



Local men to share stories of recovery. See B3

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Region leads state in hepatitis A cases

BY STEPHANIE PORTER-NICHOLS Staff

Health official says hand washing is key to prevention

Health officials want area residents to know about and take action against a growing disease outbreak.

More hepatitis A cases have been confirmed in the Mount Rogers Health District than any other health region in the com-

monwealth.

Of the 134 hepatitis A cases reported statewide between Jan. 1 and Aug. 15, 23 affected individuals live in the Mount Rogers district, which includes Smyth, Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Washington counties, and

the cities of Bristol and Galax.

The Cumberland Plateau, which serves Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell counties, has been home to 19 cases. Only two other districts report double-digit caseloads of the viral infection that causes in-

flammation of the liver: the Peninsula District (Newport News, Williamsburg) with 14 and the Three Rivers District (Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula) with 11.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) declared Virginia

to be an "outbreak state" in April. The high percentage of cases in Southwest Virginia is due to proximity, said Dr. Karen Shelton, director of the Mount Rogers Health District.

The disease outbreak began in Kentucky, she said, then spread to West Virginia and Tennessee.

See **HEPATITIS**, Page A2

BITTERSWEET WEDDING BELLS

Longtime friends marry

Pair weds two days before Wythe County native loses battle to esophageal cancer

BY JASMINE DENT FRANKS Staff

Wythe County native Lloyd Tomlinson wasn't a dull man. He spent time in the U.S. Army and in the Marines, worked as an aircraft mechanic, coached youth sports, and was working on getting his pilot's license when he died in July.

His accomplishment list was long, indeed, but Tomlinson had one more thing to check off that list.

He meant to marry his longtime sweetheart, Anita.

And so he did. On July 25, at their home in Edgewater, Florida, just two days before Lloyd lost his battle with esophageal cancer, the Tomlinsons wed.

"It was bittersweet," said Lloyd's son, Chris Tomlinson, who stood by his father's side at the wedding as best man. "I'm just extremely glad I was able to be there for it."

Lloyd and Anita first met while Anita was still in high school. They dated briefly during her senior year, but the couple soon drifted apart, though they remained good



(Above left) Lloyd and Anita Tomlinson wed in Florida two days before Lloyd lost his battle with cancer. (Photo courtesy Oh So Sweet Studios). (Inset) Shows Anita and Lloyd at a West Virginia processing center in October 1983, the day Anita left for boot camp.

friends.

Growing up in a military family, Lloyd spent time abroad, living in Germany dur-

ing his youth.

See **WEDDING**, Page A2

Tennessee man faces charges in assault

Staff reports

A Johnson City, Tennessee, man is being held without bond at the regional jail in Abingdon after deputies responded to a report of a sexual assault in Chilhowie on Tuesday night.

Sherriff Chip Shuler said 42-year-old Charles Eugene Dykes is accused of assaulting an 18-year-old Chilhowie woman at gunpoint.

Dykes had been staying with friends at a residence on St. Clairs Creek Road in Chilhowie a few days before the assault

See **ASSAULT**, Page A3



Dykes

Meth conviction leads to federal prison sentence

Staff reports

A third defendant in a Southwest Virginia methamphetamine distribution operation was sentenced Thursday to 14 years in federal prison.

Michelle Renee Boardwine, 36, of Saltville previously pleaded guilty to one count conspiring to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and one count of distributing methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school.

According to documents filed with the court at the time of



Boardwine

See **PRISON**, Page A3

Leaks, rains cause flooding troubles in Saltville

BY LINDA BURCHETTE Staff

Saltville has had a tough time with flooding over the past month due to heavy rains and leaks in a major water line.

Public Works Director R.B. Henderson told town council members at Tuesday's meeting that the Allison Gap Road line is in poor shape with a lot of cor-

rosion and needs replacing. He has been looking into project needs and costs.

Henderson's words were echoed by Gary Johnson with EMS, which manages the town's water and wastewater treatment systems.

The water accountability situation is still high, said Johnson, and had been going down slightly, but now is even higher

due to the numerous leaks. In last month's report to the council, Johnson noted the numerous leaks in the Allison Gap Road line and the need to replace it.

Town staff met with engineering consultants after the major water leaks that have been occurring, said Brian Martin, town manager, in his report to council. "We discussed our path

going forward to replace aging water lines and expedite the interconnection between the town's water system and Washington County Service Authority."

Martin said he is looking into grant opportunities for repairing the water line including through the Mount Rogers

See **SALTVILLE**, Page A2

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Happy Trails

Elk Knob in North Carolina boasts a sky full of mountain ranges and views. See Page B1.



INSIDE

Lincoln

Song of the Mountains in September welcomes music, comedy. See Page A5



Deaths

Edith M. Harper-Halsey
Glen Allen King
Nellie S. Waller White
Erma Lee "Peggy" Singleton

