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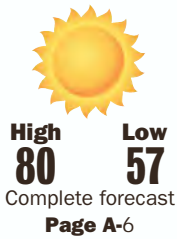
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TRANSPORT

Smith, Mountain Line board negotiating terms for CEO position

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

The Mountain Line Transit Authority's search for a new CEO spanned the country. It even drew some interest from Canada. And while it's not yet official, it now appears as if the search actually started and ended right down the hall from the board's meeting room. Maria Smith, a 16-year Mountain Line employee and the interim CEO since Dave Bruffy left the position in July, has been offered the job and is currently in contract negotiations with the MLTA Board of Directors. The board met in executive session as part of Wednesday's regular monthly meeting before voting to counter an offer put forward by Smith. "We're negotiating a contract at this time. She had requested some additional benefits, and we intend to provide her with a counteroffer," Board President Jenny Dinsmore said. Dinsmore said Smith is the only applicant the board has interviewed at this time. "We aren't really looking at anybody else. Maria is solid. She knows what she's doing, and she handles things the right way. It's just a negotiation of benefits," she said. Prior to July, Smith spent five years as Mountain Line's assistant manager of administration and marketing under Bruffy. Mountain Line received 12 applications for the opening. They represented a handful of states, including Oregon, Texas, Illinois, Indiana and Pennsylvania and even stretched north of the border, with two coming from Ontario, Canada. Dinsmore previously explained Smith was the only applicant with both adequate

SEE CEO, A-2

MON COUNTY

Frustrations mount as state says it will not entertain maintenance agreements

BY BEN CONLEY
BConley@DominionPost.com

The West Virginia Division of Highways has no interest in any agreements, deals, memorandums or pilot programs through which counties or municipalities could address the condition of state routes. DOH Chief Engineer of

Operations Joe Pack explained as much in response to questions from The Dominion Post. "The WVDOH is not going to entertain any ideas which involve abdicating our responsibility in maintaining the roads in the state of West Virginia," he explained. "However, the WVDOH will continue to eval-

uate all available opportunities to make improvements in the performance of our organization." The questions were put to the DOH in light of mounting frustrations from both county and municipal officials over the condition of state-maintained routes.

In addition to actual road conditions, weeds are growing unchecked along major thoroughfares, at interstate exits and sprouting up through medians. Signs and sight lines are obscured by overgrowth. During Wednesday's Monongalia County Commission

SEE ENTERTAIN, A-2

Brush with brilliance



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Emily Calandrelli reacts to the results of her Elephant Tooth Paste experiment, one of several she performed during a visit to Mountaineer Middle School on Wednesday.

Emily Calandrelli makes science fun at Mountaineer Middle visit

BY JIM BISSETT
JBissett@DominionPost.com

That's the thing about Elephant Toothpaste — it knows how to make an entrance. Here's the recipe: Take ordinary tap water, add a dollop of liquid dish soap, some dry yeast, food coloring and hydrogen peroxide. Mix it all together, step back, then watch as the foamy concoction bursts forth — in ropes wide enough, and thick enough, to clean a pachyderm's pearls. Emily Calandrelli, the celebrity science-chef who mixed up the batch, stepped back and whooped along with the rest of the Mountaineer Middle student body. "Whoa," she said, enjoying her audience's reaction. "Is that cool, or what?" Making science and technology cool is in the job description of the Morgantown native and aerospace engineer-turned TV host, who visited the school on Wednesday. Calandrelli, who grew up in Suncrest, is known mainly these days as the host and co-executive producer of "Emily's Wonder Lab" on Netflix. "Xploration Outer Space," on Fox is another starring vehicle for Calandrelli, who has earned Emmy nominations for her work in front of

the camera. Which is pretty good, she said, for a person who previously didn't mind one bit being behind the beakers and behind the scenes, working through a labyrinth of equations, reports and experiments — with the goal of using science and technology to help make life better for the rest of us. Accessibility is the key to the equation, she told the students who filled the bleachers in the Mountaineer Middle gym for her appearance. However, she added, the above is also a proper science textbook example on the particulars of chemical catalysis. It's a reaction that makes a lot of things happen to the good on this rock in outer space that we happen to call home. Calandrelli studied abroad in Turkey as a WVU student and has since traveled the world as a science educator. She's even been to Star City. No, the other one. The one in Russia, where the cosmonauts train

SEE BRUSH, A-2

WVU

Transformation moves on to Academic Support Units

Libraries will realize \$800K in savings through staff cuts

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

WVU Libraries will develop a plan to reorganize to realize \$800,000 in savings through personnel reductions, Associate Provost Mark Gavin said during a Wednesday Campus Conversation. As part of the ongoing Academic Transformation, Libraries was one of 20 Academic Support Units that operate under the provost's office and were subject to review to create a "more focused and cost-efficient suite of academic support services to assist colleges and schools while better serving students' needs." As with the academic programs subject to review, the ASU review could lead to six possible outcomes including continuing at the current level of activity, continuing with specific actions or reduced level of activity, and discontinuance. The process began in May, Gavin said, but was paused during the academic program review. It included self-studies, discussions with unit leaders and stakeholder surveys. Unlike the academic reviews, ASU reviews were not subject to Board of Governors rules and the recommendations are not appealable — though discussions will continue. The Institutional Research ASU results are still forthcoming, Gavin said. Of the other 19, none were recommended for discontinuance; six were continued as-is; 11 were continued with specific action; two, including Libraries, were recommended to continue with reductions. The recommendation letter sent to Libraries Dean Karen Diaz noted that the review revealed "numerous and substantial questions" about staffing levels, but that it is effective at providing key services and stakeholder comments were "voluminous and positive."

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#1

BRUSH

FROM PAGE A-1

for their missions beyond Earth's orbit.

Her dot on that rock in space we happen to call home, though, as said, is Morgantown.

Calandrelli makes it back every chance she gets.

She was scheduled to deliver keynote remarks at a technology conference here Wednesday night.

Her appearance at Mountaineer Middle, which she worked in, coincided with the school's new initiative to boost flagging science grades in a school that otherwise soars in reading and math.

Her remarks were about science and more — with a spin of social awareness and work ethic worthy of Ray Bradbury.

"You don't have to be the smartest person in the room," she said. "Just the hardest working."

The Elephant Toothpaste-like key to it all?

Don't be afraid to fail, she said.

After all, she said. That's how scientific advances become, well, scientific advances.

"There's not usually a 'eureka' moment in science," she told her audience.

"It's more like, 'Huh, that's weird. We should look at that more.'"

Meanwhile, she's using her marquee standing as a communicator of all things related to science and technology — both on this planet and past its

gravitational pull.

Her mission?

To encourage young people to do what she does.

Just because they can. "When I first started pitching TV shows, I'd be in rooms with producers who would say, 'Do you have a boyfriend who could co-host with you?' They didn't think a female would be taken seriously."

Along with her work on cable and Netflix, she's also a best-selling author of children's books.

Her "Ada Lace" series is about a little girl in West Virginia who can't get enough of her science class at school.

In a Mountaineer Middle hallway afterward, Calandrelli, in turn, laughed and said she can't get enough of her spinoff career in media.

The Science Guy (and other soles)

Being able to call the personal cell phone number of Bill Nye, the Science Guy, is still a kick, she said.

And signing autographs, she happily allowed, never gets old.

At Mountaineer Middle on Wednesday, she even signed a kid's shoe.

"Awesome!" the kid sang out, as he held his scientifically anointed footwear aloft.

Calandrelli laughed — and then had an earth-bound observation.

"I signed it on the bottom," she said. "That's an expensive shoe. I don't want his mom mad at me for writing all over it."

CEO

FROM PAGE A-1

transit experience and the desired certifications in place.

Smith said she didn't wish to comment until the contract is finalized, but noted she's hopeful negotiations will be concluded by the end of the month, when her interim status is scheduled to end.

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Newsroom: 304-291-9425

Classified: 304-291-9420

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

Circulation: 304-292-6301

7 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

USPS 159680

VOL. 60 NO. 77

The Dominion Post is published daily and Sunday by the West Virginia Newspaper Publishing Co., Greer Building, Morgantown, WV 26505. Periodicals postage paid at Morgantown, WV. Single Copy \$2 daily and \$3 on Sunday. Home Delivery \$4.80 per week.

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WORLD

Grain spat drags Ukraine's ties with ally Poland to lowest point since start of Russian invasion

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A dispute about whether Ukrainian grain should be allowed to enter the domestic markets of Poland and other European Union countries has pushed the tight relationship between Kyiv and Warsaw to its lowest point since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Polish leaders have compared Ukraine to a drowning person hurting his helper and threatened to expand a ban on food products from the war-

torn country. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested that EU allies that are prohibiting imports of his nation's grain are helping Russia.

Poland, on NATO's eastern flank, has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine, sending weapons and humanitarian aid and opening its borders to refugees.

Now, Polish officials, who are trying to win parliamentary elections next month with help from

farmers' votes, are expressing dismay over some of Ukraine's latest moves, including a World Trade Organization complaint over bans on Ukrainian grain from Poland and two other EU countries.

"Alarmingly, some in Europe play out solidarity in a political theater — turning grain into a thriller. They may seem to play their own roles. In fact, they're helping set the stage for a Moscow actor," Zelenskyy said Tuesday during the U.N.

General Assembly.

Poland's deputy foreign minister, Pawel Jablonski, on Wednesday voiced "strong protest" of Zelenskyy's comments to Ukrainian Ambassador Vasyl Zvarych.

Jablonski "indicated that it is untrue, as far as Poland is concerned, and that the opinion is unjustified toward the country that has been supporting Ukraine from the very first days of the war," the Polish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

ENTERTAIN

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meeting, President Tom Bloom said this past Saturday's prime time showdown with backyard rival Pittsburgh should have been a showcase for West Virginia, Monongalia County and the city of Morgantown.

"The amount of calls I've received is unbelievable. Some of them were from people who don't live here, and they were very angry at Monongalia County and very embarrassed that we as a county commission were allowing this to happen," he said. "It was difficult to listen to because we're as frustrated as they are."

Bloom said his frustration comes largely from a

seeming lack of interest at the state level. He said DOH officials canceled a meeting with local representatives scheduled for last Thursday and have not responded to his calls to reschedule.

The city of Morgantown has made multiple overtures to the DOH in recent months. The city has asked about scheduling meetings, taking over smaller state-maintained connector streets within its boundaries and even potentially working with the state on an agreement or pilot program to take on certain maintenance projects with DOH reimbursement.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli said the city has never received a response from the state.

"The residents of Mon County are suffering from

lack of maintenance and attention on state roadways, and their pleas for help have been unanswered by the state," she said, noting the city was asked for, and provided, creative solutions to address its concerns.

"However, we are hitting a wall with how to provide a transportation system that our residents deserve. Our main issue is we do not have jurisdiction to work on state-maintained roadways without their permission and, therefore, cannot make the necessary changes," Muzzarelli said.

"At the end of the day, we want every person in Morgantown to feel safe using our roads. Our mission as a city is to deliver excellent services that encourage the community to thrive, and right now, the WVDOH is

hindering us from doing so. We want to be part of the solution and are more than willing to be an active partner with the WVDOH in implementing an action plan going forward."

Bloom reiterated that his frustrations are not with county and district personnel.

"I'm flabbergasted that the state is not responding to the governmental bodies. What did we do to deserve this type of treatment at the state level? It really frustrates me that [The Dominion Post] got an answer, but the city of Morgantown has been waiting on one for five months," Bloom said. "If they don't want the city or anyone to do anything, then fix the roads and take care of them. Doing nothing is not a solution."

UNITS

FROM PAGE A-1

Gavin said Diaz worked with the provost's office on the proposed reductions to achieve savings without harming service levels.

Diaz said in a press release, "Library materials and services are critical to the success of our students, faculty, staff and community and we will not compromise them. That's why I worked with the provost's office to determine how we could realize up to \$800,000 in savings without affecting our materials budget. ... It will mean that we must rethink how we are organized to deliver our ongoing and evolving services."

Libraries staff non-renewal notifications will be sent between Dec. 8-15. The unit will also look for opportunities to condense physical spaces across locations on the Morgantown, Health Sciences and regional campuses, and to reduce space needs within its facilities. No facilities

will be closed.

