574-4305 or submit a tip thru the Crime Tips section of the Sheriff's Office website, <http://fayettesheriffwv.net>.

November 27, 2012

(1)

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. (AP) -- Former West Virginia University athletic director Ed Pastilong has joined a team that's raising money for West Liberty University.

Pastilong served WVU in Morgantown from 1989 through 2010. But the Moundsville native is now helping out the Northern Panhandle school.

Development Director Angela Zambito-Hill calls him a visionary who will focus on athletic fundraising.

At WVU, Pastilong oversaw some \$65 million in facility renovations, more than doubled the athletic department budget and steered WVU into the Big East football conference. This year, the school moved into the Big 12.

Last month, West Liberty launched its largest fundraising campaign ever.

The school has about 2,700 students, and a faculty and staff of 433. It's been in a silent phase of fundraising for several years.

November 27, 2012

(8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- President Barack Obama has issued a disaster declaration to help 18 counties recover from damage caused by Superstorm Sandy.

The declaration announced Tuesday by the White House makes federal funding available to eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit groups in the counties, along with state government. The funding will be provided on a cost-sharing basis.

Funding for hazard mitigation measures statewide also is available on a cost-sharing basis.

Counties included in the declaration are: of Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lewis, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, Webster, and Wyoming.

November 27, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin announced today that a Fayette County man was sentenced to eight months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release for distributing oxycodone. Phillip E. Adkins, 44, of Hilltop, Fayette County, W.Va., previously pleaded guilty in June. Adkins admitted that on Feb. 1, 2012, he illegally sold three 30-milligram oxycodone pills to an individual cooperating with law enforcement authorities. Adkins also admitted that on January 20, 2012, he sold ten 10-milligram hydrocodone pills to the individual cooperating with law enforcement.

On September 15, 2011, law enforcement officers seized a firearm, seven 30-milligram oxycodone pills, 111 hydrocodone pills and \$1,379 cash from the defendant's Hilltop residence.

The West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John File handled the prosecution. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston.

This case was prosecuted as part of an ongoing effort led by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia to combat the illicit sale and misuse of prescription drugs. The U.S. Attorney's Office, joined by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, is committed to aggressively pursuing and shutting down illegal pill trafficking, eliminating open air drug markets, and curtailing the spread of opiate painkillers in communities across the Southern District.

November 27, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA) - A series of house fires kept multiple crews busy across Mercer County late Monday evening into Tuesday morning.

Five departments responded to a mobile home fire on Kirby Addition Road in Princeton Monday evening.

No one was home at the time of the fire. A man living there was attending the Princeton Christmas Parade when the blaze began.

The home suffered extensive damage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but preliminary findings suggest a clothes dryer may have sparked the blaze.

Just after midnight, a house on Duck Pond Road in Bluewell caught fire just after midnight. Crews from Bluewell, Bramwell and Montcalm responded.

Firefighters were called back to the scene at 4 a.m. for a rekindle.

At 1 a.m., a home on Razorback Road in Montcalm also caught fire. Montcalm, Bluestone Valley, Matoaka and Green Valley fire departments responded and were still on scene at last report.

November 28, 2012

(8)

RICHMOND – Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling issued the following statement Wednesday regarding his decision to suspend his campaign for the Republican Party's nomination for Governor of Virginia.

"When I was growing up my dad was a coal miner and my mom waited tables. We didn't have much, but my parents instilled in me a love of Virginia. I never dreamed that I would one day have a chance to help lead this wonderful state, but thanks to you, that has been my privilege.

"Throughout my 21 years in public service I have done my best to stand strong for our shared conservative values, while at the same time working with Republicans and Democrats to get things done in state government. I think that effort has been successful, and I hope you agree.

"For the past seven years I have had the honor of serving as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, and it had been my intention to seek the Republican Party's nomination for Governor in 2013. However, not everything we want in life is meant to be.

"After a great deal of consideration I have decided to suspend my campaign for the Republican Party's nomination for Governor of Virginia. Needless to say, this was a very difficult decision for me, and I know it will come as a surprise and disappointment to many, but I am confident it is the right decision.

"Four years ago I decided to set my personal ambition to be Governor aside and join with Bob McDonnell to create a united Republican ticket. Time has proven the wisdom of that decision.

Governor McDonnell and I were elected in 2009 by historic margins, and for the past three years we have successfully worked together to get Virginia back on the right track.

"I had hoped that Attorney General Cuccinelli and I would be able to form that same kind of united Republican ticket in 2013. However, late last year Mr. Cuccinelli unexpectedly announced that he intended to challenge me for the Republican Party's nomination for Governor.

"While I was surprised and disappointed by Mr. Cuccinelli's decision, I was confident in my ability to win our party's nomination for Governor in a statewide primary election, which was the method of nomination that had previously been adopted by the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia.

"However, in June of this year the newly constituted State Central Committee voted to change the manner in which we will nominate our candidates in 2013 from a statewide primary to a closed party convention. While I did not support that decision, it had a dramatic impact on the 2013 campaign.

"For the past several months my campaign team has worked hard to restructure our campaign to effectively compete in the convention process. While we have made a great deal of progress, I reluctantly concluded that the decision to change the method of nomination from a primary to a convention created too many obstacles for us to overcome.

"In addition, I know how divisive conventions can be, and I was concerned that a prolonged campaign between Mr. Cuccinelli and me could create deep divisions within our party. The convention process would have forced Republican activists to take sides against their friends in local committees all across our state. The wounds that can develop from that type of process are often difficult to heal.

"Conventions are by their very nature exclusive, and at a time when we need to be projecting a positive image and reaching out to involve more Virginians in the Republican Party, I am unwilling to be part of a process that could seriously damage our image and appeal.

"While it may have been in my self-interest to have continued the campaign and done my best to win without regard to the consequences of those actions, I have never chosen to place my self-interest ahead of our Party's best interest, and I will not do so now.

"I know that my decision will surprise most people and disappoint many people, but I'm confident it is the right decision. I hope that my friends and supporters, as well as those who have chosen to support Mr. Cuccinelli, will respect and appreciate the reasons for my decision.

"It has been a great honor to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia for the past seven years, and I wouldn't trade the experiences and opportunities we have had for anything in the world.

"I look forward to serving the remainder of my term as Lieutenant Governor and as Virginia's Chief Jobs Creation Officer, and working with Governor McDonnell and the rest of our great team to build a better Virginia.

"Jean Ann and I want to personally thank everyone who has done so much to support us over the years, and I especially want to thank the thousands of people who had already pledged their support to my campaign for Governor. Their support means more to us than words can express. My greatest regret in suspending my campaign is the thought that I have let them down.

"In the coming days Jean Ann and I will be evaluating our future political options. I love Virginia and I value public service a great deal. I assure you that I will continue to look for ways to make a contribution to the public life of our Commonwealth.

"I intend to remain actively involved in the 2013 campaigns – perhaps not as the Republican nominee for Governor, but as a more independent voice, making certain that the candidates keep their focus on the important issues facing our state and offer a positive and realistic vision for effectively and responsibly leading Virginia"

November 28, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The fate of West Virginia's only high-security juvenile corrections facility could be decided by the end of the year.

Media outlets report that an expert witness told a judge Tuesday that the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth in Salem should be closed.

Paul Demuro's testimony came during a hearing in Kanawha County Circuit Court on a lawsuit filed by Mountain State Justice. The lawsuit alleges that inmates at the Salem facility are illegally strip searched, placed in solitary confinement and denied adequate access to exercise and educational materials.

The state Supreme Court appointed Mercer County Circuit Court Judge Omar Aboulhosn to hear the case. Aboulhosn says he wants to issue a ruling by the end of the year.

The state ended solitary confinement at juvenile facilities earlier this year.

November 28, 2012

(2)

There's only days before the doors are closed for good at the Value Plus grocery store in downtown Oak Hill.

Store owner, David Stephens, says it's the end of a personal chapter. "It's going to be strange because I've been in the grocery business 42 years," says Stephens. "This is the only thing I've ever really done."

