

Problems & Needs Reports



3rd 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.

July 1, 2012

(1)

Moderator: Eric Greene
Guest: Elaine McMillion
Subject: Documentary about McDowell County, WV.

Elaine McMillion is a native West Virginian now living in Boston, who returned home to film a documentary about McDowell County entitled, "Hollow." She is trying to shed a positive light on the county, which is impoverished and has rampant drug abuse problems, but as she discovered through her filmmaking, it is a county that has long been ignored by state and U.S. lawmakers in the years after it was a hub for the coal and railroad industries.

July 22, 2012

(2, 3, 4)

Moderator: Eric Greene
Guest: Michelle Carter
Subject: Untied Way

Michelle Carter is Executive Director of the United Way of the Virginias, based in Bluefield. We discussed the work the organization does, in particular the "Stuff the Bus" campaign to have people

donate school supplies for financially strapped families; assistance the United Way gives anyone in financial literacy; and an upcoming fundraising event-a 5k run and walk.

OLYMPICS

August 19 and September 2, 2012

(2, 3, 4)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guest: Jonathan Goss

Subject: Generosity Feeds

Jonathan Goss is the minister at the Maple View Church of Christ in Mercer County, WV. He is the coordinator of Generosity Feeds, which aims to make sure school children who get free breakfast and lunch at school don't go hungry on the weekends. They held an event at the Church on the day of this Broadcast to have people help package food, which would then be distributed to the school children on Fridays so they could take it home with them for the weekend.

August 26, 2012

(2, 3, 4)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guest: Erik Robinson

Subject: Second Chance Learning Center

Mr. Robinson is Executive Director of the Second Chance Learning Center in Bluefield, Virginia. Their goal is to help at-risk students graduate high school through after-school tutoring. Also discussed was the organizations big fundraiser, the "Second-Chance Rocks the Two Virginias" country music concert that was being presented this evening. The original concert in June had to be postponed due to severe weather.

September 9, 2012

(1)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guest: Greg Shrewsbury

Subject: Local Economic Development

Greg Shrewsbury is the new Economic Development Director for Bluefield, West Virginia. He discussed his vision to bring in business along the Bluefield Exit on Interstate-77; getting a new supermarket to replace the recently departed Kroger store and developing downtown with the help of Bluefield State College and Bluefield College.

September 16, 2012

(3)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guest: Lucy McGough

Subject: Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia

Ms. McGough is the new Dean of the Appalachian School of Law. They discussed her vision for the school, what qualities lend themselves to being a good attorney, what someone interested in Law School should study in preparation to get accepted, and various careers in law that are available for someone with a J.D. post-graduate degree.

September 23, 2012

(6)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guests: Tom Farmer and Linda Hoagland

Subject: Local Authors

Tom Farmer is a former teacher and now a first-time published author from Bluefield, WV and he is in his 60's. Linda Hoagland has two new books and was first published in her early 50's. They discussed how they began writing, their books, and how it can be a cathartic and creative outlet for anyone of any age.

September 30, 2012

(5)

Moderator: Eric Greene

Guests: Nick and Jeanne Ameli

Subject: 18th Annual Southern WV Italian-American Festival

Nick and Jeanne Ameli are with the Sons and Daughters of Italy, which sponsors this festival celebrating Italian culture. Besides talking about the festival itself, we discussed the Italian community in the region, how Italians migrated to the region after arriving in the U.S. and the fundraising and charitable efforts of the Sons and Daughters group.

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.

July 1, 2012

(4, 5)

UPDATE: BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Erik Robinson with the Second Chance Learning Center tells WVVA News that concert that was forced to be evacuated during last Friday's storms will be rescheduled.

Robinson says Eric Church and Jake Owen plan to return to Bluefield to fulfill the commitment.

The make-up date has not been scheduled at this time. Organizers are working with the City of Bluefield to secure a date.

Those who purchased tickets to last Friday's event are advised to hang on to their stubs.

WVVA News will pass along more details as they are released.

ORIGINAL REPORT: BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Organizers of the 'Second Chance Rocks the Two Virginias' concert that was forced to be evacuated Friday due to the storm will meet Monday to discuss what action will be taken.

Erik Robinson of Second Chance said he will meet Monday with representatives of the concert's scheduled performers to discuss what action can be taken. Robinson said an official statement will be made after Monday's meeting.

The call was made to evacuate the concert at Mitchell Stadium Friday after word was received of the damaging storm that was headed in the direction of Bluefield.

Robinson said the scheduled drawing for the Harley-Davidson motorcycle will be held soon.

July 2, 2012

(2)

The WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health has issued a boil water advisory effective until further notice.

DHHR Office of Environmental Health Services Director Barbara Taylor said, "Due to the statewide power outages, any area that had low water pressure, no water service or cloudy water is being placed on a Boil Water Advisory."

The advisory will remain in effect until the water service issues a notice lifting the advisory.

"Any section of an affected service area will be on a precautionary Boil Water Advisory until the water provider issues a notice that the advisory is lifted," Taylor said.

While the advisory is in effect, consumers are advised to boil their drinking water (a full rolling boil) for at least one minute prior to drinking, using for cooking, or hygienic purposes such as hand washing, bathing or teeth brushing.

More information about water safety is available online at www.wvdhhr.org/oehs.

July 3, 2012

(2)

WELCH (WVVA) - Copper thieves have taken advantage of downed lines in McDowell County.

Officials with the county's 911 center said Tuesday that 450 feet of copper wire was stolen from the Panther area.

Downed lines should never be touched, no matter how harmless they look.

County officials report a total 15 structures and nine vehicles in the county suffered damage in last Friday's violent storm.

Power remains out to many in the county, particularly in the Panther, Bradshaw and Avondale areas.

Five Loaves and Two Fishes in Kimball has assistance available for those impacted by the storm. A water tanker truck that has been set up at Kimball Elementary will be relocated to Five Loaves and Two Fishes.

July 3, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON (WVVA)-- Families in need have taken shelter at cooling stations across the Two Virginias.

One family took shelter at the Princeton Rescue Squad Sunday and it has been their home ever since. The family says they had to get their two little babies out of the heat and get to a cool area because of several medical issues.

The Rescue Squad provided the family with food and beds for the time they are there.

July 5, 2012

(2)

KIMBALL (WVVA) - On Wednesday alone, the Five Loaves and Two Fishes food bank in McDowell County, just outside Kimball, was able to provide help for 680 individuals in need since last Friday's damaging wind storms knocked out power to thousands.

Seven tractor-trailers with bottled water have arrived come to the food bank. For every individual household they are providing two cases of water.

Members of the National Guard and local Walmart employees were on hand to help distribute supplies.

The food bank also has plenty of food and a cool down area for those needing to escape the heat.

Director Linda McKinney says the food bank has teamed up with several agencies including Operation Blessing, Homeland Security, the Red Cross and Salvation Army to be able to provide aid.

July 6, 2012

(2)

SUMMERS COUNTY (WVVA)-- Staff are doing their best to manage while power is out at the Summers Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hildale.

The power has been out for a week. The facility also had no water for two days, but was able to provide it with an emergency supply stock.

The facility is currently running on a main generator and several portable generators. The dining room has been turned into a cooling area for those residents that need air conditioning.

Staff members say it's important to check in on the elderly especially during the heat wave.

July 8, 2012

(2)

GREEN VALLEY (WVVA)--- A man was shot and killed by police after he stole a police cruiser and apprehended a service handgun in a struggle.

According to First Sgt. Michael Baylous It happened at 11:45 last night after a white male escaped custody of the Bluefield W.V. Police Department and stole one of their cruisers.

Bluefield PD, Princeton PD, State Police and Mercer County Sheriff's Department all were in pursuit of the man.

The suspect left the vehicle at the intersection of Route 460 and Country Girl Road in Green Valley.

The man ran into the woods fleeing Bluefield PD and WV State Police. There was a struggle to apprehend the suspect and he was able to gain control of one of the officers handguns.

The suspect refused to release the weapon and that is when a State Trooper fatally shot the suspect.

The name of the suspect is not being released at this time. Stay tuned as WVVA News as exclusive video from the scene.

July 9, 2012

(2)

WVVA) - Another round of summer storms in West Virginia Sunday forced Appalachian Power to suspend its restoration efforts.

Estimates on restoration times have been extended. The latest storms increased outage numbers in the Mountain State by nearly 5,000 customers, leaving a total of 46,390 AEP customers without service as of Sunday evening.

In Virginia, 13,380 AEP customers were without service Sunday evening.

Crews have been working to restore outages since a severe summer storm carrying wind gusts in excess of 70mph came through the region on Friday, June 29.

More than 5,100 line professionals and other workers are working to restore power according to www.AEP.com.

Crews from 22 other states have aided in restoration efforts.

Appalachian Power says outages are restored by priority. Critical community infrastructure, such as hospitals, water and sewer stations are given highest priority. Then, priority is given to outages that will restore the largest number of customers when a repair is made.

July 9, 2012

GLEN LYN (WVVA) - A man who drowned in the New River during a weekend fishing trip has been identified.

The body of 31-year-old Brian Morris of Fayette County was recovered from the river in Giles County Saturday between Narrows and Glen Lyn.

The man's body was found 14 feet underwater.

Giles County Sheriff Morgan Millions said the victim was fishing with two other people and was not wearing a life jacket.

Leave condolences for Brian Morris at wvva.tributes.com.

July 10, 2012

(2)

KEYSTONE (WVVA) - A church in McDowell County is offering a reward to help catch the person or persons responsible for a string of break-ins.

The Midway Shiloh Temple Church in Keystone has been hit three times in the last week. Pastor John Hale says he has come to the church to find broken windows, missing cases of floor tile and stolen equipment.

Hale says the break-ins have members of the church very upset.

If you have any information on the break-ins, you are urged to contact the McDowell County Sheriff's Department.

July 10, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - Mountain State University officials said they plan to promptly appeal the revocation of the school's accreditation at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

The regional Higher Learning Commission announced on its website Tuesday that it had elected to withdraw full accreditation from the school.

The board made the decision on June 28. MSU's interim president Richard Sours says he was notified by email Monday evening.

The school's Board of Trustees said it was disappointed and surprised to learn of the commission's ruling.

Read the Board of Trustees full statement

[View the commission's full report](#)

MSU will remain accredited while the appeal is under consideration. That process could take up to 16 weeks.

Last year, the commission placed the private Beckley-based university on a "show-cause" status, citing shortcomings in governance, leadership and faculty. The commission says Mountain State hasn't demonstrated to its satisfaction that the problems have been corrected.

According to an Associated Press report in May, university officials met in Chicago with five trustees from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to present the school's case.

In February, commission officials had visited the school's Beckley campus to evaluate whether the school has corrected problems in governance, leadership and faculty.

July 10, 2012

(1, 2)

GREENBRIER COUNTY (WVVA) -Greenbrier County officials have received an overwhelming amount of inquiries about whether or not its citizens would receive federal aid from FEMA.

Greenbrier County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is collecting preliminary damage assessment information to report to the state. Greenbrier County residents, businesses, and governmental agencies are asked to report their storm-related damages and costs immediately.