Teaching and Learning Commons is the other ASU subject to activity reductions. TLC provides teaching support and resources for faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows — including mentoring faculty and instructors, providing training workshops and supporting the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The recommendation letter says stakeholder feedback was overall positive but there is some duplication of services and its portfolio has grown, reflecting an expansion of its core mission.

TLC must shift to a more focused mission around the development of instructional skills, with some activities and staff shifting to other units.

These ASUs were continued with specific recommended actions:

■ Career Services, which is understaffed but is critical to student success; a task force will be formed to help the unit come up with responses to recommendations and develop a

plan for appropriate staffing levels and to look at better integration into college-level curriculum and experiences and to explore its relationship with the recently launched Purpose Center.

■ WVU Online; the Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success; the ADVANCE Center; the Office of Accessibility Services. Recommendations include developing a plan to address a comprehensive marketing strategy, technology infrastructure, programming and instructional design.

■ The Honors College, which will determine if staffing levels can be reduced among graduate teaching assistants and student workers, and evaluate the need for staff positions that may be more appropriate for traditional colleges;

■ The Office of Global Affairs has already reduced staffing numbers. Recommendations include a call to increase communication with the campus community about changes in federal policies and the result-

ing effects for faculty, students and programming.

■ WVU Press and the Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, which will both be called on to look for external funding.

■ The University Registrar is tasked with evaluating whether particular functions and services could be improved by adjustments to in-person or remote work appointments.

■ Graduate Education and Life should improve its responsiveness to faculty and student inquiries and concerns and provide consistent in-person support that aligns with graduate student schedules.

These ASUs will continue as-is:

■ Center for Veterans, Military and Family Programs

■ Center for Excellence in STEM Education

■ LGBTQ+ Center

■ Women's Resource Center

■ University Testing Center.

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EDITORIAL

Local firefighter case will set statewide precedent

The ongoing dispute between the City of Morgantown and local firefighters over holiday pay has made its way to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Whatever the court decides will impact paid firefighters across the Mountain State.

As Erin Cleavenger reported, International Association of Firefighters Local 313 contends Morgantown did not fully compensate firefighters for shifts worked on holidays. In a previous ruling, Monongalia County Circuit Court Judge Phillip D. Gaujot said firefighters were entitled to time off or additional pay only during the legal holiday itself, but the state Wage Payment and Collection Act does not apply to this case, so the City of Morgantown did not fail to pay “wages” or “fringe benefits” to the firefighters. (Morgantown firefighters work 24-hour shifts beginning at 8 a.m., so they did not receive holiday pay for hours worked outside the official holiday.)

Attorney Teresa Toriseva is representing Morgantown’s firefighters. She believes the clear language of the WPCA mandates that firefighters get holiday pay whether they work the holiday or not. She argued before the state supreme court that firefighters’ 24-hour shift is typically considered one calendar day when calculating payroll, sick days, vacation days, etc., regardless of when the shift begins, so holiday pay should be calculated that way as well.

The West Virginia Supreme Court is tasked with deciding whether holiday pay under the firefighter holiday pay statute is a “wage” under the Wage Payment Collection Act and whether a firefighter will be paid for their entire shift or just the portion.

We don’t know what the high court will decide. What we do know is that whatever the state supreme court decides, it won’t just affect Morgantown — it will set a precedent that impacts paid fire departments throughout West Virginia.

Several cities have faced similar cases in the last few years, including Huntington and Parkersburg. In those cases — unlike the Morgantown’s — judges ruled in favor of the firefighters.

In the Huntington case, according to the West Virginia Record, “firefighters who have no duty hours on the relevant holidays will be provided an additional 12 hours of paid time off over and above what they now receive under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. A firefighter who ends his shift at 7 a.m. on the holiday will receive an additional 5 hours of paid time off over and above what they now receive under the current CBA. Those who start their shift at 7 a.m. on a holiday will be paid according to the CBA.”

In the Parkersburg case, as also reported by the West Virginia Record, the judge ruled “the city shall pay the firefighters based on their 24-hour shift, meaning 36 hours of pay or 24 hours equal time off for each legal holiday. ... [F]irefighters who worked overtime during previous holidays are owed wages for two times their regular rate of pay.”

The City of Huntington has already agreed to a backpay settlement, but both it and Parkersburg will look to the West Virginia Supreme Court’s decision in the Morgantown case for any payments and policies moving forward. This makes Morgantown’s case the one to watch. It will either reaffirm what other cities have been told to do, or it will reverse those lower court rulings.

The real reason Hunter is in trouble

HUNTER BIDEN WAS CHARGED LAST THURSDAY WITH THREE FELONIES RELATED TO LYING ON A 2018 APPLICATION TO BUY A GUN. BUT IT’S HARD NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT HIS TRUE OFFENSE is being the son of a president whom Republicans are hell-bent on vilifying and defeating.

The indictment largely relies on Biden’s false claim that he was not using illegal drugs when he applied to purchase the firearm. In fact, he was then in the depths of the cocaine addiction that drove a series of travails that Republicans continue to weaponize against his father.

The Justice Department had previously negotiated a plea agreement with Biden that included a gun charge following some five years of investigation by David Weiss, Trump’s U.S. attorney for Delaware, whom President Joe Biden allowed to remain in office in a departure from standard procedure. Hunter Biden agreed to plead guilty to two misdemeanor tax offenses and enter a pretrial diversion under which the felony gun charge would be dropped if he stays on the straight and narrow for two years. Such agreements are a fairly common means of disposing of less serious charges.

The plea deal unraveled for unusual reasons having nothing to do with Biden. The parties imprudently included provisions that gave a judge legitimate misgivings about whether she was being called on to participate in a determination that Biden would not be prosecuted on other charges, assuming an executive branch function in violation of the separation of powers. The agreement was therefore taken off the table to allow for renegotiation.

But that provided an opening for a firestorm of protest on Capitol Hill from Donald Trump’s allies, who railed at the supposed sweetheart deal. As I explained at the time, however, the general outlines of the agreement amounted to a sensible resolution of a case that the Justice Department could well have lost at trial.

It has since become even more obvious that all the rancor

over the deal was aimed at the president himself, whom extremists in Congress, whipped up by Trump, are spoiling to impeach. The Republicans have nothing of substance to impeach Biden for, so they are straining to connect him to the sins of his son with ill-founded conjecture. Trump and his supporters’ unhinged animus in this cause is so great that the FBI set up a special task force to deal with the unprecedented number of threats against agents and prosecutors working on the Hunter Biden case.

The clearest sign that something really stinks here is that the charges Weiss brought are rarely pursued for their own sake. The department does bring such charges against defendants who use improperly obtained firearms to commit other crimes. And in one or two instances, prosecutors appear to have used such charges against defendants whom they knew to be particularly dangerous. But this indictment over an isolated lie by a relatively harmless firearm applicant seems to be without precedent.

So why was Weiss able to pursue charges that wouldn’t normally be brought?

If Weiss were a regular prosecutor, his decisions would be subject to a supervisory structure that would enforce Justice Department policies and equal treatment of similarly situated individuals. But amid the political outcry, the U.S. attorney petitioned Attorney General Merrick Garland for special counsel status — never mind that special counsels are supposed to come from outside the department. Garland’s hand was effectively forced under

the circumstances, and Weiss got what he asked for, along with a large measure of independence from normal procedures.

Antonin Scalia, most conservatives’ beau idéal of a Supreme Court justice, warned us about this.

“The independent counsel ... operating in an area where so little is law and so much is discretion, is intentionally cut off from the unifying influence of the Justice Department, and from the perspective that multiple responsibilities provide,” the late justice wrote. “How frightening it must be to have your own independent counsel and staff appointed, with nothing else to do but to investigate you until investigation is no longer worthwhile.”

Although Scalia’s constitutional argument didn’t carry the day, the policy concerns he expressed led Congress to repeal the independent counsel law. It was replaced with the special counsel structure through Justice Department regulations that were meant to be more aligned with standard policy. But peculiar political events have conspired to put Weiss in much the same insulated position as the independent counsels of yore, with the same toxic results.

As for Hunter Biden, he still has some legal cards to play. His aggressive and able counsel, Abbe Lowell, will no doubt argue that the charges amount to an unlawful vindictive prosecution. And recent appellate court rulings suggesting that even felons retain their 2nd Amendment rights could cast a constitutional shadow on at least one of the gun charges.

But given that these arguments are relative long shots for Biden, it’s likely he will have to go to trial on charges that are seldom brought in the middle of a presidential contest between his father and Trump. That will give radical Republicans in Congress the talking point they need to muddy the waters with respect to Trump’s multiple criminal indictments. Weiss has given them just what they wanted.

HARRY LITMAN is the host of the “Talking Feds” podcast. @harrylitman



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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What about Gina Raimondo for VP?

AS JOE BIDEN RUNS FOR A SECOND TERM, WE’LL BE HEARING MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS AGE-RELATED COGNITIVE ABILITIES. So far, he’s doing just fine. And never mind that his likely Republican opponent, Donald Trump, gave speeches last weekend confusing the current president with Barack Obama and babbling fearfully about Biden leading us into “World War II.” For the historically impaired, World War II ended 78 years ago, in our favor, by the way.

Democrats can allay their own concerns by pairing Biden with a very strong running mate, in effect creating a co-presidency. That would require replacing Vice President Kamala Harris. The process could be messy, but it’s necessary. Harris is most unpopular.

Several names have come up with one an obvious winner. That would be Gina Raimondo, Biden’s super-empowered Secretary of Commerce.



FROMA HARROP

Before going on, let’s dispose of the irritating notion Biden must replace a female VP with another female VP. Gender is not, and never should be, a qualification. Making that argument in Raimondo’s case is especially unfair to Raimondo. She is a dynamo who already stands toe-to-toe with the world’s political and economic leaders, male and female alike.

Because she’s been doing serious wonk work, Raimondo, age 52, hasn’t been getting the bright-lights attention of female pols who do the easy stuff, like talking

about abortion rights.

A former governor of Rhode Island, Raimondo is leading the \$100 billion campaign to make America the leading chipmaking power and expand broadband access. She likes to call the Chip Act “rocket fuel for our global competitiveness.”

Our tech future, including artificial intelligence and supercomputing, shouldn’t be relying on the good graces of China, which is close to dominating the world’s supply of semiconductors. She will also oversee controls on exports of advanced semiconductors and equipment to China.

Founder of a venture capital fund, Raimondo gets along famously well with business leaders. But she’s still a Democrat. Raimondo has imposed some discipline on executive pay by restricting stock options at companies getting government subsidies. As governor, she started free

community college and all-day kindergarten in Rhode Island.

For those who want their candidates to offer inspiring backstories, Raimondo has one. She grew up in a “close-knit” Italian American family. When she was in the sixth grade, her father lost his job at a Bulova watch factory after working there 28 years. Raimondo knows the economic and psychic toll of factories closing down.

Harris has marketed herself as a “person of color” who has suffered the hardships that implies, but her father was an economics professor at Stanford and her mother a medical researcher. Raimondo has a much stronger claim to being a child of the working class.

Some on the Democratic left flank think Raimondo is too friendly to business, but those suspicions could be an asset in a general election. She has won a good number of Republican fans and could peel off votes of conservatives sickened by the former

grifter-in-chief’s reign of chaos.

Last month, The Wall Street Journal ran a profile of Raimondo as glowing as this one. It was titled “Everyone Wants to Talk to Gina Raimondo — Even China.”

Raimondo’s qualifications dwarf those of all the talked-about running mates for Donald Trump. They dwarf Trump’s qualifications as well. A comparison of cognitive abilities would also not be to Trump’s advantage.