Stephens tells WVVA that he had a good relationship with his landlord, but he could not commit to another five year lease and competing with Wal-Mart and Kroger.

"You're sort of caught between the war between the two giants, so it's hard for an independent [store]," says Stephens.

This isn't the only business leaving Oak Hill though; K-Mart is on its way out too.

Residents are worried about what this will do for their community.

"I'm sure that's hurtful. There's not that many businesses here in Oak Hill anyway. And I know it's just going to be a terrible burden, financial burden, for everyone involved," says Rev. Gordy Barnard, a long time Value Plus shopper and concerned resident.

Residents aren't the only ones disappointed. Stephens says it was his hope for the city and his store that someone else would take the business over. "I basically was willing to give, just low ball, the equipment just to get somebody in here because I really didn't want to hurt the community. I really wanted to keep it open. I wanted my employees to still have a job," says Stephens.

City officials say it's up to the people to decide the fate of the location.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, however you want to look at it, I believe it's time for us to step back and look and wait and see if the market will support a grocery store in this location in the future," says Bill Hannabass, Oak Hill City Manager.

Hannabass also encourages residents to try and keep their spending in Oak Hill, especially at a time like this. "We all need to focus on shopping locally. It keeps those dollars local. It keeps tax revenue locally, so that your streets and your sidewalks and your infrastructures remain in good repair," says Hannabass.

November 29, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Appalachian Power says copper thieves are responsible for an outage in Charleston that left 2,900 customers without service.

Media outlets report that Thursday's outage affected customers in the Kanawha City and South Hills neighborhoods, and along MacCorkle Avenue.

The University of Charleston canceled classes until power was restored around 11 a.m. Charleston Area Medical Center's Memorial Division switched to backup generators until it regained service around 9 a.m.

Traffic lights in the affected areas also were knocked out.

Appalachian Power spokeswoman Jeri Matheney says service wasn't expected to be restored to all customers until Thursday afternoon.

She says the theft occurred at a substation around 4:40 a.m. A voltage alarm alerted the utility.

November 29, 2012

(2)

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) -- Police have defused a bomb that a student brought to a private school for special-needs children in Lynchburg.

Lynchburg Police Capt. Ryan Zuidema tells The News and Advance (<http://bit.ly/TtrGIw>) that the Rivermont School and neighboring homes and businesses were evacuated Thursday while state police took the chemical bomb to a secure location away from the school and defused it. About 56 students were at the school. Nobody was injured.

Police said the 14-year-old student brought the foot-tall bomb to school in his backpack. Staff became aware of the threat and took the bomb outside.

The student was taken into custody.

The school is run by Centra. Its website says the school is designed for students who have psychological, emotional or learning problems but do not require inpatient treatment.

November 29, 2012

(1, 8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- A new federal report confirms what Appalachia coal producers already know: Coal will remain an important energy source, but its share of U.S. power generation will fall.

West Virginia's U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller requested the Government Accountability Office report, released this week.

Rockefeller has long urged the industry to acknowledge the need for change. He called Wednesday for investment in technologies to make coal a cleaner fuel.

The Charleston Gazette says the report lays out the many competitive challenges facing Appalachian coal, including cheap, abundant natural gas and coal from other regions.

Industry leaders have said producers may stem their losses with increased exports. But the GAO says that will depend on how competitive U.S. prices are and on the quality of coal available.

November 29, 2012

(2, 8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Federal regulators have notified four mine operators that they have a potential pattern of violations and will face more scrutiny.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration says warning letters were sent to two West Virginia mines -- Ten-Mile Coal Co. Inc.'s No. 4 Mine in Harrison County and Argus Energy's Deep Mine No. 8 in Wayne County. Letters also were sent to Pike Floyd Mining Inc.'s No. 3 Mine in Pike County, Ky., and Noranda Alumina's Gramercy Facility in St. James County, La.

Operators of two inactive mines in Kentucky and Idaho also were notified in case they return to active status.

It's the third round of screening since MSHA established the current criteria and procedures in 2010.

November 29, 2012

(2)

MONTCALM (WVVA) - Community members are coming together to help a Mercer County family pick up the pieces following a devastating fire.

The family of Paulina Breeden, Darrell Breeden, Tyler Breeden and Christian Carper lost their home and all their possessions in a house fire Monday morning.

In the aftermath, donations are being collected to give to the family. The following clothing sizes are needed:

Adult female pants, size 18; XL shirts, size 7 shoes.

Adult male 34x30 pants, L shirts, size 10 shoes.

Boy 10-12 pants, L kids shirts, size 2 shoes.

Boy 34x30 pants, L/XL shirts, size 8 men's shoes

Organizers say any donations are appreciated. You can take donations to the Montcalm Fire Department from Noon until 4 Saturday.

November, 29, 2012

(2)

WYOMING COUNTY (WVVA) - Police have requested felony warrants for Donnie Ellis in Wyoming County on two counts of animal cruelty.

Ellis, 27, was renting a home in the Reedy Creek area of Wyoming County. In lieu of rent, his only obligation was to take care of four horses. Law enforcement says it appears two of the horses starved to death.

The investigation started when deputies responded to an animal cruelty call Sunday.

On Tuesday, one of the horses that died was still living. Police say the owner's brother tried to prop him up and feed him, but the horse was too weak to stand and died shortly after.

Officials with the Humane Society say the other horse that died had been dead for about a month.

They say there was feed on the farm. Officials are investigating why Ellis chose not to feed the animals.

"We've talked to the brothers of the owner of the horses, and anytime [Ellis and his wife] needed anything, they would bring hay, grain, to the residence and drop it off," says Lt. Bradley Ellison, Wyoming County Sheriff's Department. " Now [the owner's daughter and one of the brothers] did make a statement... they thought he might have been trading the money for drugs."

Ellis' wife also lived in the home, but she told law enforcement that her job took her away from the home constantly, so she did not know the horses were in bad condition.

The person who actually owns the home and the horses is serving time in prison.

The other two horses that lived on the property are back safely with the owner's brother.

November 30, 2012

(2)

WVVA News---The West Virginia Department of Commerce reports a 27 year-old employee at Pocahontas Mine A White Buck Portal was fatally injured at approximately 1:30 a.m. when he was caught between a scoop and a continuous miner.

The victim was pronounced dead shortly thereafter at a local hospital.

The mine is owned by Alpha Natural Resources and is located at Rupert, W.Va. in Greenbrier County.

OMHS&T inspectors have been onsite since early this morning.

This is the sixth mining fatality in W.Va. in 2012

November 30, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) -A California man charged with trying to extort \$13 million from a West Virginia coal executive wants to fire his lawyer.

Court filings in the case against West Hollywood resident Vivek Shah are sealed, and the parties are under a gag order.

But the U.S. District Court docket shows Shah filed a motion Wednesday to relieve Charleston attorney Troy Giatra and represent himself.

He's set to stand trial in January.

The 25-year-old aspiring actor was indicted in August on charges he threatened to kill relatives of Foresight Reserves owner Christopher Cline if Cline refused to pay him.

Shah allegedly targeted four other wealthy but unnamed victims, including a film studio co-founder from Connecticut, two oil and gas millionaires in Texas and Florida, and an internet company founder from Chicago.

November 30, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA) - A former employee has pleaded guilty to embezzling \$16,000 from the Mercer County Sheriff's Department over a 5-year span.

Charlotte Harvey entered the plea to one count of embezzlement on Friday.

Harvey was sentenced to one year probation. She has already made restitution of \$14,600.

Harvey left her position at the department in Sept. 2011. Mercer County prosecutor Scott Ash says Harvey had admitted of the wrongdoing to co-workers and an immediate supervisor.

The embezzlement occurred from 2006-2011.

December 3, 2012

(2)

MATOAKA (WVVA) - Fire destroyed a home in the Matoaka area of Mercer County Sunday.

The owners of the home on Weyanoke Road were out hunting around 5:30 when they saw smoke coming from the kitchen.

The home was fully engulfed by the time firefighters arrived.

No one was injured in the fire. The cause has yet to be determined.

