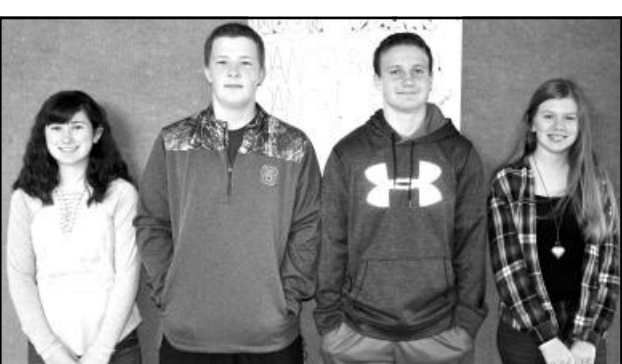


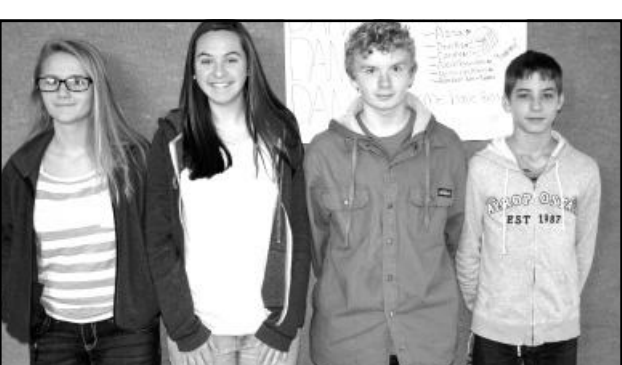


Bulldog Faces in the News

West Alexander Middle School honors students at Awards Day Ceremonies



PANTHERS STUDENTS OF MONTH - The WAMS Panthers' Students of the Month for December are: Caroline Willis, Eden Austin, Luke Noble, and Landon Dula.



PANTHERS STUDENTS OF MONTH - The WAMS Panthers' Students of the Month for January are: Gabe Abbott, Michael Tripp, Paige Hedrick, and Ivy Fortner.



KNIGHTS STUDENTS OF MONTH - The WAMS Knights' Students of the Month for December are: Eli Austin, Chloe Wike, Lyah Hefner, and Joel Trevino (not pictured).



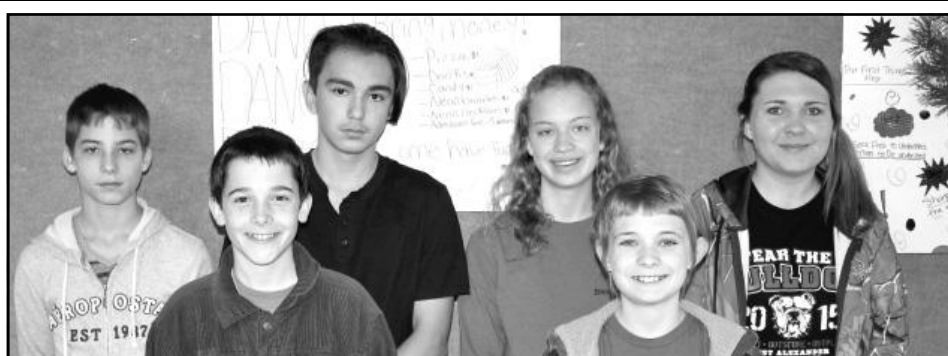
DRAGONS STUDENTS OF MONTH - The WAMS Knights' Students of the Month for November are: Levi Bumgarner, Kyra Byrd, Zoe Fox, and Triston Watts.



DRAGONS STUDENTS OF MONTH - The WAMS Dragons' Students of the Month for December are: Christopher Bryant, Jenna Hensley, Macy Johnson, and Logan Lail.

Bus Riders of the Month

The West Alexander Middle School Bus Riders of the Month for November are: Chesnie Chatham, Gabe Abbott, Brittany Pratt, Kert Long, Toby Slager, Shirley Frazier, and Bobby Hudson.



The West Alexander Middle School Bus Riders of the Month for December are: Nathan Kerley, Savanna Evans, Heather Fox, Chloe Wike, Monica Vang, Rylan Austin, Justin Echerd, and Michael Brown.

The West Alexander Middle School Bus Riders of the Month for January are: Kayley Fincannon, Autumn Yang, Heather Fox, Linda Yang, Shay St.Clair, Dustin Wilkinson, Bryan Saffin, and Sara Warta.



WAMS names Teachers of the Month

Each month, the West Alexander Middle School Student Council recognizes one of the school's teachers with a special honor.

The WAMS Teacher of the Month is presented to an educator at the school that goes the extra mile for students and staff.

Three West Alexander Middle School Teachers were recently honored as Teachers of the Month. In November, WAMS named Ryan Rowe the Teacher of the Month. Jody Frye received the teacher of the month honor for December, while Tamara Kirby was named the school's January Teacher of the Month.



November Teacher of the Month Ryan Rowe



December Teacher of the Month Jody Frye



January Teacher of the Month Tamara Kirby

Local residents urged to take part in Unifour CEDS survey

Planning is currently underway for the 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and the public's input is requested by completing a survey about your community.

The CEDS is implemented by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments in the four-county region of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba. Partners from various backgrounds in the four-county region have formed a CEDS committee and are meeting to complete the CEDS.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process is a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process. Economic development planning as implemented through the CEDS can successfully serve as a means to engage community leaders, leverage the involvement of the private sector and establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration. The CEDS can provide a capacity-building founda-

tion by which the public sector, working in conjunction with other economic actors, can enhance the environment for regional economic prosperity.

The public's input in the CEDS process is important. Residents' responses inform the CEDS Committee of the positives and negatives, both real and perceived for the Western Piedmont region.

Furthermore, these responses provide valuable information that helps to guide the CEDS process and helps the Committee formulate measurable goals and objectives to make our community more economically competitive.

If you are a resident or work in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, or Catawba counties, you have a stake in this community's future success.

The survey link is online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WR2DD9Y>.

For more information, visit www.wpeog.org/ceds, or call the Western Piedmont Council of Governments at (828) 322-9191.

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