

FALLING into place

Practice begins for Trojan teams

Sports, Page 1B



Hampshire Review

and The South Branch Intelligencer

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Hello, Hampshire! From Miss West Virginia Jaelyn Wratford

Thomas Schmitt, Augusta Thanks for subscribing

Reward grows for birdhouse bashers Details, Page 8A

BACK TO SCHOOL

'We've got a lot to do'

Fezell aims to bridge academic, emotional gaps at Hampshire High

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF REVIEW STAFF

SUNRISE SUMMIT — Adam Fezell, the new principal at Hampshire High School, is far from an administrative rookie.



New HHS Principal Adam Fezell

ASSISTANCE 2 new hires complete team

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After the resignation of Mike Dufrene in the spring, Fezell threw his hat into the ring, vying for the role of principal.

And a couple weeks ago, he stepped into the position, and has hit the ground running with his new administrative staff.

"We've got a lot to do, especially coming back from this Covid year," Fezell said. "We're going to have kids in the building that haven't been here in 2 years. Our seniors were sophomores when they walked out."

That transition back into full, in-person learning is at the top of Fezell's list of concerns, he said.

"It's an undertaking. We've got a lot to deal with," he added. "Like not just See **FEZELL** page 7A ■

It's over



ED MAURER Review Correspondent

The Hampshire County Fair wrapped up Saturday, to the dismay of more than 1 youngster.

Fair days 2021

\$UM PIG

Auction-goers bid up deceased teen's hog to raise \$25K

Review Staff

AUGUSTA — In true, Hampshire County fashion, the community came together during last week's livestock auction to raise \$25,000 for the Michael family, in honor of the HHS grad who passed away in June.

Laughs, smiles and light-hearted fun are the norm during the fair week, but an emotional livestock sale saw an incredible amount of money raised in honor of Taylor Michael, an FFA member and 2021 HHS graduate who passed away June 10.

In addition to the selling of Taylor's fair hog, there was a silent auction as well.

"Taylor loved this time of year to be with her barn family," FFA advisor Lisa Mo-

reland said in an emotional Facebook post following the sale. "She will always be in our hearts."

There was an outpouring of love and support both at the fair and online after the livestock sale, as the community rallied to raise money in honor of a dedicated FFA member, loving daughter and friend.

Taylor passed away unexpectedly at her home in Kirby just 12 days after her graduation from HHS.

James Lee Jr. shared that all of the funds collected from the auction of Taylor's hog last Friday would go to help the Michael family with funeral expenses, and that any additional funds collected would be used for scholarships in memory of Taylor. □



Taylor Michael's fair hog, which pulled \$25,000 at last week's livestock sale in honor of the teen who passed away in June.

MORE PHOTOS Living, Page 1C

Fair makes more memories

JIM KING Review Staff

AUGUSTA — Entertainment from music to a tractor pull and fair classics from kettle corn to carnival rides added up to a successful 64th annual Hampshire County Fair.

"Those are memories," said Duane "Punkin" Oates, who chairs the fair.

Well, the 2021 fair made a lot of those memories.

Attendance at the fair was up by "about

a thousand" from 2019, Oates said Monday. Saturday night alone, over 1,700 people paid to enter the fairgrounds.

The only night that didn't outdraw 2 years ago was Thursday, which had an afternoon downpour and the threat of more later in the evening.

Attendance Thursday dropped by a whopping 22 people from 2019.

"Mother Nature was very good to us,"

See **FAIR** page 7A ■

OUR ANNUAL SPECIAL SECTION

BACK TO SCHOOL!

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Everything you need to know about Hampshire's school year

Stuff the Bus returns countywide

Review Staff

With the start of the school year only weeks away, Stuff the Bus is returning to help all families here have access to school supplies for students.

Scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., this year's event is the 5th year anniversary of the countywide initiative. The North River Ruritan Club is coordinating it, with help from the Ruritans in Romney, Springfield and Slanesville as well.

This year, 2 additional buses have been added to the program: 1 in Romney at the Family Dollar across from Southern See **BUS** page 7A ■

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Statewide center launches at WVSDDB



JIM KING Review Staff

State Superintendent Clayton Burch ceremonially cuts the ribbon held by Delegate Ruth Rowan and Executive Director Mary Ann Clendenin to open the Technical Assistance Center.

JIM KING Review Staff

ROMNEY — West Virginia's Department of Education spread good news from the campus of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Friday morning.

State Superintendent Clayton Burch, representatives from 7 agencies and some local politicians were on hand to tout the grand opening of the West Virginia Technical Assistance Center for Accessibility and Transitions, housed on the north end of the WVSDDB campus.

The ribbon cutting and speeches took place in front of the building most locals know as the IRC, or Instructional Resource Center, which has provided materials to hearing-

and vision-impaired West Virginians since its construction in 1994.

Now, a yearlong project is turning it into the state Department of Education's technical assistance center for those with access issues, beginning with vision and hearing.

"We're using this as an opportunity to reinvent, modernize and — if you listen to the State Board, they are fully committed to making this school a hallmark of the state," Burch said. "We will make it a beacon for those who need support."

Mary Ann Clendenin, who laid the groundwork for Friday's interdepartmental opening See **WVSDDB** page 7A ■

Peach Fest ripe for picking

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff

ROMNEY — The planning committee for the West Virginia Peach Festival will see the fruits of their labor this weekend as the event kicks off Friday with music, games and fun

Last year's canceled festival was the pits, but plans for this year's event ripened quickly, said event organizer Eva Ansel, who said that planning for the Peach Festival usually begins after the

1st of the year.

This year, however, saw a tinge of uncertainty due to the pandemic, so event planning wasn't underway until months later than normal.

"It's been trying some days," Ansel admitted. "We got a late start and have pulled a lot together in a short time."

Shrinking what would normally be an 8-month planning period into a month

See **PEACH** page 7A ■



Review Files

Folks at the 2019 Peach Festival in Romney line up for some tasty snacks. Last year's festival was canceled due to Covid, but this weekend, it's returning bigger and better than ever.