As of Tuesday, July 10th, WV residents have not been declared eligible for individual cost reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

All building and structural damage should be reported to GCHSEM at (304)646-5627. Damage does NOT include tree removal or broken fences, but does include outbuildings.

Businesses that suffered physical damages to their building, stock or inventory also need to report the following information to GCHSEM:

- Describe physical damages to your business
- Estimate of damages
- Was the damage covered by insurance?
- What is the estimate of the economic loss to your business due to lack of power compared to normal sales?

Email this information to Al Whitaker, gcema@greenbriercountyema.net or fax to (888)880-6185.

Direct help for businesses may also become available thru the Small Business Administration low or no-interest loans.

July 10, 2012

LEWISBURG (WVVA) - According to the latest statistics from Appalachian Power and MonPower, service could be restored to all customers in the WVVA viewing area in the next 24 hours.

Thousands remain without electricity since June 29's damaging wind storm brought down trees and power lines across the region, however numbers have decreased dramatically in the past several days.

A new storm in West Virginia on Sunday stalled restoration efforts, forcing the power companies to push back some restoration estimates.

Appalachian Power's outage map now only shows Raleigh and Fayette counties with outages. Each county has more than 2,000 still without service Wednesday morning.

For MonPower customers, several hundred outages remained in Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers counties Wednesday morning.

July 11, 2012

BLAND (WVVA) - A pair of suspects charged in the killing of a convenience store clerk in Mount Airy will be headed back to North Carolina.

Joshua Berry, 28, of Bluewell and his wife Sarah Berry, 24, of North Tazewell, both waived extradition during a hearing in Bland County Court Wednesday morning.

The two will be transported to Surry County, N.C., at a later date.

The two are charged in connection with the May 25 shooting of 58-year-old Donald Arnder during a robbery at a convenience store in Mount Airy, N.C.

[View WVVA.com's previous reports on this case](#)

Joshua Berry is charged with murder, attempted armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery. Sarah faces charges of conspiracy to commit armed robbery and accessory after the fact to murder.

The two are also facing charges related to robberies in Bland and Wythe counties. Joshua Berry is also a suspect in a pair of robberies at the Cinema 8 in Bluefield and in Florida.

Bland County dropped local charges for both suspects, but the state could pursue them at a later date.

Joshua Berry was apprehended at a Bland County residence in early June. Sarah Berry had previously turned herself in to police.

A third suspect, 23-year-old Emanuel Foster, is currently being held in a Surry County jail.

July 12, 2012

FAYETTEVILLE (WVVA) - Volunteers at a local church that has served as a makeshift shelter for storm victims want to take their efforts to the next level.

Members at the Church of God in Fayetteville are trying to create a full-blown emergency shelter so they'll be ready when the next disaster strikes.

To achieve their goal, the church will need approximately \$40,000 to buy an emergency generator and make upgrades to the kitchen.

To help the effort, donations are being accepted at the Fayette County Bank, Care Of Fayetteville Church of God Disaster Relief Center, 101 North Court Street, PO Box 209, Fayetteville, WV, 25840.

July 13, 2012

RUPERT (WVVA) - Two men are behind bars after being charged with breaking into a Greenbrier County pharmacy during the recent power outage.

Police say Robert Winfrey Jr. and George Ryder, both of Rupert, took more than \$150,000 worth of prescription narcotics from the Western Greenbrier Pharmacy in Rupert.

Police say the suspects took advantage of the power outage by being able to pry the doors of the pharmacy open without the alarm sounding.

The investigation by the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department is ongoing. Investigators say more arrests are possible.

July 13, 2012

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The pool at the Bluefield Elks club has become the target of vandals.

Graffiti was sprayed Thursday across the entire pool area from the lifeguard stand to the diving board and the basketball hoop.

Three golf carts were also stolen from the facility.

Two juveniles and an adult have been taken into custody. The Bluefield Police Department is investigating.

July 13, 2012

BLUEFIELD -- The Bluefield State College Presidential Search Committee has announced the final candidates for the presidency of the College. The Presidential Search Committee is comprised of members of the BSC Board of Governors and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor Paul Hill as ex-officio.

"I am delighted to report to our constituents that three exceptional candidates have been selected as finalists," said James Palmer, Chair of the BSC Presidential Search Committee. "We are extremely content with the high quality and excellent credentials of the finalists and look forward to the next step in the selection process."

Finalists are Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington; Dr. Thomas E. Blevins, Interim President, Bluefield State College, and; Dr. Marsha V. Krotseng, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Planning/Executive Director, College Technical Education Council, North Dakota University System.

"The campus visitation schedules are being finalized and will be posted on the Bluefield State College website in the coming days. The schedules will include meetings with a variety of key stakeholders throughout the BSC family and the community," Palmer said.

July 16, 2012

The summer heat is back this week, and so is football. The Graham Youth League is hosting a free summer camp this week with the help of Graham High School and Concord University. But with the

warm weather, Graham Head Football Coach Mike Williams knows its important to keep these kids safe from the heat.

"It's a two part component. One is obviously their health and safety, and the second is when you're dehydrated you simply just can't perform as well as you would, so we tell our kids to stay well hydrated because if you're dehydrated, you're not able to perform and cant complete, and if you get deeper than that then you get into health issues when you might suffer from heat exhaustion or something to that effect."

To keep these athletes hydrated, water breaks are scheduled into the camp.

"These kids have assigned water breaks throughout the day, they've got nice ice water over here, and get that every fifteen to thirty minutes throughout the camp. And we also stress to the kids that anytime they feel the need they can pull themselves out and get a drink of water."

To all the kids participating in this camp, Coach Williams has some advice.

"Drink water throughout the day so they come in at night well hydrated."

July 16, 2012

MONROE COUNTY (WVVA) - A man with cancer and diabetes has been reported missing, The West Virginia State Police say he failed to show up for a doctor's appointment, scheduled for Monday morning in Pennsylvania.

56-year-old Harry B. Alfriend is from Monroe County.

He's five-feet nine-inches tall, weighs 150 pounds and has blue eyes and brown hair.

He was last seen by a neighbor last Tuesday July 10th, almost a full week.

If you have any information on Harry Alfriend, you are urged to call the state police at 304-772-5100.

July 17, 2012

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A storm debris cleanup will be held in Beckley beginning Monday, Aug. 6.

Mayor Emmett Pugh announced the cleanup in a press release Monday.

"The storm we experienced on Friday, June 29th, left behind uprooted trees and many limbs," Pugh said. "City property owners have been struggling with what to do with the storm debris that was left behind. This pickup will give individuals a chance to clean up their property by having the City of Beckley haul away debris."

All storm debris must be placed curbside in order for the Board of Public Works to pick it up.

Pickup will begin in Ward 1 on Aug. 6 and continue until all wards have been covered.

Only storm-related debris will be picked up.

Residents with further questions can contact the Board of Public Works at 304-256-1740.

July 18, 2012

RICHLANDS -- The Richlands Area Chamber of Commerce has answered the Governor's challenge with more than 3 tons of food.

114 businesses across Tazewell County collected 6,346 pounds of food as part of Virginia's 'Governor's Bowl Food Drive Challenge.'

Gov. McDonnell's challenge for chambers across the Commonwealth ran from Memorial Day through July 4.

July 18, 2012

BLUEFIELD W.Va (WVVA)-- Glenn Sutphin has been with the Bluefield, West Virginia Fire Department for over 22 years. He has worked his way through the ranks and has finally filled the role as fire chief.

Sutphin took the role as chief after former Chief Kevin Scanlon resigned. Sutphin says the position is challenging. One of the challenges Sutphin faces is budget constraints. There was some speculation that the Cumberland Road fire station would be closing, but Chief Sutphin says it will remain operational.

July 19, 2012

OAK HILL (WVVA) - Approximately \$29,000 in cash and \$16,000 in Roxycodone pills were recovered following a drug bust in Fayette County Wednesday.

Roderick Nash, 27; Jasmine Fuce, 20; Orlando Torres, 25; and Dale Brown, 26 -- all of Seabring, Fla. -- were each arrested and charged with possession with intent to deliver, two counts of delivery of a controlled substance, two counts of conspiracy to commit a felony and two counts of transfer of narcotics across state lines following a buy bust.

All suspects were arraigned in Fayette County Magistrate Court and placed on \$150,000 bond each.

The incident remains under investigation by the Central West Virginia Drug Task Force.

July 19, 2012

MCDOWELL COUNTY (WVVA)-- The McDowell County Sheriff's Department is investigating several home burglaries in the Panther, Bull Creek area.

Chief Deputy Mark Shelton says thieves are taking anything they can including money, jewelry, cable, and fire arms. He says the department does have some leads and they plan to make an arrest soon.

In the meantime, residents say they have had enough. They are starting to form a neighborhood watch group and encourage everyone in the surrounding communities to keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

July 20, 2012

BLUEFIELD Va. (WVVA) - A driver was injured after he lost control of his vehicle and crashed on Route 460 Friday morning.

The single-vehicle crash occurred before 9 a.m. when a black sedan traveling eastbound on Route 460 near Bluefield, Va., lost control, entered the median, went up an incline in the median and apparently flipped, coming to a rest on the shoulder.

The driver was ejected from the vehicle. There were no other occupants inside.

A helicopter landing zone was being established to transport the victim to a nearby hospital.

The extent of his injuries are unknown at this time.

July 20, 2012

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - Tazewell County has released a list of indictments returned by the July Grand Jury sitting.

The list includes 79 indictments on 75 individuals, 44 of which live in Tazewell County.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

GRAND JURY DOCKET

JULY 10, 2012

WALTER ALPHANSO ALBERTSON, III

DOB: 01/24/68

BLUEFIELD, VA

Assault and Battery, Third or Subsequent Offense

ARMINDA DENISE ANGLES

DOB: 10/31/74

NORTH TAZEWELL, VA

Possession of Oxycodone, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

Possession of Alprazolam, a Schedule IV Controlled Substance (Misdemeanor)

Concealment (Misdemeanor)

JESSICA LYN BAKER

DOB: 12/03/78

HURLEY, VA

Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Personal Injury

Driving on a Suspended License after a Driving While Intoxicated Conviction (Misdemeanor)

Fail to Yield Right of Way (Misdemeanor)

Operate an Uninsured Motor Vehicle (Misdemeanor)

MATTHEW ALLEN BARLEY

DOB: 09/29/85

TAZEWELL, VA

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

MICHAEL ALLEN BILLINGS, JR.