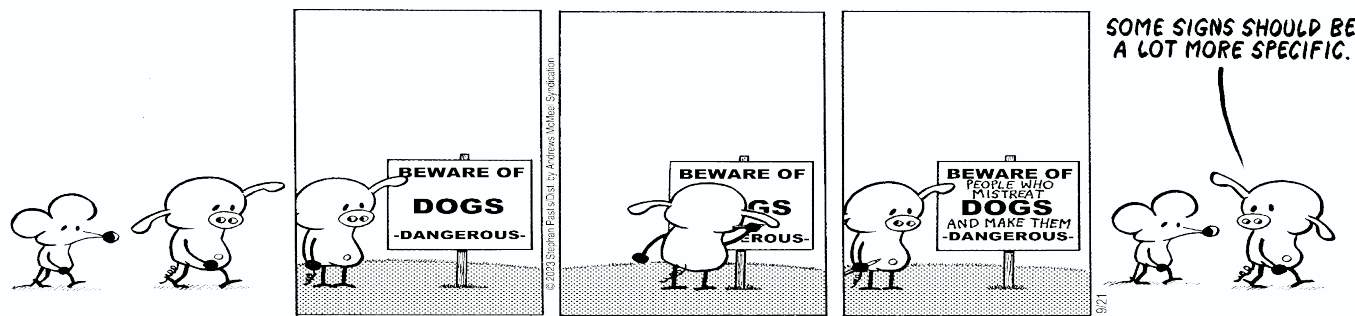
The proudly pro-business Raimondo could better sell the successes of Bidenomics to the public than Biden has. She would talk economy; he, labor. They could both do foreign policy.

Raimondo playing co-pilot with Biden would offer Democrats a truly powerful ticket in 2024. She belongs at the front of the line of potential new running mates.

Democrats should be asking themselves: “What about Gina Raimondo?”

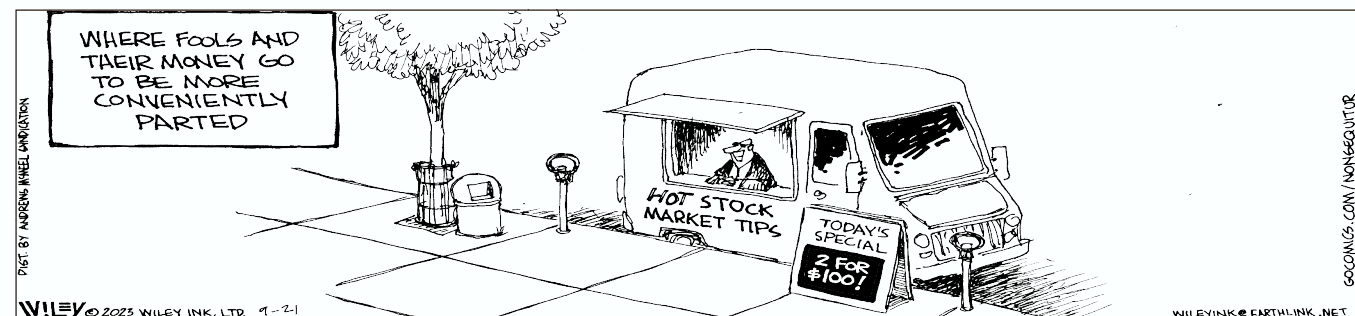
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

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COMMUNITY

Home explosion victim has long road to recovery

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER
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One of the victims in the Sept. 6 home explosion at 727 Wells St. will likely have a long road to recovery after suffering severe burns in the blast.

Fire investigators with the Morgantown Fire Department said Wednesday the official cause of the explosion is still under investigation; however, firefighters and other emergency personnel on scene Sept. 6 believed the cause might have been a gas leak in the home that ignited when one of the residents attempted to light a candle.

All four residents of the house, Carly Grozier, Maddie Granger,

Emma Dodson and Meghan Harris made it out of the structure alive, but Grozier was exposed to the full force of the explosion.

Grozier, a West Virginia University student from Bethlehem, Pa., was air-lifted to an intensive care burn unit at an undisclosed hospital in Pittsburgh. She suffered third-degree burns on 50% of her body. It has been 15 days since the incident and she still remains in the ICU.

The Dominion Post spoke with Grozier's attorney Michael Budner of Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Bendesky Trial Lawyers in Philadelphia, who hesitantly said Grozier's condition was improving, but added that she remains heavily sedated and is "by

no means out of the woods."

She is expected to remain in the hospital for the foreseeable future and will likely need to have several surgeries to repair the burned areas.

In the meantime, two GoFundMe fundraisers have been collecting donations to aid Grozier with her hospital bills. As of Wednesday afternoon, the combined total of the two fundraisers, one titled "Carly Grozier Medical Bills" and the second titled "Carly Grozier 727 Wells Explosion," had exceeded \$28,000.

Budner said they will be working to schedule a home inspection with insurance companies as well as the fire marshal's office and

other potential players in the case for "what is likely to be a litigation."

"We're eager to get justice for these families and, you know, more importantly find out what happened in this tragic explosion and to ensure that explosions and incidents like this don't happen to others," Budner said. "That's our goal here and we are going to keep moving forward to get justice for the family."

No legal action in the case has been officially filed in court at this time.

Following the explosion, crews with Hope Gas surveyed the remainder of Wells Street as well as adjacent streets and did not

discover any leaks in the main line. Officials with the gas company said a few minor non-hazardous leaks on service lines were found while performing their review of the area and out of an abundance of caution placed them on an expedited schedule for repairs.

Hope Gas officials remind residents that natural gas is odorless, and an odorant is added so homeowners can detect leaks. The odorant is described as having a sulfur-like smell often compared to a rotten egg.

Any time a gas odor is detected, residents should call the Hope Gas emergency number at 1-800-934-3187 immediately to report it, so crews can be sent to investigate.

Help for new moms



Submitted photo

Michelle Kline of MCHD WIC looks at a phone photo of Ralynn Thomas' son Terry during a visit at WVU Medicine Children's following Terry's birth.

MCHD WIC teams up with WVU Medicine Children's to get kids signed up at birth

DPNews@DominionPost.com

On a late summer day, Ralynn Thomas rests in her room at WVU Medicine Children's when she receives a visit from Michelle Kline, a breastfeeding counselor at Monongalia County Health Department's WIC office.

The new mother had already signed up for WIC, the acronym for the federal nutrition assistance program Women, Infants and Children, while she was pregnant with her newborn son, Terry Myers.

The women chat and Thomas, of Rowlesburg, shows Kline a phone photo of Terry doing well in the NICU. If he were there with Thomas, Kline could augment the hospital's lactation specialists' instructions with some breastfeeding tips if needed.

And if Thomas had not already signed up for WIC during her pregnancy, Kline could supply her with an EBT card to use for shopping for approved items.

"Some new mothers stop by the WIC office on their way home from the hospital, newborn in tow, so this is very convenient for them," Kline said.

When you've just packed a tiny baby into your car, repeating the process a few minutes later at the nearby MCHD WIC office is not what most new parents want to do on the way home from the hospital, she explained.

That's where MCHD WIC's new collaboration with WVU Medicine Children's comes in. The hospital contacted the MCHD WIC office earlier this year to discuss a joint effort that would involve having WIC staff on site to connect new mothers and their babies to the nutrition program and help them with any other WIC-related needs.

"We have a lot of patients that require a lot of support," said Miranda Nuzum, director of perinatal nursing at WVU Medicine Children's. "So we were tasked to find a way to collaborate with a facility to help prepare our patients or get them signed up for resources prior to leaving the hospital."

Said Cami Haught, program manager of MCHD WIC, which encompasses the WIC offices in Monongalia, Preston, Marion, Harrison, Taylor and Doddridge

counties: "We thought it was a great idea."

And the new mothers have embraced the help. "One mom said she was much more comfortable coming into the clinic," Haught said. "She felt like she knew us already. I thought that was really cool. She felt like she had a relationship with us because we met her at the hospital."

WIC provides nutrition and breastfeeding support, health education and other services, free of charge, to pregnant women, mothers, infants and children up to the age of 5 who qualify.

Eligibility guidelines and other information can be found at monchd.org/departments/programs/wic. And anyone, not just clients, can take advantage of WIC's free breastfeeding classes.

Kline began visiting the hospital in late June, and since then, she's interacted with about 100 patients. As of early September, 20 new clients had been signed up, 17 clients had joined again since having more children, and she helped 14 with breastfeeding.

She coordinates with WVU Medicine Children's nurses, who point her in the direction of mothers who are settled in their rooms after giving birth, perhaps waiting to be discharged.

"When we are able to get in there and meet with the mamas, it's really nice," Kline said.

"The moms love it."

Early on, Kline was able to provide an entire appointment for a new mother, including issuing an EBT card.

"She was super excited that we were able to get it all taken care of," Kline said.

On this day, she's able to make an appointment for Thomas to come into MCHD WIC for her son's first visit.

WVU Medicine Children's officials are pleased at how well the partnership is working.

"We feel it's really going to impact the health of the moms and the babies," said Mary Fanning, vice president of nursing clinical services at WVU Medicine Children's. "It's a strategy to decrease barriers to promote health."

In the beginning, details of the alliance needed to be worked out, such as the more convenient days for WIC to be stationed at the hospital.

Also, "We were thinking of having a central location, because we didn't want to disrupt the patients by going

SEE MCHD, A-5

ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION

WVU gives updates on faculty RIF process; talks transformation progress at administrative level

BY DAVID BEARD
DBeard@DominionPost.com

WVU administrators provided updates on Wednesday on the academic RIF process and on the assessments of the Strategic Initiatives units and the Office of General Counsel.

The updates were offered during an online Campus Conversation.

President Gordon Gee opened the conversation with some comments on the Academic Transformation process and the resulting cuts to majors and faculty positions — 28 undergraduate and graduate/professional programs, 143 positions — approved by the Board of Governors and announced last Friday.

WVU leadership and the BOG did read and listen to the comments opposing the cuts, he said. "Without a doubt there was great passion." But the changes are necessary. "We either are going to be the architects of our future or we will be victimized by it."

WVU General Counsel Stephanie Taylor said the provost's office will work with the various deans to create a RIF — reduction in force — plan, which will determine who will stay and who will be RIF'd or receive notification of contract ending.

The provost and deans will also review classified and non-classified staff positions for potential eliminations — which is separate from the transformation cuts, she said.

The University RIF Committee — with representatives from the provost's office, Strategic Initiatives and Employee Relations — will review and approve finalized RIF plans, she said.

RIF and nonrenewal notifications went out Monday, Taylor said. Faculty must return Affirmation Forms by Sept. 30.

These forms are required from faculty who wish to be considered for retention or to participate in a teach-out, Associate Provost Tracy Morris explained. These forms will indicate if the program changes will result in a changed workload for those who remain.

Failure to return the form or to agree to workload change will result in automatic placement on the RIF or non-renewal list. Completing the form doesn't guarantee reten-

tion, she said. Resignations and retirements will count toward planned reductions in a department.

Continuing on the timeline, Taylor said RIF plans will be finalized and reviewed Oct. 3-15. For those to be cut, an individual meeting will be held no later than Oct. 16. Due process hearings will be held the week of Oct. 23 and results will be announced Oct. 30. Dec. 1 is the deadline to sign and return a severance agreement.

Administrative changes During the program review process, WVU administration has taken criticism for not undertaking its own cuts — for instance, taking symbolic salary reductions. A Wednesday post on X (formerly Twitter) by West Virginia Campus Workers repeated that criticism in a post listing some top salaries and accusing those leaders of being part of the problem.

During Wednesday's Campus Conversation, Rob Alsop, vice president for Strategic Initiatives, described changes going on in his office and the general counsel's.

He described some reorganization that's occurred since 2014 to achieve some efficiencies and cost savings — though he didn't provide a dollar figure. Currently, they are doing such things as restructuring the units within Talent and Culture and revising the internal human resources policies and the procurement manual, and creating a new budget model to take effect for next fiscal year.

To best implement the WVU Modernization Program, he said, WVU needs to undertake a comprehensive review of administrative functions and processes for better responsiveness and efficiency.

Since 2018, he said, his office has reduced positions and budget. For instance, comparing FY 2018 to FY 2024, Auxiliary and Business Services has reduced its budget from \$56.7 million to \$51.2 million and is down 78 positions (10%); Information Technology Services has reduced its expenses from \$10.3 million to \$6.7 million and is down 24 positions (10%).

Only University Police has increased its budget faster than inflation to match competing salary

SEE RIF, A-5

OBITUARIES

Keegan Earl Fall, 28, of Pittsburgh, formerly of Morgantown, passed away after a bravely fought battle with Stage IV colon cancer on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, in his home with his mother at his side.

Keegan was born on Oct. 27, 1994, in Pittsburgh, a son of Denise Ruschell Fall and Phillip (Vicki) Fall.