December 3, 2012

(2)

BRAMWELL (WVVA) - A third weekend fire in Mercer County claimed a vacant structure in Bramwell.

The blaze began just before sunrise Sunday on Bramwell Hill Road. Crews were on scene for several hours before the fire was contained.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

December 3, 2012

(2)

A Mullens man will serve two years in jail brandishing a firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Prosecuting Attorney Rick Staton says 40-year-old Salvatore Richard Turrisi was sentenced by Magistrate Craig Cook to one year in jail for brandishing a firearm and an additional year for being a felon in possession of a firearm, to be served consecutively. These are the maximum sentences allowed by law.

The plea and sentence result from a December, 2011 incident in which Turrisi pulled a pistol out on a collection agent at his house. Upon investigating the allegation, Mullens Police officers Ray Toler and Jack Meadows discovered the gun in Turrisi's house. The case was set for a jury trial on December 3, but Turrisi opted to enter a "no contest" plea, upon which he was sentenced to the maximum on each charge.

"My office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney, are cracking down on these type of weapons cases. This plea and sentence should send a strong message to felons and the community that we will not tolerate illegal possession of firearms," said Staton.

December 3, 2012

(2)

PINEVILLE (WVVA) - Five people have been arrested for allegedly trying to steal copper from a Wyoming County mine.

Wyoming County Sheriff Randall Aliff says David Reed of Amigo, Christopher Reed from Allen Junction and Dickie Lusk of Stephenson are each charged with grand larceny.

Andrea Lester and Darla Cantley, both also of Allen Junction, are each charged with conspiracy to commit a felony.

December 4, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The 2012 Toys for Tots campaign received a huge boost Monday.

Mountain Star Inc., the Owners of several local Hardee's restaurants in the region, donated \$2,500 to the campaign.

General Manager Brock Smith presented Marine Corp. member Jack Grose with the check at WVVA Studios.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Mountain Star has made a donation to Toys for Tots, which has made a big difference in the lives of area children in need.

December 4, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. – U. S. Attorney Booth Goodwin announced today that a Mercer County man was sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison for illegally distributing prescription drugs. Benjamin Jamalle Lane, 35, of Mercer Co., W.Va., previously pleaded guilty in August to distribution of oxycodone. Lane admitted that on February 29, 2012, he sold two 30-milligram

oxycodone pills, also known as "Roxicodone," to a person cooperating with law enforcement authorities. Lane further admitted that on March 5 and March 12, 2012 he sold two 30-milligram oxycodone pills to a confidential informant. The defendant also admitted that each of the illegal pill transactions took place near Montcalm, Mercer County, W.Va.

Lane admitted that he is responsible for distributing a total of 480 30-milligram pills over a four-month period.

Since June 2011, twenty-three individuals have been sentenced for illegally distributing prescription drugs and other illegal narcotics as part of the Bluefield Pill Initiative (BPI). The BPI defendants have been sentenced to a total of more than 43 years in prison.

The sentencing was imposed by United States District Court Senior Judge David A. Faber.

The Bluefield Pill Initiative is a collaborative, multi-agency regional law enforcement effort designed to halt prescription drug trafficking in Mercer, McDowell, and Wyoming Counties. The Bluefield Pill Initiative is led by the Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, which includes the West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation; the Mercer, McDowell and Wyoming County Sheriff's Departments, and the Bluefield and Princeton Police Departments. Assistant United States Attorneys Miller Bushong and John File are in charge of the prosecutions.

December 5, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A man and woman are behind bars on charges of burglary.

Nicholas Bragg, 25, and Erica Prince, 21, are accused of stealing electronics and jewelry from two homes in the Crescent Road area of Beckley.

Police are investigating to see if the pair could be linked to other burglaries in the area.

Some of the stolen items have been recovered.

December 5, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG, W. VA (WVVA)-- The Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce held a business power lunch on Wednesday in Lewisburg.

Local business owners learned how to best reduce energy costs, which can help a great deal in the winter months.

"This can help you improve your competitiveness and performance," said Rory McIlmoil, energy program director for Downstream Strategies and one of the guest speakers at the hour-long workshop.

According to McIlmoil, conserving energy can save a business thousands of dollars.

"This is a beautiful state, and it is where a lot of energy in the country is coming from," said guest speaker Tom Hale, an energy program representative for First Energy. "It would be great to get in [on saving it]."

Professionals also say there are ways to apply for free energy audits and find incentives for businesses to more efficiently use energy, like tax credits. Downstream Strategies and First Energy can provide more information for business owners who want to get started.

But this is not just a lesson for now.

"It is important to relate to other generations how to conserve," said McIlmoil. "We can pass it on and keep it going."

WVVA has compiled a list of tips from the power lunch on how not just businesses, but also homeowners, can save on electric and heat bills by reducing energy use:

- invest in alternative energy sources, such as solar energy
- install floors that absorb and trap heat (such as dark-colored carpet) when it comes through the windows
- remember to turn lights off
- reduce heat loss in machinery and entrances to home through caulking, placing plastic over windows, etc.
- change bulbs to compact fluorescent and other efficient bulbs
- be more aware of your usage (it helps to know how much you use, and see where problem areas occur)
- hang-dry clothes, especially in the summer, to avoid using a clothes-drier
- clean refrigerator coils (this makes the energy use more efficient)
- unclog heating vents
- install better insulation
- buy more efficient machinery/appliances
- for things you do not always use, plug them in on a power-strip. Just remember to turn the strip off when you are not using those things to keep them from drawing unnecessary power
- purchase insulated shutters
- install a light-colored roof. Dark-colored roofing increases heat absorption in a building

December 6, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The Bluefield, W.Va., zoning committee voted unanimously to put a new rezoning ordinance before the Board of Directors.

This comes after College Avenue homeowners -- unhappy with declining property values -- went before the zoning committee at city hall on Wednesday.

The ordinance would restrict the number of multiple family dwellings -- along a section of College Avenue.

Homeowners at the meeting spoke in support of the new measure -- citing this is what needs to be done to stop property values from declining further.

December 6, 2012

(1)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Another small Bluefield business is closing.

East River Arts branched from the Arts and Crafts Center three years ago. The business hosted community performing arts events weekly, served food and drinks and offered art to the community.

However, co-owner Pete Sternloff tells WVVA News that business just wasn't what it needed to be to survive.

"The problem more than anything I would say was the economy," Sternloff said.

Sternloff said he should know within the next 48 hours if someone will purchase the business.

December 6, 2012

(1)

Fayette County will lose another business, likely before the end of the year. The Family Dollar in Fayetteville is going out of business.

The store has been at its Maple Avenue location for five years. Family Dollar has other locations in Beckley, Sophia, Mt. Hope, Glen Daniel, Oak Hill and Mullens.

Majority of the inventory at the Fayetteville location is marked down to half off the original price.

Family Dollar is the third business to announce they will be leaving Fayette County in the past few weeks. Value Plus Grocery Store and K-Mart, both in Oak Hill, will also close.

December 7, 2012

(1)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - City leaders in Bluefield are putting pressure on Food City's parent company, KVAT, to allow a grocery store to come into the old Kroger building on Cumberland Road.

Board members will vote on a resolution next week which would invite KVAT administrators to meet with them after the holidays.

The board will also discuss the widening economic impact the empty store is having on surrounding business and property values.

December 9, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA) - A Princeton man was tied to a toilet in his own home after having his throat slit by a neighbor demanding his truck keys and debit card, according to a criminal complaint filed on the incident.

According to the complaint, Roy Lee Williams, 41, attacked George Delaney, 67, with a kitchen knife at Delaney's home on LJ Street in Princeton last Thursday.

Delaney told police after his throat was cut that Williams forced him into the bathroom, where Williams tied him to the toilet with an electrical cord and demanded the keys and card.

Delaney obliged and Williams left the residence, according to the complaint, only to return and leave a second time with a credit card.

Upon a third visit to the residence, police say Williams agreed to free Delaney if he agreed not to contact the police.

Delaney was released from the bindings and was left bleeding in the bathroom.

