

# THE GARRETT COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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### GARRETT COUNTY



Meshach Browning Trail System opens in McHenry.

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### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



A sock hop will be held at the Preston Community Arts Center Saturday featuring Back in the Day.

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### SPORTS



Rams boys basketball team dominates Mountain Ridge Miners, 63-42.

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### DEATHS

- BAKER**, Gary L. Sr., 85, Ocala, Fla.
- BELL**, Frances F., 88, McKinney, Texas, formerly of Deep Creek Lake.
- BRENNEMAN**, Pearl B., 81, Bloomington.
- BURDOCK**, Harry A., 75, Frostburg.
- DOERR**, Nancy L., 76, Accident.
- HARSH**, Marvin C., 79, Horse Shoe Run, W.Va.
- KAUFFMAN**, Abraham D., 92, Oakland.
- KISNER**, Eva M., 84, Oakland.
- MILLER**, Larry C., 60, Laurel.
- NEVEKER**, Nancy A., 81, Sykesville.
- RODEHEAVER**, Dale E. Sr., 85, Accident.
- STOCKSLAGER**, John V., 86, Walnut Creek, Ohio, formerly of Grantsville.

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## Pedestrian gateway project at parking lot to expire

by Joseph Hauger EDITOR

OAKLAND — The Oakland Town Council effectively ended the pedestrian gateway project at the municipal parking lot Monday, saying the grant will be allowed to expire and reallocating traffic study funds for improvements at the lot.

The \$100,000 project was meant to address what had been deemed a safety issue at an intersection of pedestrian traffic, railroad tracks and vehicles entering and exiting from multiple directions. The gateway would funnel pedestrians through that side of the lot to the tracks while making access to the downtown area appear more inviting.

It also would have permanently closed traffic access to the lot on the Second Street side, which brought swift reaction after the entrance was blocked in May. It was reopened in July after public concerns were raised about the adverse economic effect on the Mountain Fresh Farmers Market and the safety of the new traffic pattern.

Council President Jay Moyer called on the council to vote to find new uses for approximately \$7,200 that would have been used for a study of traffic patterns and safety in the lot.

"I suggested to (Mayor Peggy Jamison) that we should revisit the idea to do the study," Moyer said. "We've done studies before. In the past, we've tried

to utilize them. A lot of times, it just doesn't pan out the way we actually needed it to. I don't think there's a lot of enthusiasm for the study to be done."

Instead, the money should be used on fixing fences, repairing planters and whatever enhancements may be done to make the lot more attractive, he said.

"I would just like to make sure we're not talking about making the entrance from the railroad tracks into a pedestrian entrance and exit only," Councilman Terry Helbig asked.

"No, maybe just a stop sign ... and we may not even need to do that," Moyer said.

See PROJECT, A3



Oakland Town Council President Jay Moyer, left, compares maps of a proposed alley abandonment with Von "Buzz" Johnson, center, and Rob Hinebaugh on Monday.

## School board starts year with new member

by Joseph Hauger EDITOR

OAKLAND — Garrett County's longtime health officer became the latest face on the Board of Education at Tuesday's meeting.

Rodney Glotfelty, who retired from the health department after 19 years in 2017, was sworn in as the newest school board member by Garrett County Circuit Court Clerk Tim Miller.

He was joined by Matthew Paugh and Monica Rinker, both of whom were re-elected in November. Glotfelty beat incumbent Nathan Sorber for the District 2 seat with a margin of about 4,700 votes.

With the new board in place, members chose to retain Paugh as board president, and voted for Tom Woods as vice president.

At the start of the meeting, the board heard a presentation from representatives of Mountain Laurel Medical Center — even before the swearing-in.

"The first thing we talk about is health-related," Glotfelty said.

In school board business:
• Revisions to the policy regarding how school-sponsored robotics teams are operated in Garrett County were approved.



In this image taken from video, Circuit Court Clerk Tim Miller administers the oath of office to Garrett County Board of Education members, from left, Matthew Paugh, Monica Rinker and Rodney Glotfelty on Tuesday.