Keegan was a graduate of Robert Morris University (Class of 2018), where he received his bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. After college, Keegan began working with Northwest EMS as a paramedic. Keegan enjoyed the nature of the job as it was a perfect fit for his personality. He took helping others very seriously; it was a passion of his. He made everyone feel loved and cared for even if they were the patients he had just met.

Keegan loved traveling, both domestically and internationally. His spirit of adventure was abundant in everything Keegan did

and these travels allowed him to experience that to the fullest. Keegan even spent a semester studying abroad in Ireland. He was a certified scuba diver and his love for the water could never keep him far from a lake or an ocean. Keegan went on to become certified in scuba search and rescue. Keegan loved being outdoors, whether he was boating on the water, playing sports or simply hanging out with his friends. His playful attitude and enormous heart made him such an easy person to be around and to love. Keegan's adventurous nature was infectious, and he truly loved carrying others along with him on his journey. A phrase which best exemplifies this spirit was often said about Keegan by his family, "Not all who wander are lost." All enjoyed the journey with him.

Above all, there was nothing more important to Keegan than his family. They were his rock. Through every up and down they stood by him and cared for him. Keegan was the only one, out of the five grandchildren in his family, to stay in Pittsburgh. He was so proud to be the one tasked with representing the grandchildren at every

Keegan Fall

family function or holiday. He would always bring friends along to these events as he was eager to share the love that he had for his family with others. After all, his family was full of his favorite people and Keegan wanted his friends to be included with them. Keegan had a special relationship with each member of his family. He was especially close to his parents, maternal grandparents and his built-in best friend, his younger brother Mack.

His mother became a caretaker to him this past year, and even though he was the patient, Keegan was always checking on her to make sure she was okay. Keegan's grandparents were the two people that always gave him the biggest smile. They filled his heart with so much love, and he in turn filled theirs. Mack and Keegan were inseparable growing up and even to this day that remains true. If there was one thing everyone knew about Keegan it was how proud he was of his brother. Being a big brother was his favorite role in life and the one he was most proud of. He loved seeing Mack succeed in life and would have given anything to see him graduate the military training he is

now completing in the Navy. He remains Mack's biggest cheerleader to this day and forever more will be.

If there is one thing to take away from the short years of Keegan's life. It is to live life like there is no tomorrow and love as hard as you can. That is exactly what Keegan would want for everyone.

Surviving along with his parents, is his brother, Mack Fall; grandparents, Naomi and Albert Ruschell; aunts, Lisa (Craig) Austin, Natalie Ruschell, Mary Domonkos and Carol (Patrick) Fall-Frost; cousins, Kelsey (Zac) Teagarden, Hunter (Emily Henderson) Austin, Taylor (Matt Burghardt) Austin, and Sara (Dann Olszewski) Stankiewicz; and his four-legged best friend, Koda.

A Celebration of Keegan's Life will be held in November. All arrangements have been entrusted to Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Inc., 314 W. Lincoln Ave., McDonald, PA (724-926-2800).

In Lieu of Flowers donations may be made to the F C Cancer Foundation at www.fxckcancer.org or to the Big Fluffy Dog Rescue, P.O. Box 160485, Nashville, TN 37216

Debra Burgess

Debra Phipps Burgess, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, died peacefully on Sept. 16, 2023, at the age of 67. She is survived by her mother, Ann Cline Conner of Morgantown; devoted husband, Bruce; her son, Blake, his wife Siera, and their children, Brooks, and Myla, of Birmingham, Ala.; her daughter Megan, of Morgantown; her stepdaughters, Stephanie, and her husband Robby of Mobile, Ala., and Beverly of Bell Buckle, Tenn. She is also survived by her and Bruce's lifelong friends, Martha and Freddie Harless.

Debra's journey began on Nov. 14, 1955, in Gilbert. She was a proud graduate of Gilbert High School in 1974 and went on to earn her degree from Marshall University in 1978. During her college years, she found a lifelong sisterhood as a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. Debra's passion for education led her to a fulfilling career as an English teacher at Gilbert High School, where she touched the lives of countless students with her dedication and enthusiasm for learning.

Beyond her profession, Debra was a woman of many talents. She was known for her culinary skills, her knack for hosting unforgettable gatherings, her love for gardening (especially tending to her beloved roses), and her melodious tunes on the piano.

She was an active member of the Honeysuckle Garden Club, where she shared her gardening expertise,

and a valued member of the Lucy's Lit Book Club in Charleston, where her love for literature flourished. Debra was deeply committed to her faith and served as an Elder, music director, and pianist at Gilbert Presbyterian Church.

Debra's warm and welcoming spirit was a hallmark of her personality. She loved people unconditionally and had a gift for making everyone feel at home in her presence. Her kindness and generosity left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Debra is preceded in death by her father, Lowell Phipps; her stepfather, Robert B. Conner; and her grandparents, Lonnie and Iva Cline, and Orville and Gracie Phipps.

In honoring Debra's memory, let us remember her as a shining example of love, grace, and hospitality. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and community.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Debra will be on Saturday, Sept. 23, at Gilbert Presbyterian Church. A time of visitation with her family will be at 1 p.m., followed by the service at 2 p.m. In keeping with Debra's love and desire to help all people, rather than flowers, donations may be made to Gilbert Presbyterian Church, PO Box 496 Gilbert, WV 25621.

May her soul find eternal peace, and may her memory continue to bring warmth and joy to our hearts.

NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Ray Epps pleads guilty to Capitol riot charge

WASHINGTON — Ray Epps, a onetime Donald Trump supporter who was the target of a conspiracy theory about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack, has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge for his role in the riot. Ray Epps appeared remotely for a hearing on Wednesday in Washington's federal courthouse to enter his plea on a charge of disorderly conduct on restricted grounds. The plea comes a day after the case was filed in the Justice Department's massive Jan. 6 prosecution. Epps was forced to flee his Arizona home after he became the focus of a right-wing conspiracy theory that he was a secret

government agent who incited the Capitol attack.

Federal judge is barred from hearing cases

A 96-year-old U.S. federal appeals court judge has been barred from hearing cases for a year after a judicial panel said she refused to undergo medical testing over concerns she's no longer mentally fit to serve on the bench. Wednesday's development is the latest in an unusually public and bitter fight over whether Judge Pauline Newman should continue to serve on the Washington-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The matter has sparked a lawsuit and turned judges against one another. Newman insists that she remains physically and mentally fit to decide matters of the law, and has accused her colleagues of making baseless claims in

an effort to push her out because of her age.

Vanna White to remain on 'Wheel of Fortune'

Vanna White will remain with "Wheel of Fortune" for two additional seasons. Followig the announcement earlier this year that Pat Sajak would make season 41 of "Wheel of Fortune" his last, White's future with the show was uncertain. Her current contract was set to expire at the end of this season when Sajak signs off in June. Sony Pictures Television announced Tuesday that White has negotiated to remain at the puzzle board through the 2025-2026 season. This means she will be there for host Ryan Seacrest's debut next fall and his second season too. Seacrest told NBC's Willie Geist in an interview that he "can't

wait" to work alongside White.

Connecticut agrees to a \$25 million settlement

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's attorney general has agreed to a \$25.2 million settlement with two men who spent decades in prison for murder, based partly on evidence presented by famed forensic scientist Henry Lee that a judge later found was fabricated. Ralph "Ricky" Birch and Shawn Henning were convicted in the 1985 slaying of 65-year-old Everett Carr, based partly on Lee's testimony that there were stains consistent with blood on a towel. A judge vacated the felony murder convictions in 2020, and the men filed a federal wrongful conviction lawsuit.

ARTS COLUMN

Plein air contest coming to Richwood

OPEN AIR RICHWOOD is a unique art competition that will take place Oct. 7 in the scenic town of Richwood. The competition is based on the French art form "en plein air," or "in the open air," which involves painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view.

This event will be the first-ever plein air contest in and around Richwood. Interested artists from all over who would like to paint the beauty of Richwood are welcome to participate. The competition offers cash prizes for the top three submissions in the adult category and three other categories for highschool, middle school, and grade school students.

Spectators are more than welcome at Open Air Richwood, as a key goal of

this event is to provide a new creative experience for the community — while introducing Richwood to those who may have never visited. Attendees will also be able to view and purchase the art pieces from the competition in a silent auction during a reception that will following the event.

A quick-draw event will also take place on the same day to complement the Open-Air competition. Quick-draw offers artists the opportunity to draw or paint within a short limited amount of time at a limited number of locations within Richwood. Artists will have a two-hour period to paint or draw before they turn their entries in to the judges. Quick draw will be open to everyone,

including children, but those who are under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The pieces from quick-draw will also be available to view and purchase during the auction.

To learn more and see some of the breathtaking spots that artists will capture, visit the Open-Air Richwood Facebook page. Tickets for the event are \$25 before Oct. 2 and \$30 after and will be sold on Eventbrite.com.

The event is made possible by funding through the RIPPLE Project by the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts and the Benedum Foundation. For more information, interested persons can contact Cecil Ybanez at 561-703-4877 or bloomfieldrichwood@gmail.com.

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED? Email Jordan@artsgm.org to be added to the ACGM Creative Network mailing list! Also, donations to advance the Arts Council can be made through the donation tab located at artsgm.org.

RIF

FROM PAGE A-4

levels and invest in new technology, but is down by three positions.

His office and the general counsel's he said, will report on progress to the BOG in January. But many initiatives will take several fiscal years to implement.

During the question-and-answer portion of the conversation, Alsop took a question on the idea of raising tuition to make up the \$45 million current shortfall, instead of undertaking the program and faculty cuts. He said they looked at

that and it would have required a minimum 14% to 15% increase. Also, WVU and higher education in the state has taken some across-the-board cuts in past years, and had they not decided to be selective in cuts they would have to see more across-the-board cuts and starving every unit.

"I think that type of decision ... would have been a significant negative threat to the institution going forward," he said. With increased expenses and decreased enrollment, some level of transformation or cuts to get to the \$45 million would have been required.

MCHD

FROM PAGE A-4

into the room," Fanning said. "But we flipped that and we were able to actually go into the patients' rooms."

Kline and her WIC colleagues, who already have HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) training, signed patient privacy releases. A computer cart made Kline's office portable; she can easily wheel it into a patient's room and get started on the appointment.

"It usually takes about 20 minutes; maybe longer if they are breast-

feeding and need some help," Kline said.

And Kline knows that she is able to reach potential clients who might have otherwise slipped through the cracks.

"One mom told me that if I had not reached out to her in the hospital, she probably wouldn't have taken the time to contact us. She was very appreciative."

For up-to-date information on health and wellness in Monongalia County, check out monchd.org and follow the health department on Facebook and Twitter @WVMCHD and on Instagram at [wvmchd](https://www.instagram.com/wvmchd).