The complaint also states the Delaney witnessed Williams smoking crack during his second visit to the residence.

Delaney did not contact police until the following day. Upon arrival police saw severe wounds to Delaney and transported him to Princeton Community Hospital for emergency care.

After collecting evidence from Williams' home, police were advised by the suspect's wife that her husband had stated to her his intent to turn himself in to police.

Williams was taken into custody Saturday. He is charged with attempted murder, malicious wounding, armed robbery and kidnapping.

PRINCETON (WVVA)--- A man has been arrested by police after he allegedly cuts the throat of his neighbor.

41-year-old Roy Lee Williams has been arrested by State Police in Princeton on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping, malicious wounding, and armed robbery.

Police say that he slit the throat of a 67-year-old male that is his neighbor.

Blood was found mostly in the bathroom of the home but it was in various other places as well.

Police say that a discussion is what caused Williams to cut the throat of his neighbor.

December 10, 2012

(2)

RICHLANDS (WVVA) - Prosecutors in Utah will seek the death penalty against Nathan Sloop, the step-father charged in the brutal murder of 4-year old Ethan Stacy.

Ethan's biological father is from Tazewell County. He was staying with his biological mother, Stephanie Sloop, and her husband for the summer in 2010 when he was murdered.

He had been with the couple in Utah less than two weeks.

Nathan, 33, and Stephanie, 29, are both charged with capital murder.

Ethan's body was found buried near Powder Mountain in Weber County, Utah, wrapped in garbage bags.

Police say Nathan Sloop attempted to disfigure Ethan's face with a hammer so he could not be identified.

Stephanie Sloop is expected back in court on Friday.

December 10, 2012

(1)

Coined "The Coolest Small Town," Fayetteville could be getting even cooler. Local business owner, Adam Stephens, is proposing new commercial development to the historical downtown area.

Stephens' development of the Henry Street Project would bring more businesses and green space to Fayetteville.

"Immediately after the release of plan, there's a lot of excitement about it. A lot of people didn't know I was trying to go in this direction and have it to this caliber," says Stephens, current owner of Marathon Bike Company and developer of the Henry Street Project.

If the project is approved, city officials hope this would mean more local jobs and revenue.

"I think it could mean a lot of exciting things and improvements to an area of town that is in need of improvement," says Bill Lanham, Town Superintendent for Fayetteville.

The Henry Street Project spans the block between Maple Avenue, Court Street, and Fayette Avenue. It would double the amount of parking spaces on that block, plus bring short term construction jobs and long term commercials to the area.

"We're pretty excited about that. A minimum of nine new commercial spots will be brought to Fayetteville in the full completion of the project," says Stephens.

Stephens acquired the land two years ago and named the project after his grandfather. Since then, he's been working to clear debris and overgrown landscape.

The finished project would include new space for his business, Marathon Bike Company, plus more new office space.

His next goal is set for summer 2013. Stephens hopes to have the historic Dickerson house fully renovated and filled with two businesses.

"We've completely rebuilt the front porch. We've gutted the interior. So we kind of know where we're starting from," says Stephens.

The parking area and sidewalks for the Henry Street project are up for approval at the Fayetteville Planning and Zoning meeting January 14, 2013.

December 11, 2012

(2)

ANSTED (WVVA) - Sheriff's deputies are searching for two suspects who used a stolen pickup truck to smash and grab cigarettes from two Fayette County convenience stores.

The first incident took place around 4 a.m. at the Marathon store on Route 60 in Ansted. Minutes later, the Little General in Gauley Bridge was targeted.

Police say the truck used to ram through the entrances of the stores -- a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado -- was stolen from Clonch Industries in Nicholas County.

The truck was later recovered in the Dixie area of Nicholas County.

Cartons of cigarettes were taken from both stores. No other items were said to be missing.

Surveillance video from both locations shows two masked individuals, one described as 'heavy set,' and the other described as thin.

December 13, 2012

(2)

ALDERSON, W. Va-- The Alderson 4th of July Committee is proud to present the first-ever Alderson Jingle Bell Fun Fest.

The town's typically large 4th of July festival was postponed due to the June 29 storm. The ticket sales were down, and the town is now struggling to recover from the financial losses it faced. The funds raised at this Jingle Bell Fun Fest event will go toward building back the treasury to allow a fantastic 2013 festival.

"Our fall festival, which we had to try to make up for the cancellation of the 4th of July, also had pouring rain," said representative Detra McVey. "Therefore, attendance was terrible, and we are in a hole with the celebration for trying to have it next year."

The committee would like to thank Alderson Medical Center for their help in sponsoring this event

The Jingle Bell Fun Fest is on Saturday, December 15, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and will be held at the Alderson Community Center. The Jingle Bell Fun Fest will be the first of its kind in the Greenbrier Valley with a schedule of events that has something for everyone! You will find:

- Vendors, Crafters, and Concessions
- Breakfast and pictures with Santa!
- Children's Santa Chase and Costume contest
- Games/Prizes/ Raffle/Goody bags
- Letters to Santa and Crafts for Children
- 2 mile Fun run/walk race through Alderson
- *Polar Express* movie showing

For vendor information or questions, please call 304-661-2858, or email alderson4th@gmail.com. Visit their website at www.alderson4th.com or their Facebook page for more information and a schedule.

December 13, 2012

(2)

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va (WVVA)-- The Greenbrier's second annual "Create a Dream Tree For Kids" toy drive has raked in 36,850 gifts.

Those who work there say it was a community effort. "People purchased over 5,000 gifts from our Fizzy's Land of Oz store for donation," said Rebecca Hogan, "and donations came in from off the property."

The Greenbrier also donated one million dollars to the effort.

Thursday, volunteers from the Greenbrier East football team, local charities, and staff at The Greenbrier stacked the gifts and shipped them out around the region. They will go to local children in need.

"It just reinforces the fact that their community does care about them. They may not have a home to go to this Christmas, but there are folks out there who are thinking about them," said Janet Richmond, a representative from Children's Home Society of West Virginia.

She said the gifts their charity receives will go to children in emergency shelters and foster care this holiday.

"What's weighing on their minds is, where will I be, what am I going to have for Christmas. So when they actually see [these gifts]... it's more of a sense of normalcy for them. Their lives are so disrupted and here's, 'Yes, I am going to have a Christmas. It's a big deal to them.'"

December 13, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA)-- A man is beat to death in late November and now police believe they have the man who did it.

34-year-old Willard Cook was arrested Wednesday night in a joint effort led by the Virginia State Police.

Commonwealth Attorney Dennis Lee says that Cook beat Russell County native Tim Mitchell to death in Tazewell County.

No weapons were used in the incident.

Police say they found Mitchell in his car at his home. At first, police were unsure if the matter was a homicide.

Lee says that the two men knew each other but were not blood related. They got in a dispute while together away from their homes.

The incident is still under investigation.

December 14, 2012

(4, 5)

Mount Hope is making necessary reparations and preparations for the influx of people they are expecting in the area next summer. The Boy Scouts of America will be opening The Summit Bechtel Reserve in July 2013.

"There is a lot of hope for Mount Hope," says resident, Melisa Wykle. The city is kicking construction into overdrive.

The mayor says it's out with the old and in with the new. "We're looking to, certainly. We're looking to attract some of these hundred full time folks who will be here with the boy scouts who would like to live close to where they work," says Mayor Michael Martin. He hopes the current projects will be completed by next summer.

Construction and preparations include demolishing dilapidated houses, clearing the floodplain, repaving and lighting Main Street, and a new waterline and tank to support the Boys Scouts property.

Mount Hope is even making a new comprehensive plan. Residents will be able to review the current state of the city and plan for what's next, according to Mayor Martin. This should be available and before council by the first of the year.

Wykle says these improvements are a long time coming. "Since the boy scouts are coming, they're finally putting their foot in the mud and getting it done faster," she says.

Residents say this is an exciting time for the city.

"It makes our city of Mount Hope look better... more welcoming to other business people who may want to put a business in our town. And for people who want to come and shop in our little shops that we have here in Mount Hope," says Wykle.