DOB: 12/30/90

SQUIRE, WV

Attempted Grand Larceny

JOSEPH BOLEN, III

DOB: 02/09/58

BLUEFIELD, VA

Possession of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

RICKY DEWAYNE BREWER

DOB: 11/24/78

RAVEN, VA

Aggregate Bad Checks (Seven Counts)

RICKY DEWAYNE BREWER

DOB: 11/24/78

RAVEN, VA

Forgery of a Check or Draft

Uttering a Forged Check or Draft

Attempted False Pretense (Misdemeanor)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

ALBERT MICHAEL BRIGHT

DOB: 04/06/92

BOISSEVAIN, VA

Malicious Wounding

Assault and Battery (Misdemeanor) (Two Counts)

BRADLEY DENNIS COCHRAN

DOB: 05/06/83

NORTH TAZEWELL, VA

Possession of a Schedule I or II Controlled Substance

JOVON JEWELL DAVIS

DOB: 12/03/78

BLUEFIELD, WV

Sale or Distribution of Marijuana

Possession of Buprenorphine, a Schedule III Controlled Substance (Misdemeanor)

Fail to Appear

JUSTIN CRAIG DIXON

DOB: 07/10/91

BLUEFIELD, VA

Grand Larceny

Larceny with Intent to Sell or Distribute

Unlawfully Enter or Set in Motion a Motor Vehicle (Misdemeanor)

KYLE EUGENE DUKE

DOB: 12/01/78

BLUEFIELD, VA

Statutory Burglary

Brandishing a Firearm (Misdemeanor) (Two Counts)

Assault and Battery (Misdemeanor)

JAMES BLAKE DYE

DOB: 01/23/90

TAZEWELL, VA

Grand Larceny

Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon

Sale of Stolen Property

ROGER DALE EDWARDS, JR.

DOB: 03/03/85

RICHLANDS, VA

Grand Larceny

Fail to Appear

CHRISTOPHER BRENT EMERSON

DOB: 01/25/87

BLAND, VA

Possession of Oxymorphone, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

JERRELLYNN MICHELLE FINK

DOB: 04/28/69

BLUEFIELD, WV

Concealment

DAMION XAVIER FOWLKES

DOB: 09/03/93

BLUEFIELD, VA

Concealment (Two Counts)

Larceny with Intent to Sell or Distribute (Two Counts)

Sale of Stolen Property (Two Counts)

False Pretense (Misdemeanor)

Grand Larceny

Unlawfully Enter or Set in Motion a Motor Vehicle (Misdemeanor)

CHAD ALVIE GILLESPIE

DOB: 05/09/84

CAMP CREEK, WV

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

CRYSTAL MICHELLE GRAY

DOB: 09/12/85

PULASKI, VA

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

ERIC MICHAEL GRIFFIN

A/K/A ERIC GRIFFEN

DOB: 08/19/56

NORTH TAZEWELL, VA

Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon

Possession of Stolen Property

Possession of Hydrocodone, a Schedule III Controlled Substance (Misdemeanor)

DYLAN GENE HOWINGTON

DOB: 03/02/90

PRINCETON, WV

Forgery of a Check or Draft (Two Counts)
Uttering a Forged Check or Draft (Two Counts)
False Pretense (Two Counts)
Identity Fraud (Two Counts)

SHANNON IRENE JUSTICE

DOB: 05/03/71

LEBANON, VA

Worthless Check

DAMON LEE LESTER

DOB: 03/09/66

RAVEN, VA

Malicious Wounding

JOSHUA RAY LIVINGSTON

DOB: 03/23/86

BLUEFIELD, VA

Grand Larceny (Two Counts)
Destruction of Private Property (Two Counts)
Petit Larceny (Misdemeanor)
Unlawfully Enter or Set in Motion a Motor Vehicle (Misdemeanor)

JOSHUA NEWTON LOWE

DOB: 03/30/91

CEDAR BLUFF, VA

Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer
Reckless Driving (Misdemeanor)

BILLY RAY LYONS, JR.

DOB: 02/04/69

RICHLANDS, VA

Attempted Statutory Burglary (Two Counts)

LACY STEVEN MILAM

DOB: 07/03/85

FALLS MILLS, VA

Grand Larceny

Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer

Driving While Intoxicated, Second Offense (Misdemeanor)

Driving on a Suspended or Revoked Operator's License (Misdemeanor)

KENNETH ALLEN MONEY

DOB: 09/10/55

BLUEFIELD, VA

Possession of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

KENNETH ALLEN MONEY

DOB: 09/10/55

BLUEFIELD, VA

Possession of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

RAVEN DAVICHA MURRAY

DOB: 05/19/82

PONTE VEDRA, FL

Receiving Stolen Property

STEVEN MICHAEL MYERS

A/K/A STEPHEN MYERS

DOB: 01/24/61

POCAHONTAS, VA

Enter Bank While Armed to Commit Larceny

Robbery (Two Counts)

Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony (Two Counts)

Assault and Battery (Misdemeanor)

JERMIE JAY NAGY

DOB: 07/23/69

CRUMPLER, WV

Credit Card Theft

Credit Card Fraud (Two Counts)

Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Identity Fraud (Two Counts)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

MARCUS EDWARD ORBE, JR.

DOB: 02/26/91

MADISON, FL

Statutory Burglary

Grand Larceny

Destruction of Private Property (Misdemeanor)

JANICE ORTIZ

DOB: 04/21/65

WESLEY CHAPEL, FL

Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

CYNTHIA LOUISE PARKER

A/K/A CYNTHIA LOUISE ATKINSON

DOB: 03/26/70

BLUEFIELD, WV

Conspiracy

Credit Card Fraud

Identity Fraud

Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

STACI LOUISE PARKER

DOB: 09/24/83

BLUEFIELD, WV

Conspiracy

Credit Card Fraud

Identity Fraud

Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

TIMOTHY RAY PARKER

DOB: 12/24/60

BLUEFIELD, WV

Conspiracy

Credit Card Fraud

Identity Fraud

Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Credit Card Fraud (Misdemeanor)

Attempted Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

SHERRY MARIE PAYNE

DOB: 02/21/64

TAZEWELL, VA

Concealment

PATRICK RICHARD PERRY, JR.

DOB: 07/26/94

BLUEFIELD, WV

Conspiracy

Attempted Robbery

JAMES EDWARD PRICE

DOB: 02/01/70

BLUEFIELD, WV

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

RONALD JOSEPH PROFFITT

DOB: 06/29/73

TAZEWELL, VA

Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon

WILLIAM DAVID PROFFITT

DOB: 07/15/92

RICHLANDS, VA

Conspiracy (Two Counts)

Statutory Burglary (Two Counts)

Grand Larceny

Petit Larceny (Misdemeanor)

Destruction of Private Property

Destruction of Private Property (Misdemeanor)

Wearing of a Mask in Public (Two Counts)

BARRY LEE REESE

DOB: 12/07/78

NORTH TAZEWELL, VA

Malicious Wounding

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL ROWE

DOB: 02/10/72

BRAMWELL, WV

Forgery of a Public Record

False Pretense

Give False Report to a Law Enforcement Officer (Misdemeanor)

Grand Larceny

DANIEL ALAN RUTT

DOB: 12/24/79

BLUEFIELD, WV

Driving While Intoxicated, Third or Subsequent Offense

Leaving the Scene of an Accident involving Property Damage

Driving on a Suspended License after a Driving While Intoxicated Conviction (Misdemeanor)

Fail to Appear

JAVON CAREEM SLADE

DOB: 02/21/94

BLUEFIELD, WV

Conspiracy

Attempted Robbery

LORI LEIGH STANLEY

DOB: 06/10/81

PRINCETON, WV

Concealment

WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER TICKLE

DOB: 10/02/89

BLUEFIELD, VA

Child Abuse

WILLIAM MICHAEL UNDERWOOD

DOB: 09/04/75

HICKORY, NC

Perjury

SAMANTHA LAFATE UPCHURCH

DOB: 06/21/91

MARTINSVILLE, VA

Conspiracy

Concealment

MICAH ELIZABETH VENCILL

DOB: 12/29/87

RICHLANDS, VA

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

Possession of Controlled Paraphernalia (Misdemeanor)

Fail to Appear

AMANDA MARIE WEST

DOB: 09/03/81

BLUEFIELD, WV

Larceny, Third or Subsequent Offense

RHONDA KAY WHITED

DOB: 10/08/76

RICHLANDS, VA

Forgery of a Check or Draft (Twenty Counts)

Uttering a Forged Check or Draft (Seventeen Counts)

False Pretense (Misdemeanor) (Seventeen Counts)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor) (Seventeen Counts)

BRIAN HENRY WOLFORD

DOB: 09/24/88

BLUEFIELD, WV

Forgery (Eleven Counts)

Identity Fraud (Misdemeanor)

JUSTIN TRAVIS WYATT

DOB: 09/03/78

LERONA, WV

Grand Larceny

Larceny with Intent to Sell or Distribute

BILLY WAYNE YORK

DOB: 05/16/67

NORTH TAZEVELL, VA

Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon

July 20, 2012

BAPTIST VALLEY (WVVA) - Two men are currently in police custody after they were involved in two separate altercations with each other on Friday.

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

On 7/20/12 at 10:15 am deputies from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office responded to a call of a man brandishing a firearm on Barbarosa Ln. in Baptist Valley. Deputies arrived on scene and took 36 year old Marty Hurd of Barbarosa Ln. into custody for Brandishing a Firearm at 55 year old David Mikolic of Thompson Valley and confiscated a .460 magnum handgun from Hurd. Deputies took Hurd before the magistrate and he was released on an unsecured bond. At this point in the investigation it is still unclear what the cause of the confrontation was between Hurd and McCulloch.

At 1:39 pm deputies were called back to Barbarosa Ln. regarding these same two individuals being involved in a fight with a large stick, this time allegedly there were no firearms involved. Before deputies could arrive on scene both parties left the scene, Mikolic was stopped in a traffic stop on Baptist Valley Rd. and taken into custody for Breech of the Peace and Resisting Arrest. While on Barbarosa Ln. deputies were speaking with Hurd who was inside his residence stating, "I'm not going back to jail." Deputies on scene continued to speak with Hurd and observed Hurd in possession of a shotgun. Deputies were able to disarm Hurd, and confiscated the shotgun and took Hurd into custody.

At the time of this statement, Hurd and Mikolic are being questioned and will then be taken before the magistrate. There may be additional charges pending against both men based upon the continuing investigation. David Mikolic is currently out on a 1,200 secure bond after earlier this month deputies of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office charged Mikolic with three counts of Possession of a Firearm while being a convicted Felon.

July 20, 2012

WELCH (WVVA) - Two people have been charged with murder in the death of War Mayor Tom Hatcher, who was found dead in his home earlier this week.

Investigators say 31-year-old Rebecca Lynn Hatcher -- Tom Hatcher's daughter in law who had been living with him -- and her brother, Earl Click, killed Hatcher inside his War home and stole approximately \$1,100.

[*View the criminal complaint against Rebecca Hatcher*](#)

Both face charges of first-degree murder. Rebecca Hatcher was arraigned Friday morning. Click is currently being held at Southwest Va. Regional Jail awaiting extradition to West Virginia.

A bond hearing for Rebecca Hatcher has been set for next week.

Rebecca is married to Tom Hatcher's son, John, who is currently in prison on an unrelated conviction.

At a press conference Friday afternoon, Chief Deputy Mark Shelton said a motive for the murder was not known at this time.

Shelton did said the investigators believe the robbery may have been drug-related. The money stolen has not been recovered.

Tom Hatcher was found dead around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday morning by city workers after he failed to show up for work.