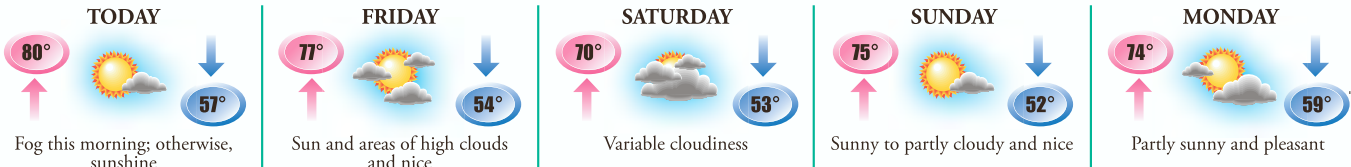
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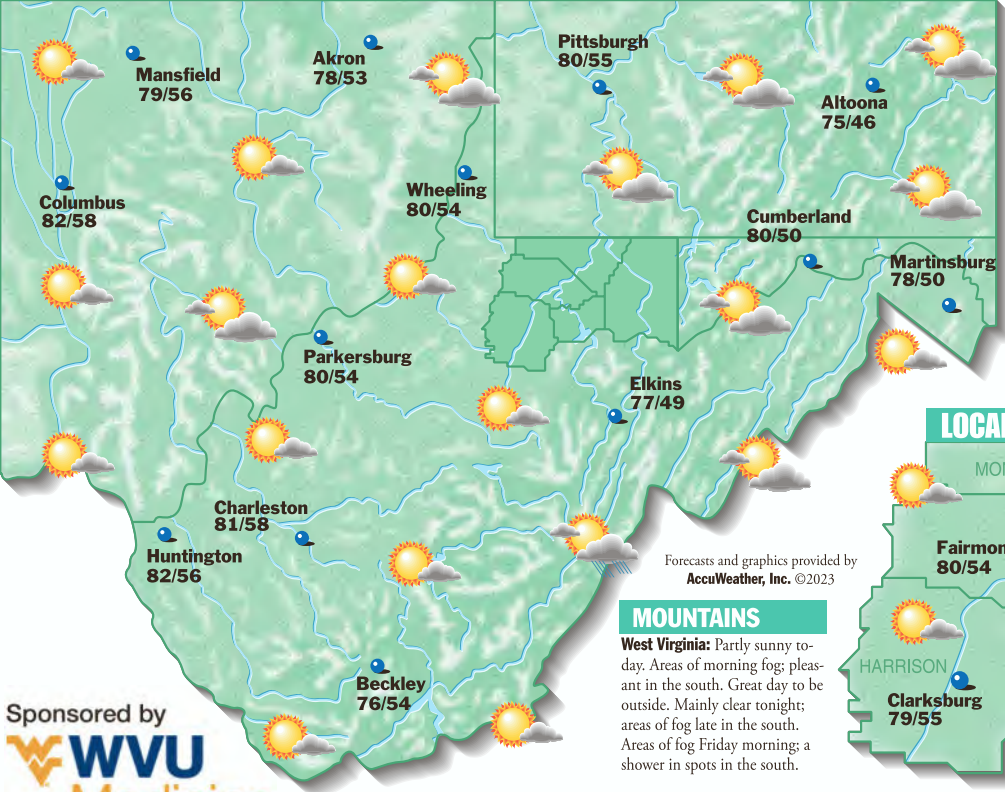
Jared Jenkins, LIC	10 South High Street
Justin Dalton	Morgantown, WV
Ethan Umstead	(304) 296-6446
Tabitha Whetzel	Call or Text

www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



Sponsored by
WVU
Medicine

ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Wednesday

Temperature
High/low 75°/61°
Normal high/low 76°/53°
Record high 93° in 1925
Record low 36° in 1956

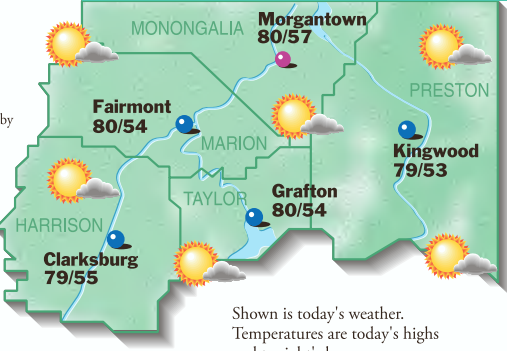
Precipitation
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.81"
Year to date 26.49"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:19 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:50 p.m.
Moonset today 10:50 p.m.

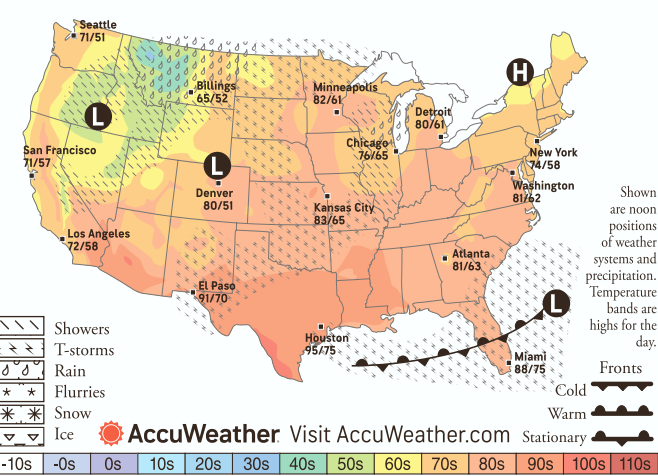
First Sep 22 Full Sep 29 Last Oct 6 New Oct 14

LOCAL WEATHER



Shown is today's weather.
Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



POLLEN

Yesterday in Morgantown:
Grasses N.A. Weeds N.A.
Trees N.A. Molds N.A.
Source: WV University

UV INDEX

Highest today 5 moderate
The ultraviolet index is a guide to exposure to the sun. The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	76/54/s	73/50/s
Charleston, WV	81/58/pc	80/55/s
Columbus, OH	82/58/s	84/55/s
Cumberland, MD	80/50/pc	75/54/pc
Fairmont, WV	80/54/s	78/55/pc
Grafton, WV	82/56/s	82/56/s
Huntington, WV	79/53/s	72/53/pc
Kingwood, WV	80/55/pc	77/52/pc
Pittsburgh, PA	80/54/pc	78/54/s
Wheeling, WV	80/54/pc	78/54/s

Weather (W): s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r=rain, sf=snow flurries, sn=snow, H=ice.

SOLUNAR TABLES

Five-day forecast indicates peak feeding times for fish and game.

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Thu.	4:50 a.m.	11:04 a.m.	5:18 p.m.	11:32 p.m.
Fri.	5:49 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	6:18 p.m.	---
Sat.	6:47 a.m.	12:32 a.m.	7:18 p.m.	1:02 p.m.
Sun.	7:45 a.m.	1:30 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Mon.	8:40 a.m.	2:25 a.m.	9:10 p.m.	2:55 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	869.29	-0.37
Deep Creek, MD	2458.69	-0.02
Jennings Randolph	1430.33	-0.20
Stonewall Jackson	1070.03	+0.01
Tygart	1100.20	+1.36
Youghiogheny	1411.90	-0.52

River Stages
Fld: flood stage, Prs: stage in feet at 7 a.m. yesterday, Chg: change in previous 24 hours. M: missing.

Monongahela	Fld.	Prs.	Chg.
Morgantown	22	10.19	+0.38

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2023. There are 101 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1937, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. of London.

In 1961, the first Boeing CH-47 Chinook military helicopter made its first hovering flight.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages, a day after saying the law should not be used as an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against gays and lesbians.

In 2001, Congress gave \$15 billion to the airline industry, which was suffering mounting economic losses since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Today's birthdays:

Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 82. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is 80. Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is 79. Musician Don Felder is 76. Author Stephen King is 76. Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore is 74. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 73. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is 66. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 66. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 64. Actor David James Elliott is 63. Actor Serena Scott Thomas is 62.

Son neglects aging mom when possessive girlfriends come along

DEAR ABBY: My son's former wife was difficult — manipulative, spoiled and possessive. I tried to get along with her; but no matter what I did, she gave me no respect and turned my son against me. They have been divorced for six years. He began dating a few years ago, and each woman is a carbon copy of the ex-wife. He falls right back into the same pattern of ignoring me and letting his girlfriends "possess" him. I don't understand why he feels he has to choose between them and me. He is my son, and I shouldn't have to compete for his love.

I'm getting older now and have asked him for some help, but he refuses. I would just like a regular phone call and to see him. Please advise me. — LOW PRIORITY IN OHIO

DEAR LOW PRIORITY: It seems your son is more attentive to you when he's between girlfriends but has tunnel vision when a new woman enters his life. For your sake, it's important you begin concentrating on building a reliable support system that is independent of him.

DEAR ABBY: After 37 years of marriage, all of a sudden, my husband has a problem with how



JEANNE PHILLIPS

I speak. He says it's my "tone." I can no longer discuss anything with him because it always ends up in an argument, not about the actual words I say, but how I say them. If I ask a question or make a comment, he gets mad because I'm "interrupting him." After all these years, I can't communicate. Please tell me what to do. — SILENCED IN TEXAS

DEAR SILENCED: As a matter of fact, I do have a suggestion (or two). The first is that both you and your husband should have your hearing checked. Second, if your hearing and his are within normal ranges, and everything checks out during your next physical exam, ask your doctor for a referral to a licensed marriage and family therapist.

JEANNE PHILLIPS writes "Dear Abby" under the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TV LISTINGS

9/21/23	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST CHANNELS												
2	KDKA-TV News at Six (N)	KDKA-TV News at 6:30pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	KDKA-TV News at 7:30PM (N)	Big Brother Following a vote, a houseguest is evicted and interviewed. (L) (N)	Buddy Games "Cornholio" (N)	The Challenge: USA "A Less Perfect Union" (N)	KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)	The Late Show With Stephen Colbert			
4	WTAE Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Generation Gap The seniors and juniors get a lesson in flamenco. (N)	The Prank Panel An allergic reaction; a friend embraces the furry community. (N)	Shark Tank Gwyneth Paltrow guest sharks; a superflood alternative. (N)	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live!			
5	WDTV First News	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Big Brother (L) (N)	Buddy Games (N)	Challenge (N)	5 News	Colbert			
7	WTRF 7News at 7	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Big Brother (L) (N)	Buddy Games (N)	Challenge (N)	7News at 7	Colbert			
9	WTOV News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Password Contestants play a word game for a cash prize. (N)	American Ninja Warrior ANW Couple's Special Competitors from all across America take on the world's most challenging obstacle course. (N)		News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show			
11	WPXI Channel 11	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy!	Password	American Ninja Warrior ANW Couple's Special		News (N)	J. Fallon			
12	WBOY News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy!	Wheel (N)	Password	American Ninja Warrior ANW Couple's Special		News (N)	J. Fallon			
13	WQED PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America (N)	Tell Me More	Leo	WQED Mini Docs	Latino Americans	Latino Americans	Amanpour and Company (N)				
22	WCWB Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Modern Family "Little Bo Bleep"	Modern Family "Aunt Mommy"	Fight to Survive Team Survive secures more resources on the island. (N)	FBoy Island Only a few guys remain; it's the perfect time for a date. (N)	Court Cam iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas (N)	The National Desk (L) (N)				
24	WPNB Context	America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Doc Martin		Lynyrd Skyny		Thousand	Amanpour (N)			
46	WVFX News (N)	Pregame	MLB Baseball Teams TBA (L) (N)					WVFX 10 Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Housewife		
53	WPGH The Big Bang Theory	FOX MLB Pregame Show (L) (N)	MLB Baseball Teams TBA All the latest action from Major League Baseball. (L) (N)					Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	Seinfeld "The Van Buren Boys"	Seinfeld "The Statue"		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48 (N)	Interrogation Raw (N)	Booked (N)	The First 48						
AMC	*** True Lies '94) Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** The A-Team '10) Bradley Cooper, Liam Neeson.				*** The Rock Sean Connery.						
AT&TSP	Baseball Perfect (N)	Pirates (N)	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs (N)			Postgame Baseball	Baseball					
BET	*** Baby Boy (2001, Drama) Omar Gooding, A.J. Johnson, Tyrese.	College Hill				*** Waist Deep '06) Meagan Good, Tyrese.						
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	The Source With (N)	CNN Primetime (L) (N)	CNN Tonight (L) (N)						
DISC	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Twinning						
DISN	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Kiff	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	
ESPN	SportsCenter (L) (N)	Countdown	College Football Georgia State at Coastal Carolina (N)			SportsCenter (L) (N)						
ESPN2	Daily Wager (L) (N)	Football Chaminade-Madonna (Fla.) at Miami Central (Fla.) (N)				UFC	Formula 1 Racing	UFC				
FOOD	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby	Bobby's Triple Threat	Beat Bobby/Beat Bobby				
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)	Ingraham (N)	Jesse Watters (L) (N)	Hannity (L) (N)	Gutfeld! (N)			Fox News at Night (N)				
FREE	*** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 '14) Andrew Garfield.	*** The Jungle Book '16) Bill Murray, Neel Sethi.				The 700 Club						
HIST	Mountain Men	Mountain Men	Mountain Men "Lion Alley" (N)	Alone Australia (N)	Mountain Men "Lion Alley"							
LIFE	Castle "Head Case"	Castle	Castle "Demons"	Castle	Castle							
NEWSN	Vargas Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams Live (N)	Benfield (N)	Cuomo						
NICK	Loud House/SpongeBob	The Tidal Zone	SpongeBob/SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends			
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	*** The Lincoln Lawyer '11) Marisa Tomei, Matthew McConaughey.	*** Tombstone						
TNT	4 The Expendables 3	Pregame	Friendlies United States vs. South Africa (N)	Postgame	*** Jurassic World '15) Chris Pratt.							
TVLAND	A. Griffith A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King			
USA	Law & Order: SVU	*** John Wick '14) Keanu Reeves.	*** John Wick: Chapter 2 '17) Common, Keanu Reeves.			Movie						
WE	9-1-1 "Jinx"	9-1-1	Love After	Love After	Toya & Reginae (N)	Toya & Reginae	Love After	Love After				
WTBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Tacoma PD	My Spy				
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** Greenland '20) Gerard Butler.	Winning Time	*** The Flash '23) Michael Keaton, Ezra Miller.			Movie						
MAX	*** Moonfall '22) Halle Berry.	Legion '10) Paul Bettany.	*** The Crazies Timothy Olyphant.			*** Blair Witch						
SHOW	Emily	*** Bodies Bodies Bodies	The Wrath of Becky Lulu Wilson.	*** Mafia Mamma Toni Collette.		The Untouchables						
TMC	Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom	*** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade									

WVUMedicine

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➤ Sleep apnea

➤ Hearing loss in children and adults

➤ Voice and swallowing conditions.