"The faster things can begin to happen, then the more prepared we will be. That is the Boy Scout motto after all, 'Be prepared,'" says Mayor Martin.

December 14, 2012

(3)

PRINCETON - Eight members of a South Carolina church played Santa Claus at Lashmeet/Matoaka School today. The gifts they brought extended half the length of the school gymnasium – plastic tubs filled with over 300 pairs of new tennis shoes and 300 pairs of socks.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., classrooms of children, starting with the youngest, came to the gym to be fitted for a new pair of shoes. Although the school's staff had provided sizes in advance, the delegation made sure to have enough larger shoes to accommodate fast-growing feet.

Working with a program called "Laces for Love," Andrea Minolfo, of North Augusta First Baptist Church, headed up the mission. The South Carolinian was familiar with the Matoaka area, having previously assisted Pastor Mayhew West and his wife, directors of Shepherd's Hands, a ministry that provides donated clothing, shoes, and furniture to those who need it.

"While I was there, a friend and I helped deliver supplies, and we were deeply affected by what we saw," Minolfo said. "The people were so grateful for items that others might turn up their noses at. It broke my heart."

Back in South Carolina, Minolfo –already involved in her church's "Laces for Love" mission of providing 3,000 pairs of shoes for local youngsters—asked her 50-member Sunday School class to purchase another 300 pairs for the children at Lashmeet/Matoaka School. Minolfo had contacted Principal Dina Smith to see how many shoes would be needed.

Principal Smith said she was glad to be given options. "The group said they would purchase shoes for all of the students or for only the students who needed them," Smith said. "Knowing the dignity of my parents and students, and not wanting to embarrass anyone, we opted to go with the whole school."

Pastor West delivered the shoes to the school this morning, the cargo filling up the entire trailer he was pulling. Fifth-grade students helped unload the boxes.

Minolfo was joined by others on her mission to West Virginia. Fellow church-members Roseanne Price, Debbie Vaughn, and Sandy Myers held children's feet on their knees as they fitted them with sneakers of all colors. They were ably assisted PTO President, Vickie Settles, and by several young elves – Dominick Terlizzi, Bella Minolfo, and Sara Beth Vaughn -- all of North Augusta, South Carolina.

Lashmeet/Matoaka teacher Emily Hodovan was excited to see that socks were part of the gift. One of her kindergarten students, she said, had not worn a pair of socks to school all year.

Once fitted, the kids wore their shoes for the rest of the day, bagging up their other shoes to take home. "I like this pair," one youngster exclaimed, showing off his new shoes, "I don't want my other ones. They were slow-runners."

Principal Dina Smith warmly thanked the group, explaining that many parents may have trouble keeping rapidly-growing youngsters in shoes. "It is such a blessing that you were able to do this for the children at Lashmeet/Matoaka," she said.

December 14, 2012

(2)

OAK HILL (WVVA) - An Oak Hill physician is facing drug charges after being accused of providing prescription drugs to female patients in exchange for sexual favors.

Police arrested 73-year-old Dr. Oscar Gosien Friday and charged him with felony offenses of delivery of a controlled substance and conspiracy to commit a felony.

Gosien has been accused in numerous statements obtained by investigators of trading prescription medications to female patients for sexual favors, according to Fayette County Sheriff Steve Kessler.

"We have been receiving complaints about Dr. Gosien for a long time," Fayette County Sheriff Steve Kessler said.

Kessler also says that pills prescribed by Gosien have been linked to several overdose deaths in the county over recent years.

Gosien's secretary at his Lamplighter Road office, Kathy Treadway, 54, also faces charges of delivery of a controlled substance and conspiracy to commit a felony.

Police say additional charges are expected to follow.

The two have yet to be arraigned. The case remains under investigation.

December 15, 2012

(2)

LOOKOUT (WVVA)--- A woman is flown to CAMC in Charleston after she is stabbed in the stomach by her sister.

34-year-old Angel Orndorff was stabbed by her sister, 37-year-old Misty Dixon after an argument broke out between the two.

Dixon had the knife in her purse and initially fled the scene. Later in the evening she turned herself into police.

Fayette County Sheriff Steve Kessler says Dixon is being charged of Malicious Wounding and is being held on \$10,000 bond.

Orndorff's condition is unknown at this time.

December 17, 2012

(2)

In response to the horrific acts of violence at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, United Way of Western Connecticut, in partnership with Newtown Savings Bank, has established the Sandy Hook School Support Fund.

Donations will be used to provide support services to the families and community affected by this tragedy. Online donations can be processed at <https://newtown.uwwesternct.org/>.

Checks can also be mailed directly to:

Sandy Hook School Support Fund

Newtown Savings Bank

39 Main Street

Newtown, Connecticut, 06470

December 18, 2012

(1, 7)

NARROWS (WVVA) - As 2012 draws to an end, so does job security for over 100 employees for a Giles County based business.

Mundy officials announced that 123 employees of Mundy Support Services will be laid by the start of next year.

Mundy is contracted by the Celanese plant in Narrows, Virginia. Mundy Vice President of Human Resources tells WVVA that their contract with the plant ends on December 31st, and will not be renewed.

Mundy provides maintenance and operations support for the Giles County based plant.

Celanese has decided to contract a new company. The Shaw Group Inc. received the bid for contracting from Celanese.

The group is based out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Andy Beard says that it is likely that the new contractor will interview and hire the majority of the employees back on to work in the plant.

December 18, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A man has been arrested on murder charges after another is stabbed to death inside his own home.

Jeremy Edgell, 24, of Beckley is charged with first-degree murder. Police say 57-year-old John Lilly of Beckley was killed Monday night at a home on South Oakwood Avenue.

Lilly was stabbed multiple times. Police say it appears Lilly and Edgell were involved in a heated argument.

Police say it appears alcohol was involved.

Lilly was pronounced dead at Raleigh General Hospital. Edgell was caught shortly after that.

"We were able to locate Mr. Edgell in an abandoned building off of Robert C. Byrd Dr. here in Beckley," says Cpl. Dave Allard of the Beckley Police Department. "He was interviewed, and ultimately admitted that he was responsible for this incident."

Police say this is not typical for the neighborhood.

"This is just a residential neighborhood... This was an isolated incident. Just two individuals in an altercation, and unfortunately one person made some bad choices, and it lead to the death of Mr. Lilly," says Allard.

Edgell is currently being held without bond at Southern Regional Jail.

December 18, 2012

(2)

The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is searching for a man suspected in a number of break-ins. Major Harold Heatley says anyone who knows the whereabouts of 20-year-old Kendall Channing White should contact the sheriff's office. White is 5-foot-11, 155 pounds with blue eyes and blond hair.

White is wanted on a felony grand larceny charge and felony probation violation. You can call the sheriff's department or message them on Facebook with information. You can remain anonymous.

December 20, 2012

(2, 3)

UPDATE: MONTCALM (WVVA) - Mercer County Schools Assistant Superintendent Joe Turner tells WVVA News that Montcalm High and Montcalm Elementary were never placed on lockdown, but there was a police presence there Thursday morning in light of rumors of a threat.

MONTCALM (WVVA) - Rumors of a threat of possible violence at at least four Mercer County Schools were determined to be unfounded Thursday morning after several schools were temporarily placed on lockdown.

Mercer County Schools Assistant Superintendent Joe Turner tells WVVA News that there were rumors spread through the Internet and word of mouth -- believed to have originated at Montcalm High -- that a student was going to bring a weapon to school.

Princeton Middle, Princeton High, and the Mercer County Technical Education Center were placed on lockdown as a result. There was a police presence at Montcalm as the school day began, but the schools there were not placed on lockdown.

Following an investigation by police it was determined that the rumors were false. The schools have since been taken off lockdown.

December 20, 2012

(2)

RICHLANDS (WVVA) - One man has been arrested and another remains at large in connection with a breaking and entering at a Tazewell County church.

Michael Shane Dye, 40, of Richlands and Gaines Richard Davis, 44, of North Tazewell have both been charged with grand larceny, breaking and entering and property damage in connection with a breaking and entering at Mount Pleasant Church on Gov. G.C. Perry Highway last Tuesday.