Police initially told WVVA News no foul play was suspected, but Hatcher's body was being sent to the state medical examiner's office for an autopsy.

Police said Friday there were signs of foul play at the scene, but did not disclose that information earlier in an effort not to jeopardize the investigation.

The cause of death has not been released.

Hatcher, a retired educator, obtained his PhD from Ohio State University. He worked at West Virginia University for several years before moving back to War in the early 1990s.

He had served as mayor since 1997.

Visitation for Hatcher is scheduled for Sunday evening, from 6-9 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church in War.

The funeral will be held Monday at 11 a.m. at Christ the King.

July 21, 2012

BRUSH CREEK (WVVA) - Authorities have released the name of the victim and more details surrounding the drowning at Brush Creek Falls.

Deputy J.D. Gills of the Mercer County Sheriff's Department says the body of Craig Day, 27, of the Princeton area was recovered from the water around noon Sunday.

Crews searched from Saturday evening to around 1 a.m. Sunday when conditions became too dangerous for searchers.

The search resumed around 8 a.m. and included a K9 unit from the Mercer County Sheriff's Department in addition to a dive team.

Gills said Day was at the falls with friends when he entered the water alone. Friends lost sight of Day around 4:30 p.m.

The incident remains under investigation by the Mercer County Sheriff's Department.

UPDATE: BRUSH CREEK (WVVA) - Authorities tell WVVA News a body has been found in the water at Brush Creek Falls.

The body was found shortly before noon. The Mercer County Sheriff's Department is handling the investigation.

More information as it becomes available here and on WVVA News at 6 and 11.

UPDATE: BRUSH CREEK (WVVA) - The search continues Sunday for a male who went missing at Brush Creek Falls in Mercer County Saturday.

A bloodhound was searching the area around the falls Sunday morning.

A dive team that was called to the scene Saturday evening did not locate the individual.

BRUSH CREEK (WVVA) - A dive team was called to Mercer County after a male went missing at Brush Creek Falls Saturday.

The male was at the falls with friends. He was left alone, and when the friends returned the male was missing. He was last seen around 4:30 p.m.

Emergency crews received the call around 5 p.m. Authorities were unable to locate the male after an initial search of the area surrounding the falls.

A dive team was called to the scene around 7:30 p.m. The searchers entered the water around 9:15 p.m. As of 11 p.m. Saturday night, the male had not been found.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene including the Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Princeton Rescue Squad, Athens Fire Department and state parks service.

Authorities were treating the situation as a missing person/possible drowning.

Previous updates:

UPDATE: A dive team has arrived on the scene at Brush Creek Falls where the search continues for a missing male. The male was at the falls with friends. He was last seen around 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Emergency responders received the call around 5 p.m. Authorities are treating the situation as a missing person/possible drowning.

UPDATE: A dive team is on its way to Brush Creek Falls in Mercer County, near Athens as the search for a missing male continues.

WVVA's Josh Frketic is at the scene and will have more information as it becomes available on

WVVA.com and WVVA News at 11.

ATHENS (WVVA)--- According to Mercer County 911, a person is missing from Brushcreek Falls in Mercer County. WVVA has a crew en route to the scene. It is a possible drowning. Multiple crews on scene.

July 22, 2012

MONROE COUNTY (WVVA) - Human remains have been found outside of a missing Monroe County man's home.

Police say that the remains were found outside of 56-year old Harry B. Alfriend's home in a brushy area outside about 100 yards from the home.

Police say the body is being sent to the Medical Examiner to see if it is the body of Alfriend.

They say the decomposition of the body matches the timeframe of Alfriend's disappearance.

State Police told WVVA News last Monday that the man was reported missing after failing to show up for a doctor's appointment in Pennsylvania.

Alfriend suffered from cancer and diabetes. He had last been seen by a neighbor on July 10.

July 23, 2012

BECKLEY (WVVA) - Mountain State University will lay off approximately half of its work force, school officials announced in a press release Monday.

Accreditation of the school was withdrawn by the Higher Learning Commission earlier this month. MSU has appealed the decision.

Affected employees received the notice today that their employment will end on Sept. 21.

Following is the full press release from Mountain State University:

BECKLEY, W.Va., July 23, 2012 – Mountain State University officials today announced a university-wide workforce reduction of approximately 50 percent after receiving notification from the Higher Learning Commission on July 9 about its intent to withdraw accreditation. MSU employees affected by the reduction received notice today their employment with the university ends on September 21, 2012.

"This is a difficult decision. The reductions are not about performance issues. MSU employees are hardworking and dedicated. Their contributions to the university, its students, and their communities are greatly appreciated," stated Jerry Ice, Ed.D., chairman of the MSU Board of Trustees.

A revised budget that included personnel reductions was presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. The Board determined to maintain specific positions essential to serving students and moving the university through the appeal process with the HLC. Reductions were made at all administrative, faculty, and staff levels.

Interim President Richard E. Sours said that MSU has established a career service center for employees which they will continue to have access to after their last employment date. "This is very difficult news to hear and say, and it is done with a heavy heart. The university is committed to assisting employees in

securing other jobs and identifying resources to help them and their families manage the emotional, financial, and job search challenges."

The Career Service Center for employees is located in the John B Van Dyke Jr. Hall on the Beckley campus. A number of workshops and services are available at select times including resume writing, emotional counseling, and job search skills. Additionally, a Rapid Response Team from Workforce West Virginia will be on-campus Friday, July 27 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Resources will also be posted on the internet. Select workshops will be streamed online for ease of access for branch locations and off-site employees. Additional information is available on the MSU website.

July 24, 2012

GREENBRIER COUNTY (WVVA) - Two men are behind bars after being accused of stealing property in Virginia and bringing it into Greenbrier County to sell.

Thomas Rowe and Kevin Meadows were arrested by the Alleghany County Sheriff's Department for breaking into a home in the Virginia county not once, but twice.

The case has been handed over to Greenbrier County authorities, who will now attempt to recover the stolen items that were allegedly brought into their county by the suspects and sold.

If you have any information on the stolen items you are asked to contact the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department.

July 24, 2012

BLUEFIELD, Va. (WVVA) - A home in Bluefield, Va., was completely destroyed after a fire broke out Tuesday afternoon.

The blaze occurred around 3:30 p.m. at the two-story home at 719 Tazewell Ave.

Three people were home at the time the fire broke out. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. Crews on the scene suspected it may have been electrical in nature.

July 24, 2012

PRINCETON (WVVA) - UPDATE: Police say the suspect wanted in a hit and run accident in Princeton over the weekend has turned himself in.

The accident happened early Sunday morning on Mercer Street. Princeton Police say the suspect allegedly hit a car, totaled it, then fled the scene. In doing so, the suspect left behind his cell phone. That's how police were able to obtain this photo.

July 25, 2012

PRINCETON (WVVA) -- A building in downtown Princeton was destroyed in a blaze Wednesday morning.

The fire began on the 800 block of Mercer Street around 5:50 a.m.. Several crews responded to the scene, including Princeton, Glenwood-Green Valley and East River Valley fire departments.

The building was vacant, but occupied apartments on either side were affected. Everyone in the vicinity was evacuated and no injuries were reported.

The building was a total loss and is in the process of being demolished.

There's no word on the cause of the blaze at this time.

July 26, 2012

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A woman was transported to the hospital following a rollover accident in Beckley Thursday morning.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Robert C. Byrd Drive and Royal Acres. Law enforcement said the driver lost control of the minivan causing it to roll over multiple times.

The victim was airlifted to Charleston Area Medical Center. She was said to be in critical but stable condition.

Her name has not been released.

July 26, 2012

WAR (WVVA) - The city of War as appointed an interim mayor in the wake of the alleged murder of longtime officeholder Tom Hatcher.

Kitten Cempella, the city's clerk for the past 10 years, will serve the remainder of Hatcher's term, which expires next June.

Cempella says the residents of War are devastated by Hatcher's death and city leaders are trying to do the best they can to move forward with projects that were dear to his heart.

War will continue its efforts to improve water and sewage service and keep alive the dream of building a new ATV trail.

July 26, 2012

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - Tazewell County administrators see potential for a tourism boost in the county.

The county is seeking state park designation for Cavitt's Creek Park and Lake Witten.

County Administrator Jim Spencer says the county is working with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to move forward with the state park plans.

Spencer says there are minimum standards to be met.

"We'll have to look at more acreage and things like that," Spencer said.

Spencer adds that he feels the effort to become a state park will be worth it for the county.

"The biggest thing I see as a designation of a state park is it helps us enhance our marketing. Right now it's a nice park but becoming a state park will take you to the next tier."

In the meantime, visitors can continue to enjoy all the park has to offer.

The park's hours are as follows:

- Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Friday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Rates include:

- Full RV service: \$15 per day/ \$60 for five nights
- Prim: \$5 per night/tent; \$7 per night/pop up
- Shelter: \$25 per day
- Jon boat rental: \$3 per hour
- Pedal boat/kayak rental: \$5 per hour

For more information call 276-988-7250 or 800-588-9401; email lakewitten@tazewellcounty.org or visit www.tazewellcounty.org

July 30, 2012

Bluefield (WVVA) --A former Princeton High School football players is sentenced to 20 years in prison for the second degree murder of his father.

Tevin Allen, 19, of Princeton was also given five years probation following his release.

Allen originally claimed he killed his father, James Scott, 35, in self-defense. Scott was shot to death near a vacant lot on High Street in Princeton in August 2011.

"That was my son and that's my grandson. I didn't want to see my grandson go to prison for life but I did want to see him do outside of the Anthony Center so I'm satisfied with the Judge with the sentence. I'm very satisfied with it," says Allen's grandmother Mary Brown.

Allen apologized to his family during the emotional hearing.

Original post: A former Princeton football star is set to be sentenced today. Tevin Allen pled guilty to second degree murder of his father before Judge William Sadler in late May. Allen originally claimed he killed his father, 35 year old James Scott, in self-defense.

Scott was shot near a vacant lot on high street in Princeton in August of 2011.

Stay with WVVA and WVVA.com through out the day for updates on Allen's judgement.

July 31, 2012

The Main Street Cafe in Tazewell is now closed. According to owner Sharon Thomas, who did not want to speak to WVVA News on camera, the restaurant had been open for eight years, and business was going well. Thomas says she owns several different businesses in the area, and she felt the need to let go of some. Although not everyone in Tazewell had eaten there, the Main Street Cafe was known for their good food.

"I heard that they have really good cheese fries, I heard they were really great."

Vilacha also says it is upsetting to see the Main Street Cafe close its doors, and not just because of the good food.

"I think its really sad, its devastating, because I know it brought jobs into the community. It was a good place for people to go and hang out and eat."

According to Thomas, the VIP Room will remain open, and this will allow employees of the Main Street Cafe to keep their jobs. Thomas also decided to close another one of her businesses, the General Store. Thomas says these closures are not final yet, and Vilacha hopes for the best.

"I hope, you know, maybe they can get back on their feet or reopen."

July 31, 2012

LEWISBURG (WVVA) -- Business is flying high at the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

The airport is getting a one million dollar grant for improvements and expansion. In the past year, the airport has had a 300 percent increase in air traffic.