LOCATIONS

WVU Medicine Physician Office Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506

Suncrest Towne Centre
1065 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505

Fairmont ENT
1712 Locust Avenue
Fairmont, WV 26554

Uniontown ENT
10 Highland Park Drive
Uniontown, PA 15401

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Kingwood, WV

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Arts & Crafts

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Livestock Shows

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CAR SHOW

Carnival

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BIG 12 POWER RANKINGS

WVU moves up three spots after defeating Pitt in Backyard Brawl

Sports@DominionPost.com

For the first time this season, the top two spots in the Big 12 power rankings are unanimous.

Texas received all 14 first-place votes for the second week in a row, and Oklahoma was the pick for the second spot in voting from a panel of beat writers that regularly cover the Big 12.

The next five spots are a toss-up as 12 points separate the Nos. 3-7 spots between Kansas, UCF, Kansas State, TCU and BYU.

West Virginia made the biggest jump of the week, moving up

three spots to No. 10 after beating rival Pittsburgh in the “Backyard Brawl.”

Oklahoma State had the biggest drop, going from a tie for sixth to 11th this week after a 33-7 loss to South Alabama.

1. Texas
Previous ranking: 1
Points: 196 (14 first-place votes)
Record: 3-0
Last week: defeated Wyoming, 31-10
This week: at Baylor

Comment: The Longhorns had trouble shaking gritty Wyoming until the fourth quarter, when big plays on both sides of the ball keyed a 21-0 run. Defense remains

the team’s bedrock; Texas allows just 269 yards and 17 points a game against a trio of opponents that has a collective 6-0 record against squads other than the Longhorns.

Did you know? Texas committed its first turnover of the season late in the game against Wyoming and has a plus-5 turnover margin for the season. – *Thomas Jones, Austin American-Statesman*

2. Oklahoma
Previous ranking: 3
Points: 182



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers fans reacts during the Pitt game last Saturday.

SEE BIG 12, B-2

WINNING IN THE TRENCHES

Strong offensive line allowing WVU to run the ball at will

BY CODY NESPOR
CNespor@DominionPost.com

Without starting quarterback Garrett Greene last Saturday, just about every one of the 61,000 people inside Milan Puskar Stadium knew what West Virginia was going to do with the football — hand it off to CJ Donaldson.

The powerful sophomore running back carried the ball 18 times in the Mountaineers’ 17-6 victory. He averaged 5.7 yards per carry despite Pitt basically knowing that Donaldson was getting the ball on almost every play.

So how did he manage to rack up 102 yards and score a crucial second-half touchdown?

“Have you seen my front five? They have to stop them first,” said Donaldson, referring to WVU’s offensive line. “All I have to do is run behind my front five and I’m going to get that extra yard. I love running behind that front five, they’re like the Great Wall of China.”

Or the Great Wall of Morgantown, perhaps.

Those front five — left to right, Wyatt Milum, Tomas Rimac, Zach Frazier, Brandon Yates and Doug Nester — have been the lifeblood of WVU’s offense so far this season. Even when factoring in loss sack yardage, the Mountaineers are averaging 4.3 yards per carry and just over 200 rushing yards per game (200.3) through three games.

“Great teams do what it is they do even though teams know that’s what they’ve got to do to win ballgames,” offensive coordinator Chad Scott said. “When we lost Garrett, they had a pretty good idea that we weren’t going to be able to pass the ball as much as we wanted to and we were still able to control the clock, win down in the trenches, run the football and be effective running the football. That’s what good teams do.”

SEE OFFENSE, B-5

Texas Tech at WVU

WHEN: 3:30 p.m. Saturday
WHERE: Milan Puskar Stadium
TV: ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)
RADIO: 100.9 JACK-FM
WEB: dominionpost.com



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers offensive lineman Tomas Rimac (55) sets a block against Pitt last Saturday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Transfers and depth have WVU’s defensive line playing above expectations to start the season

BY CODY NESPOR
CNespor@DominionPost.com

After losing all three starters from last season, including first-team all-conference selection Dante Stills, the expectations for West Virginia’s defensive line heading into 2023 weren’t very high. At least, outside of the program.

Stills went to the NFL, selected in the sixth round by the Arizona Cardinals, oft-injured Taijeh Alston went to play for Deion Sanders at Colorado and Jordan Jefferson chose to use his final season of eligibility at LSU. That left junior Sean Martin as the Mountaineers’ only defensive lineman with starting experience.

Instead of using the transfer portal to overhaul the position, like has become common practice across the country, head coach Neal Brown and defen-



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia defensive linemen Sean Martin (91) and Mike Lockhart (93) make a tackle on Duquesne Dukes running back JaMario Clements (23) earlier this season.

sive coordinator Jordan Lesley trusted the players they had to step into bigger roles and

instead used the portal to add complimentary pieces they

SEE DEFENSE, B-5

COLLEGE SPORTS

Hurricane’s wide receiver Tyshawn Dues commits to 2025 WVU football class

BY KEENAN CUMMINGS
Sports@DominionPost.com

West Virginia didn’t have to go far for the first commitment in the 2025 class as the Mountaineers football program added a pledge from Hurricane (W.Va.) 2025 wide receiver Tyshawn Dues.

Dues, 5-foot-11, 160-pounds, also held offers from Kent State, Marshall, Akron and Eastern Kentucky but the Mountaineers surged to the forefront of his recruitment after jumping into the mix with a scholarship offer following an impressive camp performance this summer.

That culminated in Dues committing to the Mountaineers following an unofficial visit to campus for the Backyard Brawl over the weekend.

“I chose West Virginia because it’s close to home and because in my heart it felt like the right decision. What pushed them over the top was the atmosphere,” he said.

Wide receivers coach Bilal Marshall is the lead recruiter for Dues and was the coach that extended the scholarship offer following a performance where he was one of the most dominant players in camp.

“My relationship with the coaches has just gotten stronger,” he said.

Dues gave the coaching staff the good news following the conclusion of the 17-6 win over the Panthers.

“They were excited to hear me say it,” he said.

West Virginia is targeting Dues as a wide receiver and loves his route running, how he can create separation and his ability to create coming in and out of his breaks.

Dues plans to enroll early at West Virginia next December and is excited to have the process behind him.

KEENAN CUMMINGS writes for Rivals.com

DUES GAVE THE COACHING STAFF THE GOOD NEWS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE 17-6 WIN OVER THE PANTHERS.

CONNECT

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
BOYS' SOCCER
John Marshall at Morgantown, 6 p.m.
Keyser at University, 7:15
Preston at Grafton, 8 p.m.
GIRLS' SOCCER
John Marshall at Morgantown, 5:30 p.m.
Keyser at University, 5:30 p.m.
Preston at Grafton, 6 p.m.
HS VOLLEYBALL
Morgantown at Hurricane
Preston and Lincoln at Fairmont Senior, 6 p.m.
Clay-Battelle at Moorefield, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S SOCCER
Iowa State at West Virginia, 7 p.m.

ON TV

AUTO RACING
10:25 p.m.: ESPN2 — Formula 1: Practice, Suzuka Circuit, Suzuka, Japan
1:55 a.m. (Friday): ESPN2 — Formula 1: Practice, Suzuka Circuit, Suzuka, Japan
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
7:30 p.m.: ESPN — Georgia St. at Coastal Carolina
ESPN — Ark.-Pine Bluff at Alabama A&M
COLLEGE SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m.: ACCN — Clemson at Miami
BTN — Nebraska at Ohio St.
7 p.m.: SECN — Mississippi at Vanderbilt
8 p.m.: ACCN — Pittsburgh at Louisville
BTN — Indiana at Illinois
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
7 p.m.: FS1 — Minnesota at Iowa
FIBA BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
3 a.m.: NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup Group Stage: Telecom Baskets Bonn vs. Al Manama, Group B, Kallang, Singapore
7 a.m.: NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup Group Stage: G League Ignite vs. Ah Ahly, Group A, Kallang, Singapore
3 a.m. (Friday): NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup Group Stage: Franca vs. Ah Ahly, Group A, Kallang, Singapore
GOLF
7:30 a.m.: GOLF — DP World Tour: The Cazoo Open De France, First Round, Le Golf National - Albatros Course, Guyancourt, France
3 p.m.: GOLF — Korn Ferry Tour: The Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, First Round, Ohio State University Scarlet Course, Columbus, Ohio
2 a.m. (Friday): GOLF — LPGA/LEPGA: The Solheim Cup - Day 1, Club De Golf Finca, Andalusia, Spain
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
7 p.m.: ESPN2 — Chaminade Madonna (Fla.) at Miami Central (Fla.)
HORSE RACING
1 p.m.: FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
MLB
1 p.m.: MLBN — Regional Coverage: Milwaukee at St. Louis OR LA Angels at Tampa Bay
7 p.m.: FOX — Regional Coverage: Baltimore at Cleveland OR NY Mets at Philadelphia
10 p.m.: MLBN — San Francisco at LA Dodgers
NFL
8:15 p.m.: PRIME VIDEO — NY Giants at San Francisco
SOCCER (MEN'S)
10:45 a.m.: FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al-Hilal at Damac
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
7:30 p.m.: TNT — International Friendly: U.S. vs. South Africa, Cincinnati
TENNIS
6 a.m.: TENNIS — Guangzhou-WTA Quarterfinals, Zhuhai-ATP Early Rounds
3 p.m.: TENNIS — Guadalajara-WTA Quarterfinals
8 p.m.: TENNIS — Guadalajara-WTA Quarterfinals
1 a.m. (Friday): TENNIS — Guangzhou-WTA Semifinals, Zhuhai-ATP Early Rounds
6 a.m. (Friday): TENNIS — Guangzhou-WTA Semifinals, Zhuhai-ATP Early Rounds

PRO BASEBALL

National League	American League
EAST DIVISION	EAST DIVISION
x-Atlanta	z-Baltimore
Philadelphia	z-Tampa Bay
Miami	Toronto
New York	New York
Washington	Boston
CENTRAL DIVISION	CENTRAL DIVISION
Milwaukee	Minnesota
Chicago	Cleveland
Cincinnati	Detroit
Pittsburgh	Chicago
St. Louis	Kansas City
WEST DIVISION	WEST DIVISION
x-Los Angeles	Houston
Arizona	Seattle
San Francisco	Texas
San Diego	Los Angeles
Colorado	Oakland
x-clinched division	z-clinched playoff berth
Tuesday's Games	Tuesday's Games
Washington 4, Chicago White Sox 3	Tampa Bay 6, L.A. Angels 2
Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 3	Washington 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 3	Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 1
Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 0	Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 0
Chicago Cubs 14, Pittsburgh 1	Kansas City 7, Cleveland 6
Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 3	Texas 6, Boston 4
Arizona 8, San Francisco 4	Baltimore 9, Houston 5
San Diego 2, Colorado 0	Seattle 7, Oakland 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Detroit 2	L.A. Dodgers 3, Detroit 2
Wednesday's Games	Wednesday's Games
Minnesota 5, Cincinnati 3	Minnesota 5, Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings	Washington 13, Chicago White Sox 3
Washington 13, Chicago White Sox 3	Texas 15, Boston 5
Arizona 7, San Francisco 1	Kansas City 6, Cleveland 2
San Diego 3, Colorado 2	Houston 2, Baltimore 1
N.Y. Mets 8, Miami 3	Seattle 6, Oakland 3
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 2	L.A. Angels 8, Tampa Bay 3
Pittsburgh 13, Chicago Cubs 7	Toronto 6, N.Y. Yankees 1
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, night	Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, night
Today's Games	Today's Games
Milwaukee (Miley 8-4) at St. Louis (Mikolas 7-12), 1:15 p.m.	L.A. Angels (Canning 7-7) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 15-8), 1:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 7-1) at Washington (Irvn 3-6), 7:05 p.m.	Toronto (Barrios 11-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 13-4), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 3-8) at Philadelphia (Suárez 3-6), 7:15 p.m.	Baltimore (Rodriguez 6-4) at Cleveland (TBD), 7:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Oviedo 8-14) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 6-7), 7:40 p.m.	Detroit (Skubal 6-3) at Oakland (Medina 3-9), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Harrison 1-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-1), 10:10 p.m.	
Friday's Games	Friday's Games
Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.	Toronto at Tampa Bay, 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 6:40 p.m.	Arizona at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.	Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.
Arizona at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 7:05 p.m.	Seattle at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.	Kansas City at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
St. Louis at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.	L.A. Angels at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.	Detroit at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

Want to see your news in The Dominion Post? Let us know what’s going on with your business, club or team. Email news tips, photos or press releases to DPNews@DominionPost.com Questions: 304-291-9425



WOMEN’S SOCCER

WVU opens Big 12 home slate against Iowa State

Sports@DominionPost.com

The WVU women's soccer team prepares to open its Big 12 Conference home slate against Iowa State today at 7 p.m., inside Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium in Morgantown.

