

Greetings!

Postcards were the social media of their day, offering a look at the past

Region, 9A

Prep Hoops Williamstown boys take down Wyoming East to advance to state title game Sports, 1B





Weekslong lockups of European tourists at U.S. borders spark fears of traveling to America

Ocean dumping — or a climate solution? A growing industry bets on the ocean to capture carbon

Legal experts say Trump official broke law by saying 'Buy Tesla' stock but don't expect a crackdown

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025



Camden Clark Ambulance to add 7 vehicles, 38 employees

Wood County purchasing 6 ambulances

By EVAN BEVINS City Editor

PARKERSBURG - The dozen ambulances to assist Clark Medical Center in pro- not keeping pace with costs. viding emergency coverage once St. Joseph's Ambulance Service shuts down.

Commission dent Blair Couch made the at least five ambulances and announcement Friday at 35 personnel were needed to a meeting of the county's provide coverage for emer-

newly established Ambu- gency ambulance calls. lance Authority, where a Camden Clark representa- meet the status quo," she tive said they've arranged to said. "We know there's a acquire another vehicle and greater need out there. hired more than two dozen new employees.

St. Joseph's Ambulance Wood County Commission announced Monday it would plans to purchase half a cease operations on March a primary need of the com-31, citing Medicare and WVU Medicine Camden Medicaid reimbursements

> Marjean Kennedy, vice president of marketing, business development and strat-Presi- egy for Camden Clark, said

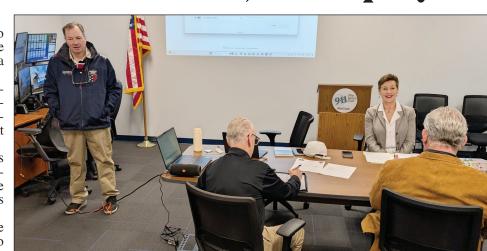
"The five will be just to

Kennedy noted that ambulance service is not a mon-"The crisis has been ey-making activity for the hos-resolved," Couch said. pital, saying it runs at a deficit pital, saying it runs at a deficit of about \$500,000 a year.

But we know that this is munity," she said, adding the primary focus at this time is on emergency transports.

addition, Jan-Care Ambulance has offered to assist with emergency calls and medical transport starting the evening of March

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Wood County Commission President Blair Couch, left, speaks during a county Ambulance Authority meeting Friday morning at the 911 Center as authority members, from left, Dale McEwuen, Patsy Hardy and William C. Arnold listen.



Photos by Amber Phipps

The resource fair inside of the armory hosted roughly 65 vendors for guests to discover.

weicome Hom Vietnam veterans honored at annual National Guard Armory event

Staff Reporter

PARKERSBURG - A Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day event occurred Friday in the National Guard Armory at 1500 Blizzard Dr., south Parkersburg.

The front lawn of the armory was lined with American flags to honor every fallen Vietnam soldier from West Virginia.

Also on display at the entrance of the armory was a race car from Veterans of Foreign Wars for visitors to observe.

Event coordinator and Vietnam veteran Jerry Smith has run the event for the past 13 years. He was amazed to see how much it's grown over the years as the event gained more attraction from the community and surrounding cities.

What started out as a small ceremony years ago has grown to become an annual event with a resource fair and over 700 visvisitors are veterans from Viet-

"We have the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran celebration because the welcome home celebration we first got wasn't good," said Smith. "This is a way to honor those veterans."

of more than 65 vendors featur- for dessert. ing veteran assistance programs,



A wooden sign at the front of the armory commemorates a historic event and honors those who served.

itors. Roughly 120-130 of those health care, education and more. Rows of tables lined the armory

with vendors providing resources and outreach opportunities for veterans and their loved ones.

For lunch, visitors and veterans enjoyed fresh brisket from KCBS champions T&S BBQ. Each meal included a sandwich with fresh The resource fair consisted coleslaw and a slice of cheesecake

Starting at 11 a.m. Friday, there mission.

were a few speeches and a poem while he was in Vietnam.

Following the daytime event momentum going, he said. at the armory, a concert was held Friday evening in the Parkersburg High School Auditorium. The concert featured Jimmy Fortune and all proceeds from the concert general admission went towards able to this year.' the Welcome Vietnam Veteran

The community has responded reading from one of the veterans well to the event over the years and Smith has hopes to keep the

"It's just gotten bigger and bigger and the community response has been so amazing," said Smith. "I generally try and go out to do door prizes but I haven't been

■ SEE VIETNAM, PAGE 12A

Parkersburg City Council agrees to \$2-an-hour raise for CDL operators

By EVAN BEVINS City Editor

PARKERSBURG - Parkersburg City Council agreed Thursday to increase wages for workers with commercial driver's licenses by \$2 an hour in the upcoming

fiscal year, but Mayor Tom Joyce

warned sustaining those raises will require another sanitation fee hike next year.

"Just be mindful, 11 months from now, when you get a new budget, there's going to be continued rate increases," he said during the third and final municipal budget hearing before council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole. "When you're

talking about salaries, that's forever money." The budget already includes a

\$4-a-month sanita-

tion fee increase starting July 1,

adding \$48 a year to customers "I do not have a problem pay-

ing that. Maybe some people do," Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl said. "But we listened to the people."

Sanitation workers and residents began calling for an increase in pay for employees in the department last fall, when raises - that ultimately did not pass - were proposed for the mayor and council.

The budget included a 4.2% cost-of-living adjustment for all employees, excluding elected officials. On Thursday, Finance Director Eric Jiles presented council with updated valuations from the Wood County Assessor's Office, which are due March 1, after the budget was submitted.

Of the \$228,913 in additional projected revenue, \$75,076 goes toward the Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority levy and \$10,029 to the Parkersburg & Wood County Public Library.

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MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

The West Virginia House of Delegates spent nearly two hours rejecting all but one secondary amendment and a committee amendment to Gov. Patrick Morrisey's bill making changes to exemptions.

Legislature holds marathon session on vaccines

Details, Page 3A

Service offers free tattoo removal for Ramadan

Teguh Islean Septura groans in pain as each staccato rat-a-tat-tat of the laser fires an intense beam at the elaborate tattoos on his arm. But the former musician's determination to "repent" in the holy month of Ramadan.

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READER

Thank you, Sarah Holshu of Williamstown for being a News and Sentinel subscriber.

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