The money will be spent on expanding their terminal building and purchasing new equipment to help flight operations during inclement weather.

The grant will come in handy because Greenbrier Valley will now be offering non-stop flights to Atlanta and Dulles airports.

The airport will welcome its first flight from Atlanta on Wednesday.

July 31, 2012

GARY (WVVA) -- The mayor of Gary has resigned. The city says Tuesday is Shirley Duncan's last day.

Residents were concerned when a meeting scheduled for Tuesday was canceled. The city says that is because there were not enough council members available to hold the meeting.

An interim mayor will be appointed.

July 31, 2012

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (WVVA) -- Bluefield city officials said Tuesday the Scott Street parking garage may not be standing much longer.

The garage could be torn down as early as the beginning of August, said Bluefield Interim City Manager Brian Cochran. According to Cochran, the company chosen for the project, Empire Salvage and Recycling will start preparing for the job.

While the garage is being torn down, several streets will be closed both for traffic and for street parking. Cochran said Edwards Terrace will be completely closed for a few months, and Scott Street could be closed for a few weeks but will reopen after the area is safe for traffic to move through.

But this process is much bigger than just tearing down a parking garage. Cochran said the end result will help beautify the city and still serve a purpose.

"The whole project consists of building a two-tiered retaining wall and also developing a completely new parking area on that space. So when it's completed it should be very attractive, very open, safe, and should have about 80 to 85 parking spaces," Cochran told WVVA News.

August 1, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD- W.Va. (WVVA)-- The Mercer Mall was packed with Chick-Fil-A supporters Wednesday. They came out in droves for what is being called "Chick-fil-a Appreciation Day."

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee urged people to go to the restaurant if they are also against same-sex marriage through a Facebook event he created. An anti-same-sex marriage stance was recently made public by Chick-Fil-A President, Dan Cathy.

"We are supporting him because he believes the way the Bible teaches," Joyce Faris told WVVA as she waited in line.

"They [Chick-fil-a] believe in God and the belief of a man and a woman for marriage," said Tommy Hylton after he purchased a meal.

Executives with Chick-Fil-A told WVVA it is important to note the company did not initiate the publicity in a statement: "Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day was not created by Chick-Fil-A," said Steve Robinson, Executive Vice President of Marketing. "It is a creation from our fans. We appreciate all of our customers and are glad to serve them at any time. our goal is simple: to provide great food, genuine hospitality, and have a positive influence on all who come into contact with Chick-Fil-A."

Massive lines and hungry people could be seen throughout the day at the Mercer Mall.

"There must be 100, 150 people ahead of me but I'm going to stay here to get my chicken sandwich," said Faris. "I'll wait all evening if I have to."

Some even called in their order a day in advance, anticipating the crowd. "We thought it was going to be a busy day, because we heard a lot of people talking about coming to support," said Carolyn Smith as she picked up her order. "Yesterday when we called here they had a lot of orders that had been called in [already]."

Regardless of the wait, people told WVVA the trip was worth it.

"I think he [Cathy] does good business," said Faris. "I just want him to know there are Christian people out there that support his views."

August 3, 2012

(1, 2)

BLUEFIELD W.Va (WVVA)-- The Wade Center's summer program ended Thursday and this program could be their last.

The Wade Center may not be able to reopen their doors if they do not come up with the funding to continue operating.

DHHA requires the center to raise three months of operating pay to become licensed. This regulation is state mandated. The Wade Center needs to raise \$81,000.

Director Jessica McDaniel is asking the community to help out. She says the Wade Center is a place for kids to do their homework, eat a meal, and participate in activities.

If you would like to make a donation to the Wade Center you can call at 304-323-3777 or visit their web site at wadecenter.com.

The doors will be closed in the fall if the money is not raised.

August 3, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL COUNTY (WVVA)-- Tazewell County officials are cracking down on the possession and distribution of synthetic marijuana.

As of July 1, 2012, the Virginia Law pertaining to the possession and distribution of synthetic marijuana changed. Any drug compounded with the intent to emulate the synthetic marijuana will be illegal and that drug is subject to the same punishment of synthetic marijuana.

The Tazewell County Narcotics Task Force and the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office and towns in the county will be strictly enforcing the new law.

Tazewell officials will be delivering a memo to each merchant in the county advising them of the changes in the law.

August 7, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The Bluefield Fire Station on Cumberland Road has been forced to close due to staffing issues.

The department needs at least six people to be at full staff at both the Cumberland Road and Central stations. Due to job vacancies and vacations, the department currently does not have the manpower to open both stations.

Chief Glenn Supplin says the station could reopen when the department returns to full staff.

August 8, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A total of six women and six men were cited during a nearly month-long prostitution sting in Beckley.

The sting was conducted from June 28 through the end of July in several areas around the city such as Uptown, Second Street and Raleigh Hill.

The six women charged with prostitution are:

- Tammy L. Loyd, 33

- Lisa M. Farmer, 48
- Deanna K. Straub, 43
- Bridget R. Sizemore, 37
- Jamie L. Allison, 29
- Kelly D. Garner, 35

Sizemore had an outstanding warrant for a previous offense and was arrested.

All the women reside in Beckley.

The six men charged with solicitation are:

- Richard K. Mills, 48, of Sophia
- Raymond V. Edmonds, 41, of Raleigh
- Dennis L. Adkins, 39, of Beckley
- John D. Fuller, 71, of Daniels
- Ronald E. Dunn, 56, of Beckley
- Timothy P. Smith, 31, of Beckley

August 9, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The Mercer County Health Department wants to educate residents on whooping cough after seven cases have been confirmed in the county.

Health Department Director Melody Rickman said the number of cases is high for Mercer, with zero being the normal.

The seven confirmed cases come from people all over the county and in different age groups.

Rickman says children or adults can be affected, even those who have had the vaccination. Infants and the elderly are most susceptible.

Rickman advises anyone who experiences a dry cough that could provoke vomiting or loss of breath for more than two weeks should be checked for whooping cough.

Parents should also make sure children are updated on their vaccines. A vaccine required for 7th and 12th graders prevents against whooping cough.

Children may also demonstrate a 'whooping' sound when they gasp for breath.

The United States has experienced an increase in whooping cough -- or pertussis -- cases this year, with experts predicting numbers could hit a record high.

For more information on Whooping Cough, [visit the CDC website](#), or click the links to the left

August 9, 2012

(2)

NARROWS, VA (WVVA) - 34 employees at the Celco Plant in Narrows are now laid off from work.

Layoffs began Wednesday, August 8th.

The employees work for Mundy Companies, a privately contracted business which provides contract and technical solutions for chemical, petrochemical and other industrial companies.

These employees provide regular maintenance to the Celco plant such as electric work, ironwork and scaffolding.

Celanese officials say that this is "a routine adjustment to the workforce." A rehire is expected as work becomes available for these employees.

The Celco Plant is located on Route 460 in Narrows, Virginia. The plant employees around 300 people.

Products made at the Celco Plant include cellulose acetate, flake, filament, and tow.

August 9, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - The Raleigh County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate a fight and possible stabbing involving a father and son.

Police say it happened Friday night around 6:30 p.m. at a residence off Irish Mountain Road in Beckley.

Police say Robert Call, 45, of Bragg, was injured in the fight by his adult son, 23-year-old Robert Call Jr. He was flown to Charleston Area Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries.

No arrests have been made at this time. Police say it appears alcohol was a factor in the incident.

The Raleigh County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

August 14, 2012

(2)

WYTHEVILLE (WVVA) - Vice President Joe Biden made a stop in Wytheville to discuss some hot topics for the upcoming election in November. The event was held at Spiller Elementary, and fittingly, Biden discussed the progress he and President Obama and been making in education, specifically, college.

"We expanded, by three million people, the number of children from working class families that are now in college, from 6 million to 9 million.

Also on the agenda was the economy. Despite the recession, Biden says Obama's plan for the economy is best for the future of the country and the middle class, and gave the automobile industry as an example.

"We rescued the automobile industry, saving one million jobs, and added two hundred thousand new automobile jobs, middle class jobs, jobs that you can raise a family on."

It has been just a few days since Mitt Romney announced his running mate would be Paul Ryan, Chair of the House Budget Committee. Ryan's budget plan has passed the house, but Biden is opposed to it.

"I think its outrageous if you can give companies tax breaks to outsource rather than tax breaks for insource, to make massive cuts in education, massive cuts in college aid, massive cuts in Medicaid, throwing 19 million people off, who desperately need healthcare."

Those in attendance gave positive reviews of the Vice President's speech.

"I thought it was great, you can really tell what he means. When Obama talks and Biden talks, they really talk from their heart and they really mean what they say. I just felt, we waited awhile for it. It was really worth the wait. It was a great speech."

Virginia will most likely be a key state for both candidates this fall, and Biden says winning Virginia will greatly help Obama's chance at winning the election.

"And with your help, I believe we will win Virginia, and if we win Virginia, we will win this election."

In 2008, President Obama had 52.6% of the vote in the state of Virginia, and beat Republican John McCain by over 200,000 votes. It proved big then and could prove big again, as the winner of Virginia gets 13 votes in the Electoral College.

August 14, 2012

(2)

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August 16, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - The Tazewell County Sheriff's Department has a new tool to protect youth from online predators.

The department received an upgrade in their cyber crime-fighting technology thanks to a donation from the Moose Lodge and the 'Safe Surfin' non-profit group.

Statistics show 1-in-5 teens have received unwanted sexual approaches on the Internet.

August 17, 2012

(2)

UPDATE: BECKLEY (WVVA) - A suspect who escaped from work release in Raleigh County Thursday has been captured.

Authorities announced that Michael Shaun Sampson was apprehended Friday evening in the Beckley area.

More details of the capture were not released.

BECKLEY (WVVA) - Police are searching for an escapee from Raleigh County.

Michael Shaun Sampson, 29, escaped from the Beckley Correction Center while on work release around 4 p.m. Thursday.

Sampson is described as 5'9", 176 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes.

He has multiple tattoos on both hands and forearms, including three dots on the top of his right hand, 'Mike' on his right forearm, a dot on the top of his left hand, dice on his right forearm, on his left front upper arm: flames with 'Tru Playa MS'

Sampson was serving time for burglary in Harrison County.

If you have any information on his whereabouts you are urged to call the West Virginia State Police at 304-256-6700.

August 20, 2012

(2)

OAK HILL (WVVA) - Twenty-two suspects were arrested on drug-related charges during a round-up in Fayette County Monday morning.

Charges against those arrested include delivery of a controlled substance and conspiracy to commit a felony. The sweep was centered around the Oak Hill and Mount Hope communities.

The illegal drug sales in the investigation ranged from cocaine and marijuana to prescription medications.

As of Monday afternoon, five suspects remain at large:

- Patrick Settle – Oak Hill, WV
- Charles Wriston – Oak Hill, WV
- Antwol Moore – Oak Hill, WV
- Candi Swafford – Mt. Hope, WV
- Frank Sizemore – Page, WV

Ages or additional information on the remaining suspects was not released.