Today's contest against the Cyclones is the Mountaineers Diversity and Inclusion Game, in conjunction with WVU's Campus Diversity Week. Special t-shirts celebrating diversity and inclusion will be given out to the first 300 fans in attendance. It also is Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night, with free admission granted to WVU faculty and staff with a WVU employee ID.

Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance by visiting WVUGAME.com or calling 1-800-WVU GAME. When purchasing online, tickets

are \$5 each. Any remaining tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth and seniors at the stadium ticket window on match day.

WVU student tickets also will be made available at the Mountaineer Ticket Office, located at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium. The office, as well as the stadium gates, opens at 6 p.m., on game day. WVU students are admitted for free with a valid WVU Student I.D.

Andrew Caridi and Nick Farrell will have the call of today's contest on Big 12 Now on ESPN+. For more information, or to sign up for the digital platform, visit WVUsports.com/Big12Now. The game also can be heard on 91.7 FM (WWVU) in Morgantown, and live stats are available at WVUsports.com.

Last time out, WVU suffered a 4-2 loss to league

newcomer UCF in its Big 12 Conference opener in Orlando, Florida, on Sept. 14. Even though the Mountaineers scored the first goal with senior midfielder Isabel Loza's first tally of the season, UCF score three unanswered goals to take a 3-1 lead. Fifth-year senior forward/defender Julianne Vallerand put WVU one score closer with a penalty kick goal in the 61st minute, but the Knights added a fourth score to solidify the win.

Sophomore forward Taylor White leads the team with four goals and 10 points, while junior forward Dilary Heredia-Beltran holds the team lead in assists (3) and shots (20).

Today's match marks the 12th all-time meeting between West Virginia and Iowa State. The Mountaineers are undefeated in the series, going 11-0 over

the Cyclones since their first match in 2012 when West Virginia joined the Big 12. In last season's contest, Lauren Segalla recorded a brace to lift the Mountaineers to a 2-0 win in Ames on Sept. 25.

Matt Fannon is in his fourth season at the helm of the ISU women's soccer team, leading the Cyclones to their first win over a ranked team since 2016 during the 2022 campaign. Iowa State arrives in Morgantown 3-5-1 overall and 0-1 in conference play after falling, 4-1, to Oklahoma State in the Big 12 opener on Sept. 14. Senior Mira Emma paces the Cyclone offensive attack, leading the squad in goals (4), assists (2), points (10) and shots (19). Goalkeeper Avery Gillihan has notched 21 saves on the year.

BIG 12

FROM PAGE B-1

Record: 3-0
Last week: defeated Tulsa, 66-17
This week: at Cincinnati

Comment: Oklahoma begins its final season in the Big 12 Conference with a road trip to Cincinnati. The Sooners currently rank in the top five nationally in scoring offense (55.7 ppg) and scoring defense (9.3 ppg) and its plus-46.3 average scoring margin leads the country.

Did you know? OU has won 14 Big 12 championships in the league's 27-year history. No other school has won more than three titles. — *Eric Bailey, Tulsa World.*

3. Kansas

Previous ranking: 4
Points: 155
Record: 3-0
Last week: defeated Nevada, 31-24
This week: vs. BYU

Comment: The Jayhawks avoided a massive letdown on the road, thanks to three Devin Neal rushing touchdowns and a late fourth-down stop by Kenny Logan Jr. Possession remained with Nevada on five separate offensive fumbles, helping the Wolf Pack hang around in the game all night.

Did you know? This week's battle with BYU will also divide a pair of siblings on opposite sides of the ball, as Kansas cornerback Kwinton Lassiter takes on his brother Darius, a wide receiver for the Cougars. — *Henry Greenstein, Lawrence Journal-World*

4. UCF

Previous ranking: 5
Points: 150
Record: 3-0
Last week: defeated Villanova, 48-14
This week: at Kansas State

Comment: Backup quarterback Timmy McClain shook off a rusty start to complete 14 of his final 17 passes to help lead UCF to a 48-14 win over Villanova Saturday. McClain, who was playing for the injured John Rhys Plumlee, finished 20 of 28 for 322 passing yards, 2 touchdowns and 44 rushing yards on 9 carries.

Did you know? The Knights lead the nation in total offense (618 yards) for the third straight week and are second in rushing offense (299 yards). — *Matt Murschel, Orlando Sentinel*

5. Kansas State

Previous ranking: 2
Points: 149
Record: 2-1
Last week: lost to Missouri, 30-27
This week: vs. UCF

Comment: The Wildcats fell out of the Top 25 when Missouri kicker Harrison Mevis made a 61-yard field goal as time expired on Saturday. Was the loss a hiccup for K-State? Or was it a sign of bigger problems on the horizon.

Did you know? K-State surprisingly lost to Tulane at home last season and then beat Oklahoma on the road the following week. — *Kellis Robinett, Wichita Eagle, Kansas City Star*

6. TCU

Previous ranking: 8
Points: 147
Record: 2-1
Last week: defeated Houston, 36-13
This week: vs. SMU

Comment: The Horned



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers defensive lineman Jalen Thornton (97) reacts at the Backyard Brawl last Saturday.

Frogs weren't perfect, but handled business on the road against the Cougars. Chandler Morris made up for two turnovers with 367 yards of total offense while Emani Bailey rushed for 126 yards on 23 carries.

Did you know? TCU's defense has held opposing offenses out of the endzone two weeks in a row. Houston's only touchdown came on special teams. — *Steven Johnson, Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

7. BYU

Previous ranking: 9
Points: 143
Record: 3-0
Last week: defeated Arkansas, 38-31
This week: at Kansas

Comment: Down double-digits multiple times on Saturday, BYU rallied back to beat Arkansas on the road. It served as BYU's first big moment of the Big 12 era and proved the defense can keep the Cougars in games.

Did you know? BYU head coach Kalani Sitake is now 3-3 against SEC teams with two road wins. — *Kevin Reynolds, The Salt Lake Tribune*

8. Texas Tech

Previous ranking: 10
Points: 94
Record: 1-2
Last week: defeated Tarleton State, 41-3
This week: at West Virginia

Comment: At the very least the Red Raiders were respectable in their two early losses, more that can be said for some of the others in the league. Beating up on Tarleton State won't move the needle, but it's a start.

Did you know? This will be the fourth time in the last six years Texas Tech has opened Big 12 play on the road. The Red Raiders have only won one of the previous three (2018 at No. 15 Oklahoma State). — *Nathan Giese, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*

9. Cincinnati

Previous ranking: 6
Points: 81
Record: 2-1
Last week: lost to Miami (Ohio), 31-24 in OT
This week: vs. Oklahoma

Comment: UC struggled scoring touchdowns in the red zone vs. Miami (OH) but

match the physicality of the Jaguars' defensive front.

Did you know? OSU has lost five games to Group of Five opponents in Mike Gundy's 19-year tenure, but three of those came in his first five seasons, and two were against Houston, now a Big 12 member. — *Scott Wright, The Oklahoman*

12. Baylor

Previous ranking: 14
Points: 46
Record: 1-2
Last week: defeated Long Island, 30-7
This week: vs. No. 4 Texas

Comment: Baylor overcame a two-hour weather delay and ran past Long Island to snap its six-game losing streak. The Bears put up 270 yards on the ground, led by true freshman Dawson Pendergrass with 111 yards and a touchdown, while Richard Reese, last year's Big 12 Offensive Freshman of the Year, scored his first two touchdowns this season. Starting quarterback Blake Shapen remains unlikely to play in the Big 12 opener against Texas with an MCL injury.

Did You know? Saturday will mark the final meeting between Texas and Baylor as Big 12 rivals. The Bears have faced off against the Longhorns 112 times since their first meeting in 1901, the second-most games against a single opponent in Baylor program history. Texas leads the all-time series 80-28-4. — *Zach Smith, Waco Tribune-Herald*

13. Houston

Previous ranking: 12
Points: 35
Record: 1-2
Last week: lost to TCU, 36-13
This week: vs. Sam Houston

Comment: Houston continued to struggle offensively, failing to score an offensive touchdown for the first time since 2014, in a disappointing Big 12 debut against TCU. Coach Dana Holgorsen said this week that a lack of quality depth prevents him from making any significant changes. Another poor performance may force his hand.

Did you know? With Matthew Golden's 98-yard kickoff return against TCU, the Cougars have a nation-leading seven since 2019. — *Joseph Duarte, Houston Chronicle*

14. Iowa State

Previous ranking: 11
Points: 30
Record: 1-2
Last week: lost at Ohio, 10-7
This week: vs. Oklahoma State

Comment: The Cyclones can point to missed field goals and an inability to establish a running game as primary reasons for consecutive one-score losses. They'll face a Cowboys team that's similarly struggled to score but has won four of the past five meetings in Ames.

Did you know? Dating back to the last half of the 2021 season, Iowa State is 1-12 in games decided by seven points or fewer. — *Rob Gray, Cedar Rapids Gazette*

CLASS OF 2023



HALL OF FAME



UNIVERSITY HIGH



Kyle Turnbull

Kyle Turnbull wrestled at University High from 2000-2004. He was the first four-time state place-winner in school history in wrestling. Turnbull made the state finals three times and was a two-time state champion. In his freshman year, Turnbull was the Amityville Tournament champion, NCAC Tournament champion, finished the season with a 35-6 record and finished fifth in the state meet. In his sophomore year, Turnbull was the Amityville Tournament champion, NCAC Tournament champion, finished the season with a 37-5 record, and was the state runner-up at 112 pounds. In Turnbull's junior year, he won the Amityville and Musselman tournaments, while also winning a Region I title and became the state champion at 112 pounds. He finished his junior season with a 36-2 record. Turnbull finished a perfect 35-0 as a senior, once again capturing a Region I championship and was the state champion at 119 pounds. During the summer of his junior year, he traveled to Fargo, N.D., for the USA wrestling national tournament. He reached the finals, losing only to future NCAA champion Paul Donahoe and finished second in the nation to become a high school All-American. Turnbull received a full scholarship to wrestle at West Virginia University. His collegiate career was unfortunately riddled with injuries. Kyle graduated from WVU with a B.S. in finance (magna cum laude) and then attended West Virginia University College of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor degree. Kyle currently lives in Charlotte, N.C., with his family and is a financial services attorney in Holland & Knight's Charlotte office.



