

# Town receives \$398.15 check for stolen gas

By SEÁN O'DONOGHUE  
Managing Editor

HAMLIN - The Town of Hamlin received a check, recently, for the amount of money lost to improper gasoline purchases earlier this year. The check was issued November 13, 2015, from United Bank. That bank processes the state's Purchasing Card (P-Card) payments. The gasoline had allegedly been purchased fraudulently, this year, by a now-for-

mer town maintenance employee, Michael Dean James.

As reported previously in The Lincoln Journal, a criminal complaint was filed in the matter, and James was arrested on Tuesday, August 25. The complaint alleged pawning of town equipment and abuse of the P-Card. One of the benefits of participating in the P-Card program is that fraudulent purchases are covered by insurance.

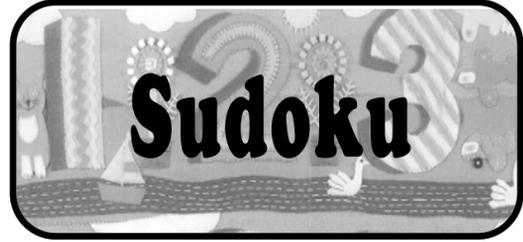
# Town will buy 4 Panther grills

By SEÁN O'DONOGHUE  
Managing Editor

HAMLIN - The Town of Hamlin has agreed to buy four grills from the Lincoln County High School vocational program. Mayor David "Flimsy" Adkins briefed the council on the innovative offering from the Panthers, whereby students in the program will make and install charcoal grills for just \$85 per unit. The mayor

proposed placing two at Heritage Park and two at the public park at Lions Club Field. Adkins told the council that the grills come with a lid and will be installed by the students. After some brief

discussion, the council approved to buy the four units at a total cost of \$340, on a motion from Councilwoman Olive Hager and a second from Councilwoman Trina Barrett.



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Difficult

# Council pauses in memory of clerk

By SEÁN O'DONOGHUE  
Managing Editor

HAMLIN - Hamlin Town Council paused for a moment of silence out of respect for the late Phyllis Ashworth recently. The observation game at the Monday, December 7, 2015 regular monthly meeting at the town hall, and followed the former town clerk's passing a few days earlier. Ashworth had served the municipality for around four decades, and was Republican Party treasurer in Lincoln County. Mayor David "Flimsy" Adkins asked the meeting to observe the moment of silence. Recorder Daniel McKay paid tribute to the former clerk. "She was a good lady. She worked hard for the town," he said

after the observation.

In other council business, •The council again tabled acting on a request for funding for a sporting facility sign for Lincoln County High School.

•Action on the town's street parking regulations was also tabled.

In new business, the town received a detailed presentation from Tyler Linville of Aflac, regarding the company's willingness to provide supplemental insurance offerings to the town's employees. The council heard that premiums could be deducted from the employee's pay checks and would be much cheaper than individual policies. Councilwoman Trina Barrett spoke highly of the

company. "It's a great company," she said, pointing to her experience of the company's offerings to school system employees. Barrett works on payroll at school system HQ in Hamlin. The town's employees are to be informed of the company's availability.

Later, the council agreed to refund the \$300 rent for December to the Helping Hands Food Pantry. The charity occupies the former town hall on Walnut Street and sought the council's financial support for its Christmas food and toy drive.

The council appointed Jerry Lawson to the board of the Hamlin - Lincoln County Public Library to succeed the late Peggy Lageman.

## From Page 1a Arrests

felony possession with intent to deliver; and child neglect resulting in a risk of injury. •Katrina Watts, 23, of Chapmanville. Charges included misdemeanor possession; felony possession with intent to deliver; felony conspiracy; and child neglect resulting in a risk of injury. •Richard A. Mullens, 50, of West Hamlin. Charges included misdemeanor possession and obstruction.

## From Page 1a Bridge

Fire Department on December 2. WV VOAD (WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) is seeking to rebuild bridges for those impacted by the storms of last spring and summer. Close to 1,500 families were affected in 32 counties, parts of the state where the resources are lacking to recover or relocate out of the flood zones. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied individual assistance in the wake of the storm events. That's where WVVOAD and many others stepped in.

The Bridge Project is helping families that lack the resources to recover by themselves. The stated intent is to provide the affected communities with safe bridges that will be as resilient as possible to future events. WVVOAD linked up with various disaster response agencies, as well as state and federal officials, to efficiently coordinate volunteers, equipment, and materials, with no cost for the families affected. VOAD focuses its work on the four Cs: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, Collaboration. The agency was a recipient of the 2015 Governor's Service Award for exemplifying the spirit of community service and volunteerism.

The December 2 launch was scheduled to take place at the home of Josh Plumley and his family on Big Laurel. Their bridge was also destroyed by weather's worst this year. Construction on the new bridge for the Plumleys was supposed to begin on December 2. Appropriately enough, however, Mother Nature intervened again with successive days of heavy rain forcing organizers to move the launch event to Duval VFD. Despite this, construction on the bridge got underway shortly after the launch.