The sweep was the result of a six-month investigation conducted by members of the Central Regional drug Task Force, West Virginia State Police, Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Nicholas County Sheriff's Department, Oak Hill Police Department, Mount Hope Police Department and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Authorities say much of the information leading to the arrests was initiated by complaints or tips from residents in the affected communities.

August 21, 2012

(2)

With Mercer County students returning to school next week, bullying has once again become a major topic of concern for parents. But tonight, the "Mercer County Parents and Students Coalition Against Bullying" took a stand against a specific form, cyberbullying.

More and more kids getting phones and on Facebook, cyberbullying is becoming a much bigger problem almost by the day says MCPASCAB's Cathy Parson.

"Cyberbullying is more widespread than it used to be. There's so many different digital technologies the kids can use to get to other people."

Representatives from MCPASCAB recently made a trip to Charleston for an anti-bullying summit. Parson says the trip was beneficial.

"We actually did have an anti-bully cyberbully workshop that day. We had several workshops as far as different activities we could do with the children, different activities we could do with the parents just the get them in the mind frame of what they're really doing to these children when they're bullying them."

Back in Mercer County, Parson intends to become more involved with the Board of Education, and parents of local students.

"We'd like to get some of that free training in and get more up to date with the technology, because allot of time these parents don't know the technically, the digital technology, what all the kids can do with it.

According to the cyberbullying research center, 50% of kids have experienced cyberbullying. Ten to twenty percent of those have experienced it frequently, with the most common form being hateful comments or rumor spreading.

August 23, 2012

(2, 8)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - The U.S. Attorney's Office and a new Drug Enforcement Agency squad will lead the investigation of the Beckley Police Department.

"I have talked to Beckley Police Chief Tim Deems and Raleigh County Prosecutor Kristen Keller," said Booth Goodwin, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia. "They asked for and welcomed our leadership in this investigation."

Goodwin says, under the direction of his office, the investigation will be handled by the DEA Tactical Diversion Squad. Goodwin says the squad was set up at the beginning of July, due to the rampant prescription drug problem in West Virginia.

Keller announced Wednesday all drug cases in Raleigh County over the past 15 months will be dismissed. Chief Deems says prescription pills are missing from the evidence room at Beckley Police.

Goodwin says some federal drug cases have Beckley Police involvement. "We're reviewing our case load to see if any federal cases were potentially compromised," Goodwin said.

August 23, 2012

(2)

UPDATE: TAZEWELL (WVVA) - Authorities say a teen reported missing in Tazewell County has been found.

Police say 16-year-old Sheamus Davey was found Thursday.

Details about where Davey was found or his condition has not been released.

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - The Town of Tazewell Police Department is asking for your help in trying to locate a missing juvenile.

Sheamus Skye Davey, 16, was last seen at home on August 19, 2012 by his mother. Upon her return he was nowhere to be found.

Sheamus is described as 6'2" tall, 140 pounds with long brown hair and brown eyes. Both his ears are gauged.

He was last seen wearing skinny jeans, a dark colored shirt and a toboggan.

Police say he is believed to be in the Tazewell area or enroute to Bristol, Va., where he was originally from.

If you know the whereabouts of Mr. Davey or have any leads to his location, please contact Investigator Infante of the Tazewell Police Department at 276-988-2503 between 8 a.m to 5 p.m., or call Tazewell County 911 at 276-988-0645.

August 28, 2012

(2)

UPDATE: BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Nurses at Bluefield Regional Medical Center have voted to unionize.

The National Labor Relations Board says the vote count was 79 for, 49 against.

The nurses will be part of the National Nurses Organizing Committee.

Service workers at the hospital voted earlier this week not to join the union, but the vote is not final due to contested ballots.

UPDATE: BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - Service workers at Bluefield Regional Medical Center have voted not to join the union, but the vote is not final.

The National Labor Relations Board says the vote totals were 69 for, 85 against, with 36 ballots being challenged.

Nurses at the hospital will be able to cast their ballots to be part of a separate unit.

Voting was scheduled to close at 9 p.m. Wednesday night. The results will be released on Thursday.

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - A vote is taking place among employees at Bluefield Regional Medical Center regarding unionization.

The hospital confirmed the vote in a press release Tuesday evening.

The release says the National Labor Relations Board is conducting the secret ballot elections for certain groups of employees at the hospital.

Following is the full statement from the hospital:

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is conducting secret ballot elections for certain classifications of employees at Bluefield Regional Medical Center this week. The hospital is fortunate to have a skilled, dedicated workforce. We value our employees and the high-quality care they provide for our patients. We respect their right and ability to choose for themselves whether or not they wish to be represented by unions.

August 29, 2012

(2)

OAK HILL (WVVA) - The 22-year-old man that shot four people -- including two state troopers -- before being killed by officers in Clay County had a criminal background in Fayette County.

According to a copy of Luke Silas Baber's criminal record obtained by WVVA News, Baber pleaded guilty to domestic battery and obstructing an officer in December 2009. He was arrested for fighting with his father and threatening both of his parents with what was later discovered to be a BB gun.

In the criminal complaint, Trooper JL Milam reported that Baber said he pulled the BB gun hoping police officers would kill him.

Additional charges of domestic assault and simple possession were dismissed.

Earlier this year, in January, Baber was arrested for trying to cash a check he stole from his parents and made out to himself. He told police he needed money to pay off a debt.

September 4, 2012

(2)

POCAHONTAS, Va. (WVVA) - In honor of Labor Day, some of the nation's hardest workers gathered in Tazewell County for the annual Miners March.

The event has been a Labor Day tradition in the town of Pocahontas for 21 years.

Attendees say it's important to show both current and retired generations of coal miners that their service is appreciated.

September 5, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - A new division of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department has been busy enforcing animal regulations in the county.

The new division was created by the Board of Supervisors to handle animal complaints, litter problems and illegal junkyards, among other things, according to a release from the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Brian Hieatt says that the officers have made an impact in the county during the first three months of the new division.

Statistics from the office show that the officers have responded to 311 animal complaints, 18 animal attacks and nine calls of livestock in the highway in the three months that the Code Enforcement Division has been up and running.

In the last week alone, Hieatt says the officers have picked up 12 stray dogs, two horses and two alligators.

Officers have impounded a total 136 dogs, in addition to the two horses and two gators.

At least three people have been charged with animal cruelty, and possible charges are stemming from the Tazewell County residence where one of the alligators was taken.

The residence, located on Governor G.C. Peery Highway, also contained three dogs, five cats, and three dead Sugar Gliders.

A sugar glider is small, gliding marsupial.

One county resident, Kimberly Nunley, of North Tazewell, is being held on \$5,000 bond at Southwest Regional Jail after deputies investigated the death of an animal she owned.

In addition to animal issues, Hieatt says the new officers will also be targeting littering and illegal dump sites in the county.

If you have an animal or litter concern, you can contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office at 276-988-1160.

If you're interested in adopting one of the dogs that have been impounded, you can contact the Tazewell County Animal Shelter at 276-988-5795.

September 5, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - It is with a heavy heart that we pass along the news that legendary WVVA weatherman Stan Sweet has passed away.

He was 85 years old.

Sweet, a White Sulphur Springs native, enjoyed a lengthy career in show biz, appearing in television and film before coming to WVVA in the 1980s.

He was also a world quick draw champion, showcasing his firearm handling skills on national showcases such as 'Late Night with David Letterman.'

But it was Sweet's flashy wardrobe and unique delivery of the weather that have left him fondly remembered by thousands of viewers across the Two Virginias.

Sweet signed off from WVVA for the final time in 2006. His final on-camera appearance came late last year, while promoting his autobiography at a book signing in his hometown of White Sulphur Springs.

Sweet was equally loved by his co-workers at WVVA. Thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvi, and three children.

We will be bringing you more videos and memories of Stan Sweet's WVVA career from our archives here on WVVA.com in the coming hours.

September 7, 2012

(2)

BLUEFIELD (WVVA) - The City of Bluefield is eyeing economic growth around the I-77 exit on John Nash Boulevard.

For decades, there have been complaints of no businesses immediately off Exit 1 near the East River Mountain tunnel. Now, the city's new Economic Development Director says he has a plan.

Greg Shrewsbury tells WVVA News there's great potential in the 33 acres of undeveloped land that the city owns.

The exit is the first travelers encounter in the Mountain State, when traveling north on Interstate 77, an attribute Shrewsbury sees as a huge selling point for potential businesses.

"It could have hotel potential, convenience store potential, so we are very excited about it," he said.

In addition to interstate traffic, Shrewsbury also sees potential in ATV traffic enjoying the nearby Hatfield-McCoy trails.

Shrewsbury says the city has talked to Sheetz in the past about coming to the area. Two Sheetz locations opened in Princeton last year.

Three-and-a-half of the city's 33 acres will be used by the Transit Authority.

While the city eyes development near the interstate, Shrewsbury says officials are still hoping to develop a new grocery store closer to the city's population center.

Shrewsbury says he is in talks with KVAT, owners of Food City, about the possibility of opening a store in town -- as well as other grocery options.

KVAT recently purchased the lease on the former Kroger store on Cumberland Road, but have told the city they have no plans of opening a store at that location.

September 8, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA)--- Police in Tazewell County say the man they have been searching for months has been captured in Texas.

27-year-old Chris Sturgill was pulled over Thursday for a DUI in Austin, Texas. After police there ran his records, they found out he was wanted in Tazewell County.

According to Sheriff Brian Hieatt of Tazewell County, Sturgill was with his brother at the time and drastically changed his appearance.

Sturgill was wanted on drug charges and a probation violation,

Sheriff Hieatt says that they are working on getting Sturgill extradited back to Virginia.

September 9, 2012

(2)

RALEIGH COUNTY (WVVA)--- Police are looking for multiple suspects in two separate robberies that happened Sunday morning.

The first happened in Beckley at the Wendy's off of Robert C. Byrd Drive.

According to the Beckley Police Department, two individuals, one who was armed with a gun, demanded money from employees that were getting ready to open the restaurant.

The employees complied and the two got away with an undisclosed amount of money.

At this time there is no description of the suspects. The Beckley Police Department is investigating.

The second robbery happened in Glen Daniel at the Dollar Store off of Harper Road.

According to Raleigh County 911, a suspect entered the store with something in his hand. It is unknown if it was a weapon or not.

The suspect demanded money from the cashier, who complied and fled on foot.

There is no description at this time of the suspect. The Raleigh County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

September 10, 2012

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September 10, 2012

(2)

UPDATE: ALDERSON (WVVA) - Police have made another arrest in connection with property stolen from former NBA star Bimbo Coles.

Police say Billy Joe Flora of Alderson has admitted to buying memorabilia he knew was stolen.

Flora paid \$30 for a basketball card and autographed football allegedly taken from a shed belonging to Coles. Flora then allegedly sold the items for \$100.

The estimated value of the card and ball is more than \$1,000.

ALDERSON (WVVA) - Police say a Greenbrier County woman has admitted to trading sports memorabilia stolen from a former NBA star for pain pills.