Dye was arrested and confessed his and Davis' involvement, according to police. Davis remains at large.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office.

Following is the full release from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department:

On 12/18/12 deputies responded to the Mount Pleasant Church on Gov. G. C. Peery highway for a report of a breaking and entering of the church. The witness was able to provide very little information with the exception that two males were involved and they were driving a small red passenger vehicle with black rims. Deputies and detectives began an intensive search of the area, interviewing neighbors, store clerks and such and within four hours had developed a possible suspect. During the course of the investigation it was also determined that a male driving a red vehicle similar to that used in the Breaking and Entering of the church had also stolen gas from a citizens residence near the church.

Deputies along with officers from neighboring jurisdictions were given information regarding the vehicle involved in both incidents, while patrolling deputies observed a vehicle matching the description of the one reported in the earlier incidents. A traffic stop was conducted and the two suspects in the car were Michael Shane Dye, a 40 year old male from the Richlands area and Gaines Richard Davis a 44 year old male from the North Tazewell area, both subjects in the vehicle were interviewed, both denied involvement in the incident with the church. Davis was subsequently arrested on charges for theft of the gasoline and possession of drug paraphernalia. While in custody Davis confessed he was present during the breaking and entering but didn't enter the building, Davis was not charged with breaking and entering or grand larceny as he continued to deny any involvement.

Deputies obtained warrants for Dye and he was arrested the next morning and he confessed to his involvement in the incident as well as the involvement of Davis. Both suspects were charged with Grand Larceny, Breaking and Entering and Property Damage, Dye was taken before the magistrate and held on a \$1,500 secured bond (he bonded out six hours later). Some of the property stolen was recovered at a residence in the Richlands area.

Davis is still at large and is wanted in connection with this incident, the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is asking anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Davis to contact our office at (276) 988-0645/0704 or send us a message on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/tazewellcountysheriffsoffice.

December 21, 2012

(2)

RAINELLE, W. Va (WVVA)-- The Create a Dream Committee in Rainelle organized a huge Christmas party Thursday.

At the party--150 students and their families. The kids, kindergarten age and up, each received a sack of three Christmas presents to put under the tree.

Rainelle Mayor Andrea Pendleton said the event was to help a community in need. The gifts went to children who may not have received many otherwise.

"It's hard times," she said. "The kids are so excited [about getting these gifts], and we're excited to be able to do this for them."

The gifts come from the Create a Dream Tree for Kids program at The Greenbrier, Toys for Tots, and also other donors throughout the community.

Santa was there, and the kids also got to see a comedy show and eat some snacks before getting their gifts from Santa and the WV State Police and Rainelle Police Department who came to help with the event.

Around fifty volunteers helped wrap, deliver, and finally hand out the presents to the children.

December 21, 2012

(2)

RONCEVERTE, W. Va (WVVA)-- A home off Third Street near Teaberry Road in Ronceverte was destroyed by a fire on Thursday.

Tammy and Tim Pyne, along with their daughter, were not home at the time of the blaze. They were unharmed, but they lost everything they had in the fire.

"When I arrived, the structure was fully engulfed," said Chief Rusty Byer Jr. of the Ronceverte Police Department. "It was a total loss."

"It was overwhelming," said Tammy Pyne. "We also lost our dog, Bentley... he was like our baby."

"But we are all fine," said Tim. "And that's what matters."

Their local community has seen their pain and immediately stepped in to help. A friend created [a Facebook page](#) where support for the Pynes really took off.

"We don't have to worry about anything," said Tim. "We have wonderful friends and family, and even people who don't know us who are helping."

Through the Facebook page, the community organized a collection for clothes and other items the Pynes can use to start rebuilding their life. They also organized a fund through a local bank that will accumulate donations to the Pyne family, that the Pynes say they will use as they try to find a new place to live.

Although they are staying in a hotel for now, they plan on finding a temporary home where they plan to still celebrate Christmas.

"We would like to thank everyone," said Tammy. "Everyone collecting donations... we've received many calls and text messages... We would also like to thank the fire and police departments."

To help the Pyne family, you can:

1. Visit a local branch of City National Bank and ask about the Pyne Family Fund.
2. Mail donations to 109 S Jefferson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901

(Check made to Pyne Family Fund. Call 304-645-2500 for more information)

3. Drop off monetary and clothing donations at:

- Fortunate Finds in Lewisburg,
- Alpha Music in Fairlea on Fair St
- Irish Pub in downtown Lewisburg.
- Jim's Drive In

- Rhema Christian Center
- Ed DeLong Insurance Marketplace in White Sulphur Springs
- Greenbrier East High School
- When Pigs Fly Barbeque in Fairlea

Clothing sizes needed:

Men's Large to XL shirts. 34-34 men's pants. Size 12 shoes.
Medium women's tops or shirts. Size 5 and 7 pants. Size 8 and 9 1/2 shoes.

December 22, 2012

(2)

WRISTEN (WVVA)--- Hours after a man and a women rob a home in Deepwater Mountain with a gun a similar robbery happens in the Wristen area of Fayette County.

Police say that two people knocked on the door at a home off of Route 61 just before 8 PM asking to use the phone because their car broke down.

One of the suspects then put a ski mask over his head and the suspects forced their way into the home.

The homeowner then armed himself with a gun but the suspects wrestled it out of the 84-year-old's hands and beat him with a flashlight.

The two got away with the wallet of the victim.

The homeowner had minor injuries and says that the suspects were both male, but was not positive because "it happened so fast."

If you have any information on the robbery you are urged to call the Fayette County Sheriff's Office.

ORIGINAL STORY

DEEPWATER MOUNTAIN (WVVA)--- Police are looking for two people who robbed a women at gunpoint in her own home.

Police say a male and a female knocked on the door at a home on Route 61 in Deepwater Mountain around 3:40 Saturday morning.

Fayette County Sheriff Steve Kessler says that the two asked the women to use her phone saying their car broke down.

The two forced their way into the home with a semi-automatic pistol and a wooden claw-hammer. When the two got in they demanded "money and pills."

They searched the home but did not find any narcotic medication, but did take the women's purse that had an undisclosed amount of money.

They fled the scene in a small passenger car, but the victims were unable to get a description of the car.

The first suspect is a white male, about six feet tall and has a medium build. He was dressed in dark clothing and a ski mask.

The second suspect is a white female, about five feet tall, black hair with a skinny to medium build.

If you have any information on the robbery you are urged to call the Fayette County Office Detective Bureau at 304-574-4305

December 24, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG, W. VA (WVVA)-- Lewisburg police said they have made arrests on separate incidents involving the breaking and entering of automobiles.

Officers have been investigating the thefts that occurred in late November.

Kenneth Lemar Marshall, 23 of Lewisburg and Steven Cody Hunter ,23 of Kieffer have both been charged with three counts of breaking and entering an automobile and conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor in relation to incidents that occurred in the Lafayette and Dwyer Lane areas of Lewisburg.

Both men have been arraigned before a Greenbrier County magistrate and were released on a \$1500.00 bond.

The investigating officers in these incidents are Ptlm. D.E. Rexford and Ptlm. A.L. Workman

Officers also arrested two other men for automobile break ins in the Underwood Estates area of the city.

David Rookstool, 21 of Rupert, and Aaron Michael Dorsey, 22 of Meadow Bridge have been charged with Fraudulent use of a credit card and breaking and entering of a automobile. Both Dorsey and Rookstool are currently lodged in the Southern Regional Jail in Beckley.

Rookstool is also facing federal charges in relation to a break-in at Franks Gun and Pawn that occurred in November 2010 . Some items have been recovered that were stolen from the vehicles.

The investigating officer in his case is Detective Cpl. J.A.Vance.

December 24, 2012

(2)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -- Experts and state officials say Virginia has improved its mental health system since the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007. But funding shortages and other issues remain.

University of Virginia law professor Richard J. Bonnie said that mental health care isn't available in most areas for people who can't afford private care. Or, care isn't available in a timely manner.