Brenda L. Johnson

Brenda L. Johnson attended University High School from 1975-1978. She played basketball and cheered during her time in high school. Johnson was instrumental in putting girls' basketball at University High on the map. She was a starting forward all three years she attended UHS and was team captain her senior year. Her scoring average was in double figures during her entire basketball career. During her tenure, the team won 80% of its games. It wasn't until her sophomore year there was state-sanctioned postseason play. During both her junior and senior year, the UHS girls' basketball team won the sectional championship behind her leadership. In her final season (1977-78), she averaged 16 points, 11 rebounds, and five steals per game. At this time, she was the all-time leading scorer, rebounder, and steals leader at UHS. All of her hard work was recognized when she was selected first-team all-state her senior year making her the first ever UHS girls' basketball player to be selected first team. She was the leading vote-getter at the forward position. Multiple college-level women's basketball programs showed interest in Johnson as a player in their program. She chose to attend cosmetology school in Clarksburg and operated her own beauty shop for years in the Morgantown area. She currently lives in Springfield, Va., where she is happily retired.

From its earliest beginnings in 1925 as a school, University High exemplified not only the best traditions of academic excellence, but also pride in the rich athletic traditions that were to come. University High School has been through many changes from 35 students in the Old Tea Room in 1925 to the opening of University Demonstration High School on North Price Street in 1933 to the current University High School on Bakers Ridge Road. In 2018, a group of interested faculty and alumni met to consider the idea of establishing a University High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Believing that athletics play an integral role in the pride and vitality of the high school setting, members of the committee sought and selected individuals who are to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. They wanted to recognize outstanding athletes, dedicated coaches, athletic directors, administrators and auxiliary personnel who have brought positive recognition to themselves and to UHS. This year's Inductees will be introduced at 7:05 p.m. Friday, prior to the start of the Fairmont Senior at University football game.



Jeffrey Stanley

Jeffrey Stanley worked at University High School for 38 years from 1982-2019. During his 38-year tenure he taught physical education, drivers education, health education, and served as the Dean of Students for a semester. He dedicated much of his life to University High School and the University High School Athletic Department each and every day. Stanley served multiple stints as University's assistant baseball coach from 1982-1997, 2001-2002 and 2011-2014. He was named the head baseball coach in 2003 and served in that capacity for eight years. During that tenure, he was named the NCAC Coach of the Year, won multiple sectional championships, and lead the team the 2003 state tournament. Stanley served as University High School athletic trainer for football for 21 years. During that time, he evaluated injuries, provided first aid/emergency care, developed and carried out rehabilitation programs, planned and implemented comprehensive programs to prevent injuries, and preformed administrative tasks. University head football coach John Kelley said, "Jeff Stanley was fully committed to our athletes, a pioneer in the athletic training field that went above and beyond to assist, as well as a pleasure to have on staff." Stanley also served multiple years as University High's boys' basketball assistant coach 1982-1985, 1988-1989, and 2009-2010. He also coached boys' basketball at St. Francis junior high and Trinity middle school. Over the years, Stanley served as the University High School athletic department event supervisor for JV football, freshman football, boys' soccer, and girls' soccer. Outside of school, Stanley served as the assistant pastor at New Life Ministries and leads/teaches Bible study sessions. He taught private driving lessons to the Morgantown community for over 30 years. Stanley was an integral part of University High School's athletic department for almost 40 years. His impact on the students at University High School is unmeasurable.



This year's Inductees will be introduced at 7:05 p.m. Friday, prior to the start of the Fairmont Senior at University football game.



Stephanie Burgess

Stephanie Burgess played soccer at University High School from 2001-2004. As a member of the girls' soccer team, she established herself as a premier prep stand-out in the region and in the state during her tenure. In her freshman season, Burgess scored 31 goals and had eight assists and was named honorable mention all-state. She scored 21 goals and had eight assists her sophomore season and was again named honorable mention all-state. During her junior year, Burgess scored 34 goals and had three assists and was named second-team all-state and the 2003 NCAC Player of the Year. In her senior season, Burgess scored 30 goals and had 24 assists and was named first-team all-state and was again named as the 2004 NCAC Player of the Year. During her soccer career at University High, Burgess set multiple school records: Most goals in a career (116), most goals in a season (34), most assists in a season (24), most points in a career (263) and most points in a season (83). Burgess also joined the University High School football team in 2003 and converted on four extra-point attempts as a kicker. Burgess joined the West Virginia University women's soccer team in 2005. She was named to the 2005 Big East Conference Academic All-Star team. In 2008, she was named to the Big East All-Academic team and to the Athletic Directors Academic Honor Roll. During that season she was awarded the Hard Work Award and S.O.C.C.E.R Award. Burgess attended West Virginia School of Dentistry from 2009-2013



Frances Wade

Frances Wade worked at University High School for 44 years from 1965-2009, where she served as the financial secretary for UHS. She was the behind-the-scenes foundation of the University High School athletic department during her tenure. She dedicated much of her life to University High School athletics and her commitment to the school is beyond compare. Without Wade, the University High School athletic department would not have survived. In addition to her duties as the school's financial secretary, she took on many responsibilities for the athletic department that included preparing the official's checks for every athletic event, preparing and counting money boxes for every athletic event, writing purchase orders for every athletic purchase, keeping track and preparing financial statements for each athletic program's fundraising accounts, paying officials at athletic events, selling tickets at most of the athletic events and assigning other ticket workers when additional staff was needed. Wade assisted the administration with any issues or problems that occurred at athletic events. She was a large contributor to the everyday operations of University High School. Wade was an extremely responsible, dependable, and dedicated person to University High School Athletics. She always went the extra mile and demonstrated an exceptional commitment to University High School and its athletic department. Her impact on the UHS Athletic Department is unmeasurable.

Husband discloses partner's salary to friend without permission

DEAR HARRIETTE: The other day I was driving home with my husband when he got a call from a good friend of his. His friend was venting about being unhappy with the base salary at his new job. My husband then revealed that he should be happy with that salary, and how it is more than I am making now. Though I don't believe that my husband had malicious intent, I was angry that he disclosed my salary without my permission. I told him then and there that he had no right to offer that information to his friend, and his defense was that he would not care if I did the same to him. Am I overreacting? — PRIVATE INFO

DEAR PRIVATE INFO: Don't wait for an apology. You could be waiting for a long time. What you can do is establish clear lines of demarcation for what you consider to be private about your life. Think about what else you don't want your husband to share. Make a list and recommend that he do the same. This is something you may want to consider doing from time to time to ensure that you are on the same page.

Also, if you know that your spouse finds it diffi-

cult to keep certain information to himself, you may choose to withhold sensitive details as an extra layer of protection.

DEAR HARRIETTE: Since moving to a new city for work, I've had trouble meeting people. A former classmate who lives in the same area asked me out for dinner, and I went. It was clear to me that he was hoping for more than friendship, but I'm not romantically interested in him. Nevertheless, I'm considering spending more time with him to see if he'll invite me to join his circle of friends. That way I'll know people other than just him. Would you say this is a good approach, or could it end up backfiring? — NEED FRIENDS

DEAR NEED FRIENDS: Yes, you should continue to spend time with this friend, but you must be honest with him. Tell him you like him as a friend, but nothing more. Ask him if he would consider inviting you to other events where you can meet people. Tell him candidly you have not met people in the area yet and want to expand your network. Find out if he is willing to include you in his circle.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023

Check your emotions at the door and refuse to let anyone get under your skin this year. You have plenty to gain if you focus on what matters and the goals you want to achieve. Be honest, regardless of what others suggest. Your reputation will matter if you want to rise to the top.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Emotions are high, and someone will judge your actions. Think each step through and forge ahead with precision and attention to detail.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't be lazy; take the plunge and make things happen. Rub elbows with people who can help you push your objective forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You'll find it challenging to divide your time between work and play.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Dedicate time to tidying up loose ends and honoring your promises to avoid looking bad or sending the wrong message.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't argue over trivialities when compromise will help keep the peace and give you more leeway regarding something that truly matters to you.



EUGENIA LAST

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Refuse to let what others do bother you. Don't feel obligated to tag along or change your plans.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be a good listener and observer, and recognize when someone makes false claims.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't be reluctant to use your skills, knowledge and experience to get your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Don't make promises you can't keep or let temptation lead you astray. Use experience and intelligence as you decide your next move.

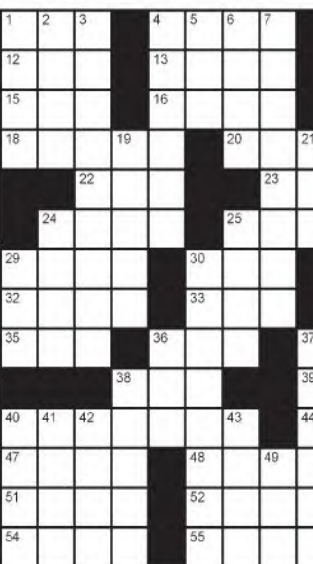
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Observe rather than react. Emotions will surface and could put you in an awkward position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't make promises you can't keep or let temptation lead you down a slippery slope.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Adjust your living conditions to make your life easier.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Crow's cry
 - 4 Curved structure
 - 8 Maladies
 - 12 Fire residue
 - 13 "Go away!"
 - 14 Small bottle
 - 15 Flower necklace
 - 16 Alone
 - 17 Flow slowly
 - 18 — Gras
 - 20 Decorated
 - 22 — Alamos
 - 23 Manner
 - 24 Blemish
 - 25 Jokerster
 - 26 "No —, ands or buts"
 - 29 Thunderous sound
 - 30 Prohibition
 - 31 Fingerboard ridge
 - 32 Love god
 - 33 Biblical boat
- DOWN**
- 34 Fine and liberal
 - 35 Thicken
 - 36 Parched
 - 37 First Nations tribe
 - 38 Major airport
 - 39 Easter find
 - 40 Change the decor
 - 44 Traveled way
 - 47 "That means —!"
 - 48 Gear for a matador
 - 50 Cover
 - 51 Venue
 - 52 Part of the eye
 - 53 Black cuckoo
 - 54 Rind
 - 55 Man of rank
 - 56 "I smell a —!"



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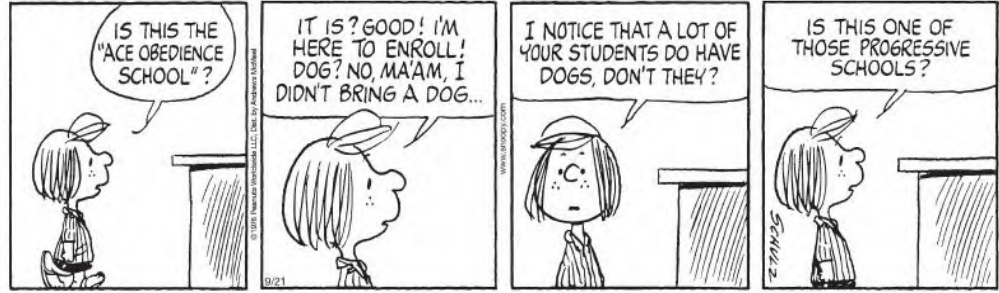


- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
- 3 Circular current
 - 4 Aid
 - 5 Greek letter
 - 6 Bubbly beverage
 - 7 Trick
 - 8 "Ebony and —"
 - 9 King of the jungle
 - 10 Take it easy
 - 11 Vehicle on runners
 - 19 Condemns
 - 21 Kind of flour
 - 24 Achy
 - 25 Leery
 - 26 Imperfect
 - 27 Party
 - 28 Wall and Fleet (abbr.)
 - 29 Panhandle
 - 30 Cookout
 - 31 Wells —
 - 36 Unexploded bomb
 - 37 Breakfast fare
 - 38 "Heartbreak —"
 - 40 Coarse file
 - 41 Designer — Tahari
 - 42 Speck in the air
 - 43 Molten rock
 - 45 Singer — Turner
 - 46 Redact
 - 49 Miles — gallon

CURTIS



PEANUTS



THE GRIZZWELLS



BEETLE BAILEY



FRANK & ERNEST



BORN LOSER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



RYHMES WITH ORANGE



MUTTS



SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

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I	I	O	U	S	M	P
A	E	O	Y	R	V	P
A	E	E	F	L	C	F
A	A	E	I	T	R	D

Double Word Score

3rd Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 213

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

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09-21

Solutions — B-4