Police say Melinda Donahue of Caldwell told them her son and step-brother broke into a shed belonging to Vernell 'Bimbo' Coles and stole several items, including a Dallas Cowboys helmet, autographed photos and basketball shoes.

Donahue confessed to police she drove to Alderson and traded some of the items for pills.

The stolen memorabilia is valued at an estimated \$2,500.

Coles -- a Greenbrier County native -- was a standout basketball player for Virginia Tech before playing from 1990-2004 in the NBA.

September 12, 21012

(2)

IAEGER (WVVA) - A woman was transported to the hospital after an early-morning accident in McDowell County.

The crash occurred around 6 a.m. Wednesday on Route 83, near the Ritter area, between Iaeger and Bradshaw.

Authorities say a car and coal truck were involved in the crash.

The female driver of the car was transported to Welch Community Hospital. The extent of her injuries are unknown at this time.

The McDowell County Sheriff's Department is investigating the crash.

September 11, 2012

(2)

UPDATE: TAZEWELL (WVVA) - A sex offender described as 'dangerous' by authorities has been apprehended in Tazewell County.

Dyllan Otto Naecker was found Wednesday at his girlfriend's residence on Taft Lane -- off Route 460 -- between Bluefield, Va., and Springville.

Deputies were able to determine Naecker's girlfriend's identity after she "liked" the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

This information provided deputies with critical information as to his girlfriend's residence and her name.

The girlfriend, Samantha Dillow, has been charged with obstruction of justice.

Naecker was taken into custody without incident and may be facing charges in Virginia for failure to register as a Sex Offender and may also face federal charges for crossing state lines under the Adam Walsh Act.

Members of the U.S. Marshalls office are interviewing the suspect with detectives from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Brian Hieatt stated, "Our community is safer tonight with this predator off the streets. He will face the justice system as required and I would like to ask the community to join me in thanking the hard working deputies that brought this fugitive in without incident."

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is on the lookout for what is described as a 'dangerous' sex offender believed to be in the county.

Dyllan Otto Naecker, 29, is a sex offender wanted out of Maryland. He's a white male with brown hair and blues. He stands 5'9" and weighs 140 pounds.

Naecker is believed to be staying in the Tazewell County area.

If you have any information on Naecker, contact the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office at 276-988-0645 or 276-988-0704.

September 14, 2012

(2)

NEW YORK (WVVA) - A man accused of raping a 73-year-old birdwatcher in New York's Central Park has a history of criminal activity in McDowell County.

42-year-old David Albert Mitchell was taken into custody Wednesday night in Manhattan near where the alleged attack took place.

He was charged with predatory sexual assault, rape, criminal sex act, robbery and assault. He was arraigned Friday and held without bond.

[*View AP report on New York arrest*](#)

The Charleston Gazette reports Mitchell was previously accused of two similar crimes in McDowell County.

In 1989, Mitchell -- then 18 -- was charged with murder in connection with the sexual assault and beating of 86-year-old Annie Parks at her Jenkinjones home, the Gazette reports.

Mitchell was acquitted by a jury.

Months later, Mitchell was accused of breaking into the home of another elderly McDowell County resident -- allegedly raping her and stealing a gun.

The sexual assault charge was dropped in return for Mitchell accepting a plea deal on first-degree robbery charge, Prosecuting Attorney Sid Bell told the Gazette.

Mitchell served about 8 years of a 10-year sentence.

As recently as this year, Mitchell had run-ins with law enforcement in Mercer and Tazewell counties.

Relatives who spoke with the Associated Press by phone, said Mitchell -- who has tattoos of the grim reaper, castles, Nordic warriors and dragons all over his body -- was a heavy drinker who had spent most of his life in and out of jail. They said they weren't surprised by his latest brush with the law.

A sister-in-law and onetime girlfriend said Mitchell had been arrested in 2003 after trying to sexually assault her and dragging her out of her home in a drunken rage. Records show he was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to an abduction charge.

His trouble "was always sexually driven," Saretta Mitchell told The AP. "He was a sick individual as far as sex goes. ... I was just a dumb, naive person to get involved with him."

The last time Mitchell was seen in Virginia was at the beginning of August, his relatives said.

On Friday, the West Virginia State Police said that Mitchell had previously been eyed as a potential suspect in the 2002 disappearance of another Jenkinjones resident, Barbara Flake.

Flake, 50, disappeared on April 9, 2002, from her home. Her remains were discovered in McDowell County in 2004.

The victim in the alleged New York attack identified Mitchell in a police lineup Thursday.

The bird-watching victim in Wednesday's attack told police she had seen her attacker before, and believed he assaulted her in Central Park Wednesday morning because he was angry she photographed him exposing himself in a more isolated area of the park a week earlier, NBC 4 New York reports.

The woman told investigators the man asked, "Do you remember me?" before attacking her about 11 a.m. near the park's tranquil Strawberry Fields, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said at an earlier news conference.

She said he demanded she delete the image before they went their separate ways. Police said that initial encounter was not reported.

Information compiled from the Associated Press, [Charleston Gazette](#) and [NBC 4 New York](#)

September 15, 2012

(2)

WEST UNION, W.Va.- West Virginia State Police say a 71-year-old Doddridge County man died after troopers began searching his house as part of a drug investigation.

Police said in a statement that Elton Wine initially tried to interfere with their search for fugitive John Bowman on Thursday. After wine agreed to cooperate, he began having trouble breathing. Police provided first aid and summoned paramedics, but Wine became unresponsive and died. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office to determine the cause of death.

Bowman was arrested Friday near Wine's home. He was charged with felony cultivation of marijuana and was transported to the North Central Regional Jail to await arraignment.

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Bowman was arrested Friday near Wine's home. He was charged with felony cultivation of marijuana and was transported to the North Central Regional Jail to await arraignment.

September 17, 2012

(2)

POCAHONTAS Va. (WVVA) - A local historian has been appointed to serve on the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors.

Tom Childress of Pocahontas will fill the seat formerly held by Dr. Thomas Brewster.

Brewster resigned to become the superintendent of schools in Pulaski County.

Childress' appointment is on an interim basis.

September 18, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - A fugitive living in a tent has been arrested on child porn charges after allegedly selling computer equipment loaded with pornographic images.

John Benedict Vavrecka, 46, had been living in a tent behind the Beckley Plaza Mall and using Wi-fi from surrounding businesses.

Vavrecka was a fugitive from Claypool, Ariz., where he also faces child porn charges.

A man went to the police with a flash drive and external hard drive claiming to have purchased them from Vavrecka.

Police found more than 44,000 pornographic photos of children on those drives.

Vavrecka is currently in Southern Regional Jail on

September 19, 2012

(2)

PRINCETON, W. Va (WVVA)-- The Princeton Police Department has several new additions: four new A-15 semi-automatic assault rifles.

Officers should be completely trained to use the new weapons by the end of the week, Captain Paul Hill said Wednesday.

"It puts us on a level playing field with everybody else we deal with," said Hill. He mentioned that the criminals they often encounter on the streets have higher-tech weapons than those his officers were using before this purchase.

With these new rifles, Hill says this not only protects his officers better, but also helps them protect the town. "When we respond to a call, we will have the tools we need to get the job done," he said.

These rifles come to the police department through money allocated by the city of Princeton. Princeton PD also sold a few of their old guns to bring the cost down. In all, the four were purchased for a price of \$1100.

Wayne Shumate, Princeton's city manager, helped secure this money from the city's general fund.

"He's certainly done a lot for us over the years," said Hill.

Shumate ends his career with the city of Princeton next week.

September 20, 2012

(2)

DUO (WVVA)-- West Virginia State Police tell WVVA the wanted fugitive Richard Henry Ames III has been captured.

Authorities said they received a tip he was trying to hitch-hike and walking down Anjean Road past Rupert and toward the Duo area. He was very close to the mines there when he was captured.

"We set up a perimeter," said Sergeant W. A. Pendleton, "We walked the road to try to flush him up to where everybody was waiting. At that time myself and Blevins found him in the woods and took him without incident."

Police said Ames took back roads and went through the woods overnight, and they suspect he spent the night in the woods while police searched. He was on the move again, spotted and soon captured further down Anjean Road.

"This put us on high alert," said Pendleton.

Ames is wanted in Virginia for an alleged Suntrust bank robbery.

As state police walked him into the Lewisburg detachment, Ames told WVVA, "I am innocent."

September 24, 2012

(2)

LEWISBURG (WVVA) - Someone previously employed by the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department is suspected in the theft of drugs and cash from the office, according to court documents obtained by WVVA News.

According to the documents filed by County Prosecutor Patrick Via with the Circuit Clerk's office, Via has requested to be removed from the case stating a conflict of interest.

It also requests from the West Virginia Prosecuting Institute that a special prosecutor be appointed to the investigation.

The suspect was until recently an active member of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department.

An amount of cash and controlled substances were reported missing from the sheriff's department in August. Following an internal investigation a reasonable suspicion of theft was found.

The investigation has been turned over to the West Virginia State Police.

September 25, 2012

(2)

OAK HILL (WVVA) - A man wanted in a Fairlea car wash break in also suspected in a similar crime in Oak Hill.

The unidentified male, seen in the surveillance photo to the left, is suspected in a breaking and entering at a car wash in Oak Hill on Monday, according to an email release from Oak Hill Police Chief Michael Whisman.

FAIRLEA (WVVA) - Police are seeking the public's help in identifying two suspected burglars.

The pair allegedly broke into a car, then into the A and M Car Wash in Fairlea.

A laptop, digital camera and large amount of cash were among the items taken.

Police say the suspects were between 5'6" and 5'10". They were driving a dark-colored car similar to an older model Ford Crown Victoria.

If you have any information on the suspects, contact the State Police at 304-647-7600.

September 28, 2012

(2)

TAZEWELL (WVVA) - A Tazewell County woman has been charged in the death of her baby that died just minutes after being born.

Commonwealth Attorney Dennis Lee says 46-year-old Karen Ann Elder of Richlands has been indicted on a charge of involuntary manslaughter as well as felony child endangerment.

Lee says Elder gave birth in September 2011 -- the newborn lived less than one hour. The medical examiner concluded that drugs taken by Elder while pregnant caused the baby's death.

Elder is being held in Tazewell Regional Jail.

September 28, 2012

(2)

BECKLEY (WVVA) - US Attorney Booth Goodwin says charges will likely be filed soon in the case of missing drugs from an evidence locker at the Beckley Police Department.

Goodwin says more than one arrest could be made.

The investigation is likely to wrap up within the next few weeks -- sooner than Goodwin expected.

An investigation was launched last month after it was discovered drugs were missing from the department.

Raleigh County prosecutor Kristen Keller said the missing evidence jeopardizes scores of drug cases in the county.

September 28, 2012

(2)

MULLENS, W.Va. (AP) -- Wyoming County authorities say four people have been arrested in the theft of copper cable that cut phone service to about 1,300 customers.

Sheriff Randall Aliff says the four were arrested Thursday after they allegedly tried to sell the stolen copper to a recycling center in Raleigh County.