State House Minority Leader David J. Toscano said the state hasn't been able to keep pace with the need.

Reforms since then include changing the standard for involuntary commitment, and improving and clarifying procedures for mandatory outpatient treatment.

But Bonnie said the system still has a long way to go.

December 27, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG, W. Va (WVVA)-- Freezing rain pelted Greenbrier County Wednesday, creating slick roads.

The WV Department of Highways had 20 trucks clearing roadways throughout the county, working 12-hour shifts.

Still, at least 16 accidents occurred since the morning, said Greenbrier County's 911 center.

Adam Beverage from Marlinton was out at Wal Mart shopping for last-minute storm necessities, including bottled water.

"I slid into a fence on the way here, but I'm ok," he said. "Just taking it slow [on the way home.]"

December 27, 2012

(2, 8)

WASHINGTON (WVVA) - Sen. Jay Rockefeller says a proposed federal rule would reduce prescription drug abuse.

The Drug Enforcement Administration's proposed rule would establish national standards for prescription drug disposal.

It also would expand available drug disposal options, including take-back events.

A 2010 law requires the DEA to enforce a legal and safe prescription drug disposal method. Rockefeller asked the DEA in November to implement the law.

The West Virginia Democrat says prescription drug abuse or misuse is responsible for nine out of 10 drug-related deaths in the state.

December 28, 2012

(2, 8)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Federal mining regulators issued 285 citations during November impact inspections.

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration said Thursday it also issued 11 orders following inspections at nine coal mines and seven other mines.

MSHA issued 23 citations and seven orders at TRC Mining Corp. No. 2 mine in Letcher County, Ky. Violations included failing to follow the ventilation plan, seal maintenance or pre-shift examinations.

The orders closed the underground portion of the mine.

MSHA also issued 40 citations and two orders at the BHP Cooper Inc., Pinto Valley Operation in Gila County, Ariz., where a miner was killed in September. Inspectors said the operator failed to provide proper barricades or warning signs.

The inspections began in 2010 after a mine explosion in West Virginia that killed 29 coal miners.

December 28, 2012

(2)

ALDERSON, W. Va (WVVA)-- A family lost their home Thursday night in a fire.

It happened on Dark Hollow Road in Monroe County, about a mile outside of Alderson.

The call came in around 11:15 PM, and according to Matt Brooks of the Alderson Fire Department, the home was a total loss.

"All the residents were out of the home when we arrived," Brooks said. "There was smoke coming out of the eaves of the house."

The fire began in the attic area of the home, in a crawlspace above one of the bedrooms. The cause is still undetermined.

The Alderson Fire Department, Tri-County Fire Department, and Clintonville Fire Department responded to the blaze.

It took around 2 hours to put out the fire. "It was an older home," said Brooks, "and it suffered excessive smoke and heat damage." Brooks said the structure was still standing after the fire was out, but not much could be saved.

This came after another unrelated fire Wednesday on South Monroe Street, which according to Brooks, also destroyed a home.

He said there were no injuries in that fire, and the whole family was able to escape the house and call for help.

"Flames were rolling out the door upon our arrival to that fire," he said.

December 28, 2012

(2)

Deputies are looking for three suspects in a reported robbery on the outskirts of Peterstown in Monroe County.

They say three masked suspects not only robbed 58-year-old Debbie Worrell's home in Bozoo, but also shot her twice while she was trying to escape.

Tanner Moore, 19, also in the home at the time of the robbery, was struck with a baseball bat.

Worrell and Moore are both reported to be in stable condition.

If you have any information you're urged to call the Monroe County Sheriff's Department at 304-772-3018.

December 30, 2012

(2)

ATHENS, W. Va (WVVA)-- A local business, Mike's Collision Repair, is a total loss after a fire Sunday morning.

It happened around 9:30 AM on Gardener Road, three miles off Interstate 77.

Bluestone Valley Fire Chief Tim Farley told WVVA Sunday that although the cause of the fire is unknown, they think it was a chimney fire.

"We are pretty sure the chimney started it. It spread into the building," said Farley, "[which] had a metal roof on top that held in heat and it just spread really quickly."

The shop lost everything, including the expensive tools and even some cars the owner was restoring. One of those cars was a Shelby Mustang.

Fire crews gave WVVA a \$300,000 damage estimate.

The only thing the family was able to fully recover from their business was a photo of their grandson.

WVVA spoke with the business owner off-camera, and he said he doesn't know what his plans are to recover from this. Right now he, some family and some helpers are just focusing on cleaning up after the blaze.

December 30, 2012

(2)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As Americans prepare for holiday celebrations, AAA reminds drivers and passengers alike of the dangers on the roads this New Year's Day, which consistently ranks as the year's deadliest day for alcohol-related fatalities.

To strengthen efforts to protect the public against drunk drivers and reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths, AAA is announcing its support of ignition interlocks for all convicted DUI offenders, and offers important safety advice to partygoers.

"AAA is not alone in its concern about impaired driving or strong support for tough policies for convicted drunk drivers," said AAA Traffic Safety Advocacy Director Jake Nelson.

According to the 2012 Traffic Safety Culture Index conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more than nine in 10 drivers consider it a serious threat to their personal safety when others drink and drive, and nearly all (97 percent) surveyed find it unacceptable for a driver to get behind the wheel when they have had too much to drink. To prevent these dangers, nearly eight in 10 Americans support requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted DUI offenders, even if it's their first conviction.

Research has identified ignition interlock devices (IIDs) as a proven way to save lives. AAA's recommendation to *require* the use of IIDs for *all convicted offenders* is grounded in research.

"Evidence clearly shows that IIDs are more effective than other methods at reducing re-arrest among convicted drunk drivers and keeping them off the road," said Nelson.

AAA is reaching out to motorists on the heels of a recent National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) decision to support laws requiring IID use for all first-time DUI offenders—one of several new recommendations issued to help curb alcohol-related traffic injury and death.

"I commend AAA for stepping up for safety," said NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman. "Technologies, such as ignition interlocks, will reduce alcohol-related crashes on our nation's roadways. We look forward to working alongside AAA and its clubs to eliminate the nation's top killer on our roadways – impaired driving."

Preventing drinking and driving is a shared responsibility to save lives. While AAA advocates expanding IID use to all persons convicted of drunk driving, New Year's Eve partygoers can do their part by heeding the following advice:

- Always plan ahead to designate a non-drinking driver before any party or celebration begins

- Never get behind the wheel of a car when you've been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink
- Never ride as a passenger in a car driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink
- Do not hesitate to take the keys from friends or family members who may be impaired
- Call a taxi for a friend in need
- Be a responsible host in reminding guests to stay safe and always offer alcohol-free beverages
- If you encounter an impaired driver on the road, keep a safe distance and ask a passenger to call 911 (or pull over to a safe location to make the call yourself)
- Remember: prescription, over-the-counter medications and illegal drugs also can impair your ability to drive safely

December 31, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - The Tazewell County Sheriff's Department is seeking the public's help in locating several individuals wanted on outstanding warrants.

Major Harold Heatley says some of the individuals have been wanted for some time and could now be deceased, moved out of the area, or may have forgotten about the charges.

Anyone with information on any of these individuals is asked to contact the Sheriff's Department at 276-988-0645 or 276-988-0704.

December 31, 2012

(2)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin is appealing a decision by federal emergency managers to deny individual assistance to West Virginia residents that suffered losses from Hurricane Sandy.

Tomblin's announcement Monday involves individual Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance for residents in the counties of Fayette, Nicholas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, Webster and Wyoming. FEMA has granted public assistance to those counties, as well as others. That entails recovery and repair assistance to state agencies, counties, cities and towns.

Tomblin said he surveyed the damage in Sandy's wake and he encouraged FEMA to reconsider its decision earlier this month.

The October storm dumped more than 2 feet of snow in parts of the state, left seven people dead and knocked out electricity to more than a quarter-million customers, some for two weeks.

December 31, 2012

(2)

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) -- A new study says Virginia's emergency shelter management system is hampered by a lack of definitive leadership.