While many of the teams are sponsored by outside groups, the board has implemented procedures regarding how the school teams' after-school activities and trips are governed.

The vote had been delayed from December's meeting to allow for additional public input.

Chuck Trautwein, a resource teacher who created the first team in the county in 2002, pointed out the success of Garrett County students in competitions.

At the local qualifier event

held in December in Frostburg, all teams advancing to the state championship were from Garrett County, he said.

"So we have seven teams competing at the state championship now," Trautwein said. "There are 70 teams competing ... seven of which are Garrett County teams — 10 percent. That's from a county that has less than one-half of 1 percent of the total student population of the state of Maryland."

See BOE, A3



Watershed coordinator Gary Aronhalt, right, presents the Deep Creek Watershed Administrative Council's annual report to Garrett County commissioners Monday afternoon. From left are Commissioners Paul Edwards, Jim Hinebaugh and Larry Tichnell.

## Watershed Administrative Council presents annual report

by Renée Shreve STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Garrett County Department of Planning and Land Management Watershed Coordinator Gary Aronhalt presented the Deep Creek Watershed Administrative Council's annual report to county commissioners Monday afternoon.

"The 2018 focus included communication, education, marketing and renewal of the MOU," Aronhalt reported. "The council continues to promote the watershed website (garrettcounty.org/watershed) as the authoritative source on information throughout the county."

The council was formed through a memorandum of understanding between the county, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Department of the Environment, shortly following the adoption of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan in October 2016. Its members are Department of Planning and Land Management Director Deborah Carpenter, DNR biologist Julie Bortz and Kenneth Shanks of the MDE.

The memorandum of understanding between the three agencies was renewed last month.

"This will allow the council to continue through 2020," Aronhalt said.

He said the DNR recently launched a web page called

"Eyes on Deep Creek Lake." Information about water quality, based on DNR monitoring at certain locations, can be downloaded from the site.

Aronhalt said the council continued to work with its Educational Advisory Committee in 2018. The local volunteers represent a wide range of backgrounds: Willie Lantz, agriculture; Lauren McCann, business; Bruce Taliaferro, education; Ken Fisher, forestry; Sarah Duck, marketing; and Richard Matlick, Gary Shaffer and Bob Sutton, property owners.

"They provide feedback to the council regarding education issues in the watershed," the coordinator said.

The EAC has identified six broad outreach topics: erosion, invasive species, pollution, recycling, safety and stormwater management.

Aronhalt reported the committee has also developed a logo to be used on educational and outreach materials. The emblem features a boater, large fish and an eagle at a lake, along with a slogan, "Beautiful Garrett County: Protect and Conserve, It's Up to You."

The EAC's three "action plans" for 2018 were: establishing a sense of ownership in the watershed, establishing a uniform public message and establishing a funding source for educational outreach.

See REPORT, A3

## Annual Town Convention set in Accident

by Brenda Ruggiero STAFF WRITER

ACCIDENT — The annual Town Convention will be held in Accident on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

The announcement was made at the monthly town council meeting. According to Clerk Ruth Ann Hahn, the purpose of the convention is to accept nominations to be placed on the ballot during the March election.

Nominations will be accepted for the office of mayor and two council seats.

Richard Carlson has been the mayor since he was first elected in 1999.

One council seat is currently held by Travis Pickett and the other by Maureen Myers, who is finishing the term of Frank Scaffido, who resigned last year.

Council members must reside within the town limits for



Accident Town Council members discuss the upcoming convention. From left are Maureen Myers, Amy Hook, Mayor Richard Carlson, Clerk Ruth Ann Hahn (hidden), Travis Pickett and Brenda Shields.

at least one year and must be registered voters.

In order to vote at the election, one must be a registered voter at least 30 days prior to election, and also must reside within the town limits for at least 30 days prior to election.

The February town meeting will be held immediately following the town convention.

In other business:

• Jenna Wilt gave a report of Garrett County Sheriff's Office activity in Accident during 2018.

There were 63 patrols, one animal complaint, seven bench warrants served, three eviction notifications, one motor vehicle crash, three patrol checks and two special assignments.

See ACCIDENT, A3

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