Aliff identified the suspects as 43-year-old Bobby Ray McKinney, 46-year-old Nancy Tate and 35-year-old Tanya Jenkins, all of Mullens, and 56-year-old James Daniels of Rock View. They're charged with grand larceny, felony destruction of property, and theft resulting in loss of phone service.

The Register-Herald reports it will cost Frontier Communications up to \$13,000 to repair the damage.

September 28, 2012

(2)

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the award for Phase Four of the Dam Safety Assurance contract for Bluestone Dam in Hinton, W. Va. The contract was awarded to Heeter Construction, Inc. of Spencer, W.Va. The contract and an initially exercised option are worth over \$54.81 million. It also includes eight potential options that, if exercised, will make the total worth over \$94.74 million.

This work involves installing 115 high capacity multi-strand rock anchors. The majority of the anchors will be 61 strands and up to 270 feet in length. The award of the remaining options for additional 163 anchors will be made over the next two to three years subject to funding. The total number of anchors for the base contract and all options is 278.

The purpose of the ongoing construction is to increase the capability of the dam to retain higher levels of water as part of the Dam Safety Assurance Program.

"Public safety is our number one priority," said Col. Steven McGugan, District Commander. "The primary objective of our Dam Safety Assurance efforts is to maintain public safety by making sure the dams we own and operate are safe and risks to the public are minimized."

Bluestone Dam was placed into service in 1948. In 1999 the Corps first unveiled plans for the Dam Safety Assurance project. To date, Bluestone has prevented nearly \$5 billion in flood damages to those living along the New and Kanawha Rivers.

For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 304-399-5353.

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)

July 14, 2012

(8)

MSNBC Political Analyst Richard Wolffe discusses the presidential candidates' (Mitt Romney) latest interviews and how they affect his public perception.

July 14, 2012

(5)

Just two weeks before the London Summer Olympic Games, the host city is gearing up to handle some pre-show nerves.

July 16, 2012

(9)

A second wave of extreme heat is expected to stretch from the Dakotas to the Northeast today.

July 17, 2012

(9)

As the U.S. experiences another heat wave, farmers are being hit hard by the worst drought since 1956 and consumers can expect corn prices to rise. The Weather Channel's Eric Fisher reports.

August 9, 2012

(2, 8)

CNBC personal finance expert Sharon Epperson explains how people trying to carve down student loan debt can start to tackle their principle by doing an accelerated repayment.

August 15, 2012

(2)

As Labor Day gets closer, the first day of school is quickly approaching. Pediatrician Tanya Altmann shares what you need to know to get your kids ready for school, including whether they really need a well visit and what needs to be checked for each age group.

August 16, 2012

(2)

Personal Finance expert David Bach offers five tips for saving money on clothes when you are back to school shopping, including using a variety of smartphone apps and taking advantage of tax-free shopping days.

August 20, 2012

(2)

The number of men and women suffering from acute anxiety is increasing, and experts say our stressful, fast-paced lifestyles are not helping. NBC'S Dr. Nancy Snyderman reports on the 1200 increase in the number of people suffering from anxiety since 1980.

September 10, 2012

(2)

Coughing passengers may make you cringe, but some of the nastiest germs can be found in airports. Dr. Roshini Raj, author of "What the Yuck," reveals how to avoid getting sick.

September 11, 2012

(2)

Today's professionals-Starr Jones and Donnie Deutsche, along with guest Professional Paula Abdul-discuss the hot topics of the day, including a Newsweek article that asks whether skyrocketing costs and a shortage of jobs makes a college a bad investment.

September 12, 2012

(2)

The Journal of the American Medical Association is out with a new study that found fish oil supplements do not lower the risk of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Lori Mosca from New York Presbyterian Hospital says that diet and exercise are a better way to fight heart conditions.

September 12, 2012

(2)

More than half of American Men experience hair loss after they turn 50. But, now Japanese scientists have found that vitamin D could be a possible baldness cure. NBC's Craig Melvin reports.

September 19, 2012

(2)

TODAY diet and nutrition editor Madelyn Ferstrom discusses how caffeine can help an athlete's power and endurance and why consuming less caffeine may actually make it more effective.

September 20, 2012

(2)

Peggy Kotsopoulos is a holistic nutritionist who says there is a connection between what you eat and how you look. She offers healthy alternatives to pasta, cookies and chocolate cake and spotlights some lesser-known ingredients that have healthy benefits.

Nightly News

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

July 14, 2012

(8)

For years businesses had to absorb "swipe fees" from card issuers, but a new ruling will allow them to pass the costs directly to consumers. NBC'S Michelle Franzen has the story.

July 15, 2012

(8)

Fireworks flare in Presidential race-Team Obama tells the Mitt Romney campaign to “stop whining” about attacks on his business record. But the Republican’s team says the President team will say anything to keep his job.

September 15, 2012

(8)

Courts across America are deciding no controversial voting laws that may play a role in deciding the Presidential election.

September 16, 2012

(8)

Friction mounts as Israel asks the U.S. to give Iran an ultimatum; a tricky position for Obama, whose foreign policy has been lauded. NBC’S Andrea Mitchell and CNBC’S John Harwood report.

September 17, 2012

(8)

A surreptitious recording of Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney speaking at a private fundraiser raised questions as to whether or not Romney was saying what he believed or what he thought the audience wanted to hear about the 47%. NBC’S Chuck Todd reports.

September 18, 2012

(8)

According to the latest NBC/WSJ poll, President Obama had a five point lead when survey participants were asked who they would vote for, and 42% of those surveyed believe the economy will get better under Obama. NBC’S Chuck Todd reports.

September 20, 2012

(8)

While courting Hispanic voters on Univision, GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney delivered a new message after saying he stood by his beliefs about the “47 %”. Chuck Todd reports.

MEET THE PRESS

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

August 12, 2012

(8)

A meet the press roundtable analyzes the assets and weaknesses of Paul Ryan’s personality.

August 19, 2012

(8)

A Meet the Press roundtable discusses the candidates’ differing plans for Medicare and the economy.

August 26, 2012

(8)

A Meet the Press roundtable examines the comments from Todd Akins, women’s and immigration issues, and what to expect from the Republican National Convention.

September 9, 2012

(8)

Republican Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney defends his proposed economic policies in an exclusive interview with David Gregory.

THE DOCTORS

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

July 2, 2012

(2)

Mysterious foot pains? Unexplained nosebleeds? The Doctors reveal what's really causing your concerning symptoms. Plus, are you over- or under-spending on your health? Money guru Suze Orman has the answers.

July 4, 2012

(2)

Discover new procedures for carpal tunnel syndrome and ACL injuries. Plus, if it's ever OK to give your kids sleep aides and the amazing way one mom saved her children from a house fire. And, surprising scented candle dangers.

July 5, 2012

(2)

Secondhand smoke isn't the only subsequent risk to your health. From stinky odors to medications, learn how other people's actions affect your well-being. Plus, thrift store dangers, to-go container dos and don'ts and more.

July 9, 2012

(2)

The Doctors help you decide between tried and true or new and improved medical treatments. Dr. Lisa debunks menstrual myths and reveals an old-school sex trick for better orgasms. Plus, burn up to 1,000 calories in one hour!

July 13, 2012

(2)

Do you twist your hair obsessively? Are you addicted to fattening foods? The Doctors help you kick your bad habits to the curb. Plus, lose weight without stepping foot in the gym and fix sun-damaged skin at home.

July 19, 2012

(2)

Bursting bladders, hacking coughs, and pounding headaches -- what keeps you up at night? The Doctors put your nighttime symptoms to bed. Solve night blindness, night sweats and more. Plus, why fevers skyrocket when the sun goes down.

July 23, 2012

(2)

Get to the bottom of your biggest ailments! See an amazing device that can save you from heart failure. Plus, stop back pain, tips for managing diabetes on a budget, the surprising culprit behind toothaches and more.

July 25, 2012

(2)

Are the side effects really worth the medical treatment? Learn how medications can affect your tongue, your sleep and even your sex life. And, a renowned chef who lost his stomach! It's a story you can't afford to miss.

August 6, 2012

(2)

From unhealthy "health" foods to cold dos and don'ts, find out the "healthy" habits that can actually hurt you. And, meet a woman who induced labor so her dying husband could meet their unborn baby.

August 8, 2012

(2)

Could seemingly harmless symptoms mean your life is in danger? Learn the surprising signs of lung disease, blood clots and more. Plus, a new treatment for Parkinson's and actor Ben Vereen's struggle with diabetes.

August 29, 2012

(2)

Whether you're suffering from serious issues or contemplating cosmetic surgery, The Doctors help you decide if you should go under the knife. Plus, actress Jessica Alba reveals her secrets for staying in shape.

September 7, 2012

(2)

The Doctors help you make your best health decisions today! Blood pressure vs. cholesterol? Find out which is really more important to your well-being. Plus, tips to refresh your complexion, improve your memory, stop urinary incontinence and more.

September 27, 2012

(2)

Intense warning labels, scary food recalls on the news, toxic danger signs ... they're everywhere you turn, but do you really know what they mean? Hear about dangers in unexpected places like your coffee table and even your clothes! Plus, the shocking chemical you come in contact with every day.

DR. PHIL

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

July 2, 2012

Two families send desperate pleas asking Dr. Phil to help their teen daughters. Are you struggling to parent an out-of-control teen?

July 3, 2012

(2)

Never before seen on the *Dr. Phil* stage: A convicted murderer faces his victims' children. Don't miss this unbelievable story about corruption, hatred ... and the power of forgiveness.

July 13, 2012

(2)

What drives a parent to abuse their child? Hear the stories of one mother who allegedly glued her toddler's hands to a wall, another who may have coerced her son into killing his pet gerbil and a woman who may have tried to pawn her newborn for \$15,000. What drove these moms over the edge?

July 19, 2012

(2)

Are you struggling to tame your rebellious teen? Chris and Barbara say their 17-year-old daughter, Courtney, is out of control! The teen proudly admits she bullies, steals, drinks and does drugs and is consumed with anger. Can Dr. Phil set her straight? Parents: If you know a teen who's heading down a dangerous path, this is one show you can't afford to miss!

July 20, 2012

(2)

Is your marriage headed down the aisle of divorce? Denise says she and her husband of two years, Rick, are physically abusive, constantly argue, rarely have sex and are in so much debt, they're struggling to pay the bills and keep food on the table for their five children. Rick says Denise enables her mother, Sandy, to instigate their arguments. Can this marriage be saved? And, learn the six quickest ways Dr. Phil says couples ruin their marriages. Could your relationship be at risk?

July 25, 2012

(2)

In the United States, as many as 10 million females and 1 million males are fighting a life-and-death battle with an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia. The mortality rate associated with anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher than ALL causes of death for females 15 to 24 years old. Dr. Phil speaks to a young woman who may become part of the statistics. Will she agree to turn her life around?

August 9, 2012

(2)

Explosions, gunfire, violent death -- these horrific images and sounds are the reality for soldiers on the front lines, fighting for our freedom. But what happens when the horror follows them home, making them feel out of place in the life they left behind and often unrecognizable to family and friends?

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.