The preliminary assessment by a consultant says a variety of public agencies are involved in shelter and evacuation planning. But the planning is being done "in silos." No one agency or department has taken ownership of the issue.

The report also says Virginia's system can't accommodate all the expected 50,000 evacuees if Hampton Roads experiences a devastating storm or other serious event.

The Virginian-Pilot reported the assessment's conclusions Monday.

Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Secretary Terrie Suit tells the newspaper that state officials are checking the assessment's information to determine its accuracy. A final report with recommendations is expected to be available to the public in the coming weeks.

Network Programming



In addition to our locally produced programming specifically designed to respond to the problems and needs of our viewing area, network programs often cover issues relating to our local problems and needs.

The following are selected episodes of regular problems and specials, which, in our judgment, contribute to serving the problems and needs of our community. Highlights of topics and issues televised this quarter are detailed.

TODAY SHOW

Monday-Friday	7:00-11:00 am (240 minutes)
Saturday	7:00-9:00 am (120 minutes)
Sunday	8:00-9:00 am (60 minutes)

October 3, 2012

(2)

Does weight gain increase your risk of breast cancer? Does race affect your likelihood of survival? In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, TODAY contributor Dr. Roshini Raj dispels myths about the disease.

October 9, 2012

(2)

Health officials continue to investigate the outbreak of a rare type of meningitis that has infected over 100 people so far. NBC'S Chief Medical editor, Dr. Nancy Snyderman, has the latest on the outbreak linked to contaminated steroid injections.

October 22, 2012

(8)

Ahead of Monday's final Presidential debate, a new NBC/WSJ poll shows President Obama and Governor Romney are tied 47% to 47% among likely voters.

October 23, 2012

(2)

According to recent reports by the Food and Drug Administration, five deaths over the past five years may be linked to Monster Energy, a popular drink that is high in caffeine. NBC'S Tom Costello reports on the FDA'S findings and cardiologist Dr. Neica Goldberg and TODAY nutritionist Madelyn Fernstrom discuss the deaths.

October 30, 2012

(2, 9)

As the East Coast is left reeling from hurricane Sandy, West Virginia is experiencing a storm that has dropped almost 2 feet of snow on some areas and is expected to intensify before it gets better. The Weather Channel's Janel Klein reports.

October 30, 2012

(2)

Craig Fugate, Director of FEMA, says the organization's top priority remains safety and search-and rescue operations as States from West Virginia to Connecticut continue to experience the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

November 6, 2012

(8)

With polls showing President Obama and Republican candidate Mitt Romney neck and neck, attention is focused on four key battleground states. NBC's John Yang, Kerry Sanders, Kristen Dahlgren, and Tom Costello report on the state of the race in Ohio, Florida, Colorado and Virginia.

November 7, 2012

(8)

In one of the most hotly contested Congressional races, Democrat Elizabeth Warren won the Massachusetts Senate seat held by Republican senator Scott Brown, becoming the first woman to be elected to the Senate from that state. The senator-elect speaks with TODAY'S Matt Lauer about her victory.

November 7, 2012

(8)

Despite needing to defend 23 seats, Democrats managed to retain control of the Senate, a feat that seemed unlikely when this election year began. NBC'S Kelly O'Donnell reports.

December 4, 2012

(2)

After a mild round of flu last year, the Centers for Disease Control warns that the sickness is off to an early start this year after cases have jumped in five southern states.

December 8, 2012

(8)

The November jobs report showed that the unemployment rate is down to 7.7 % but three years after the recession. “We still are only about halfway back to breaking even on jobs,” CNBC’S Kayla Tausche told TODAY’S Erica Hill.

December 10, 2012

(8)

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin is asking MTV to pull the plug on reality show “Buckwild.” NBC’S Stephanie Gosk reports and Senator Manchin tells TODAY’S Matt Lauer “this is not who we are” in West Virginia.

Nightly News

Monday-Friday

6:30-7:00 pm (30 minutes)

October 8, 2012

(8)

GOP Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney offered few new policy details in his speech at the Virginia Military Institute, choosing instead to zero in on the upheaval in the Middle East. Meanwhile, two polls present different NBC’S Peter Alexander reports.

October 17, 2012

(2)

A new study from Brigham’s and Women’s hospital in Boston, Mass. found that men ages 50 and older who too a multivitamin had reduced their risk of cancer by 8 percent.

October 19, 2012

(8)

Using tough rhetoric, President Obama and VP Biden tossed out zingers on the trail today, while Congressman Paul Ryan made the case for GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney in Florida.

October 22, 2012

(2)

In a report published Monday in the American Academy of Pediatrics, doctors found there is no direct evidence that consuming an organic diet leads to improved health of lower risk of disease.

October 29, 2012

(2, 9)

Hurricane Sandy is bringing high winds, snow and heavy rain to West Virginia where residents are scrambling to buy food, bottled water and generators. NBC’s Janel Klein reports from Snowshoe, WV.

November 7, 2012

(8)

President Obama addressed an exuberant crowd saying he's "never been more hopeful about America" suggesting the country is not as divided as its politics might suggest.

November 7, 2012

(8)

Investors expressed their disappointment of what is to come under President Obama on Wednesday causing stocks to drop. The pending "fiscal cliff" is the nearest big worry.

November 7, 2012

(8)

The new U.S. Senate will have a record number of women, ranging from the first Asian-American woman elected to consumer advocate and Harvard professor Elizabeth Warren.

MEET THE PRESS

Sunday 11:00-12:00 (60 minutes)

THE DOCTORS

Monday-Friday 4:00-5:00 pm (60 minutes)

October 1, 2012

(2)

Learn the medical risks of bottling up anger and frustration, and get the healthiest ways to unleash your rage. Plus, discover which simple exercise can help prevent osteoporosis and dementia. And, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Learn how to perform a life-saving breast the right way.

October 5, 2012

(2)

From salmonella to West Nile and even the bubonic plague, The Doctors tell you what to look for, how to prepare and everything you need to know to stop dangerous illnesses before they spread. Plus, how your bathroom towel, favorite shirt and even your kids' toys can make your family sick.

October 16, 2012

(2)

Learn the truth about your best and worst health habits in an all-new hour with Dr. Travis! Concerned about the recent meningitis outbreak? Get must-know info to keep your family safe. Plus, new, FDA-approved weight-loss pills. Could they work for you?

November 7, 2012

(2)

Electrocutions! Brain trauma! Natural disasters! Accidents can strike at any moment – are you prepared? The Doctors reveal simple tips and tools to stay safe. Plus, there are items in your home that could suddenly explode! Do you know what they are?

DR. PHIL

Monday-Friday 3:00-4:00 pm (60 minutes)

October 3, 2012

(2)

Zombie-like behavior, super-human strength, cannibalism, hallucinations, psychotic episodes — these are just some of the effects of ingesting the new designer drugs known as bath salts. Some forms of the synthetic powder can be purchased over the counter and are not detectable on drug tests. Watch as our Dr. Phil producer shows how easy it is to buy these potentially-deadly substances.

Short Form Programming



Short Form Programming provides an opportunity to local organizations to get their message out to the community. We produced ten to thirty second commercials for anything from job fairs, to tips for a healthier life, even finding the right doctor for you in our area. We also support our local foundations that raise awareness for childhood cancer, breast cancer, babies born premature, and any health concerns affecting our local area. WVVA also organizes its own events, like urging people in our community to work towards a healthier lifestyle, while producing segments that help take fugitives of the streets, and recognizing veterans and active military personnel that have fought or are fighting for our country.

Special Services Provided for Community



CLOSED CAPTIONING

During the quarter, WVVA-TV Closed Captioning regularly scheduled newscasts per day Monday-Friday 5:30 am, Monday-Friday 7:25 am, 7:55 am, 8:25 am, 8:55 am; Mon.-Fri. 6:00 pm; Mon.-Sun. 11:00 pm. This allows hearing-impaired viewers, with the proper decoding devices, the opportunity to read, in printed text form, on the bottom of their television screen, the information presented on the audio portion of the news broadcast. WVVA-TV offers this area's only closed Captioning local news programming.