For Lincoln County, Floodplain Manager Rick Helton has been heavily involved in the project. Helton, who is also the building permits officer for the county, helped bridge the gap between those in need in Lincoln County and the outside agencies offering the assistance. Helton was among those present for the December 2 event in Griffithsville. Helton paid tribute to the many agencies involved in the project. "In Lincoln County, we appreciate it, and we're glad it's starting here. We'll have better bridges built," he said. Helton also spoke of the permitting process and how the project has helped streamline the cumbersome tasks of securing the various documents from multiple agencies. "It took five or six weeks to get the permits done for the first five bridges. But now, we're moving on to more," said Helton. Also present from the Lincoln

Office of Emergency Services was Francis Holton, who, like Helton, delivered remarks at the gathering. Holton spoke of his agency's role in doing everything it can to secure statutory assistance. He also remarked on the disappointment of individual assistance having been denied by FEMA.

The program is pooling resources from many sources. However, donations are also being accepted. The Adopt-A-Bridge program, allows sponsorship of a full bridge for \$16,000. Alternatively, a donation of \$1,000 or more enables a donor to sponsor part of a bridge, by buying the lumber or other materials. Any sized donations are being welcomed and more information can be found online at wvoad.org.

The Bridge Project has many partners, including VOAD agencies, government entities, businesses, and donors.

- The VOAD agencies include:**
- Mennonite Disaster Services
  - United Church of Christ
  - Presbytery of WV
  - American Baptist
  - Council of Churches
  - Operation Hope
  - Lutheran Disaster Response
  - NC Southern Baptist Men
  - Heart 9/11
  - Volunteer WV
  - Southern WV Disaster Center
  - Lutheran Disaster Services

**The statutory agencies involved include:**

- WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - FEMA
  - Division of Highways
  - Lincoln County Commission (Flood Plain Manager Rick Helton)
  - Duval VFD
  - Army Corps of Engineers
- Businesses helping with the effort include:**
- State Farm
  - Lowe's
  - Allegheny Surveys
  - JS Engineering
  - Hannah Lumber
  - Danville Ready Mix
- Donors to the program include**
- The Benedum Foundation
  - The Bernard McDonough Foundation
  - Sisters Health Foundation

The December 2 event in Griffithsville saw video played of the many bridge washouts in Lincoln County and throughout the region. The Plumleys and Adkins also addressed the gathering, describing their respective experiences and their gratitude for the help to date. Work on the Plumley bridge was completed within days of the December 2 ceremony. Pastor Adkins hopes his turn will come soon.

# CROSSWORD

NUMBER 470 Theme: Sight Unseen

"Sight Unseen"

- Across**
- 1 Pale with fright
  - 6 English distance
  - 11 Sleazy paper
  - 14 County, in Britain
  - 15 Nabisco cookies
  - 16 Get on
  - 17 Stealthy gift giver
  - 19 Roof material
  - 20 Antlered critter
  - 21 Period
  - 22 Fuse
  - 24 Neatnik's opposite
  - 26 Baseball card brand
  - 30 Off yonder
  - 31 Comedian Wanda
  - 33 Handle for a poodle
  - 34 Hummuss scooper
  - 35 Singer Rawls
  - 37 Change one's \_\_\_\_
  - 39 Wiggler
  - 40 Newspaper feature
  - 44 Rebel Guevara
  - 45 \_\_\_\_ Romeo
  - 46 Director Wenders
  - 47 Oil of \_\_\_\_
  - 49 Barber's supply
  - 51 Pavarotti, notably
  - 55 Single
  - 56 Rand McNally product
  - 58 Director Ephron
  - 59 Sch. in Madison, N.J.
  - 61 Yuletide beverage
  - 63 Comic Conway
  - 64 Grant-in-\_\_\_\_
  - 65 Detectives for hire
  - 70 Wedding words
  - 71 Leg part
  - 72 Justice Kagan
  - 73 Stimpal pal
  - 74 Pope's "An Essay \_\_\_\_"
  - 75 Little cat

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- Down**
- 1 Size up
  - 2 Like mollusk-laden beaches
  - 3 Wild Bill of the Wild West
  - 4 Be off base
  - 5 Requisite
  - 6 Make the \_\_\_\_ (profit from)
  - 7 Slice of history
  - 8 Gymnast's goal
  - 9 Twaddle
  - 10 Jacob's twin
  - 11 Like constitutional amendments
  - 12 Disturbs
  - 13 Across-the-board
  - 18 Trike rider
  - 23 Forty winks
  - 25 Actor Lugosi
  - 27 Hidden hazard
  - 28 "Bah, humbug!"
  - 29 Toughness
  - 32 Slammin' Sammy
  - 36 Court org.
  - 38 Cut, maybe
  - 40 Salt, for one
  - 41 Used for support
  - 42 "\_\_\_\_ first you don't succeed..."
  - 43 "You got that right!"
  - 44 Arctic blast
  - 48 Evergreen shrub
  - 50 Palestine, in the Bible
  - 52 Procrastinator's reply
  - 53 Set straight
  - 54 Chef Gordon
  - 57 Drunk
  - 60 \_\_\_\_ snuff
  - 62 Nerd
  - 66 Thousandth of a yen
  - 67 Maker of Watson
  - 68 \_\_\_\_ Appia
  - 69 Teacher of Samuel

## Last Week's Solution

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