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**COLLEGE**

**Stewards of WVU proposes alternate savings plan**

**BY DAVID BEARD**  
DBeard@DominionPost.com

A group calling itself Stewards of West Virginia University has put forward an alternate proposal to the faculty and program cuts underway as part of WVU's Academic Transformation.

To help meet a \$45 million budget deficit, WVU's Board of Governors had approved cutting 143 faculty positions and 32 programs; the number of faculty cuts subsequently fell to 69 through retirements and resignations. This doesn't include more than 130 positions cut during the summer, or eight additional positions the business school cut following the BOG's vote in mid-September.

Stewards of WVU — which says it is not affiliated in any way with WVU — announced its plan in a Tuesday press release and spells it out on the website, stewardsofwvu.org.

Allowing for the already announced retirements, Stewards proposes avoiding any program cuts or further faculty RIFs, and making up the \$45 million by: cutting three top administrators; cutting overall administrative (called GIS, General Institutional Support) expenses by 15%, saving \$21.7 million; cutting salaries across the board by 2.4%, excluding Athletics employees making more than \$300,000 and any employees earning less than \$75,000, saving \$13.6 million; and asking employees making more than \$300,000 to take an additional 5% pay cut to perhaps offset some of the 2.4% across-the-board pay cut.

Stewards of WVU offers on its website a place for those to sign on in support of the plan. Stewards organizer Frank A. DeGeorge, a retired teaching assistant professor in the College of Business & Economics, said that as of Wednesday afternoon, it had sur-

**SEE SAVINGS, A-2**

**PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Warming shelter plan raises questions from potential neighbors, funding sources**

**BY BEN CONLEY**  
BConley@DominionPost.com

Morgantown City Councilor Danielle Trumble said she's heard from many 5th Ward constituents since a proposal to house a temporary warming shelter at Sabra United Methodist Church became public on Monday.

"I have received several

emails and a lot of calls from neighborhood folks who have comments or concerns," Trumble said. "They have a lot of questions they would like answered."

Trumble said she's advising neighbors to attend the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association meeting to be held at Sabra UMC (1234 Richwood Ave.) at

7 p.m. Monday.

Backed by Milan Puskar Health Right and Sabra UMC, organizers Jennifer Powell and Dani Ludwig stepped forward to spearhead the effort after a months-long push to flesh out a community warming shelter plan ended up going nowhere.

The group is seeking a budget of \$70,000 to fund the shelter from

6 p.m. to 7 a.m. for 105 days, starting Dec. 1 and ending March 15.

As part of its budgeting process, city council approved \$30,000 to help support a warming shelter. Once the dollars are allocated, distribution is handled administratively. It doesn't need to come back to council.

The Dominion Post reached

**SEE SOURCES, A-3**

**First snowfall of the season**



William Wotring/The Dominion Post photos

Tuesday night's snowfall covered the ground and trees near Cranesville on Wednesday.

**Mother nature welcomes November with a taste of winter**

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The region ushered in November with an early dusting of snow.

Residents woke up Wednesday morning to below-freezing

temperatures and — depending where you live — anything from a few flurries to a white yard.

Despite its frigid start, the next few days of the month should feel more like fall, with the mercury settling more com-

fortably in the 50s — and reaching into the mid-60s by the weekend.

AccuWeather says we'll be done with precipitation for awhile, too, with sunny skies prevailing into next week.



**HOLIDAY**

**Capitol Christmas tree begins its journey**

**BY CHRIS LAWRENCE**  
WVMetroNews.com

Wednesday's snowfall in the high mountains of West Virginia created the perfect backdrop for the felling of the 2023 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

A small group of about 75 people, mostly workers with the U.S. Forest Service and media members, braved 19-degree temperatures and crowded into the Laurel Fork Campground on the Monongahela National Forest to witness the harvest of a 63-foot Norway Spruce, which is now destined for Washington, D.C.

"All-in-all we estimate our staff looked at probably over 100 trees. We narrowed it down to the best eight candidates that had the characteristics we were looking for. Those eight trees are what we showed to the architect of the U.S. Capitol for options," said Amy Albright, project manager for the Capitol Christmas Tree Project.

Location played a big part in it as well, according to Forest Supervisor Shawn Cochran.

The 63-foot Norway Spruce from the Monongahela National Forest was selected from close to 100 trees suggested for the honor.

"It has that nice typical pyramid shape that everybody can recognize. It's a very well-formed tree, but access plays a big role, getting those cranes in here and getting close to the tree is a major factor," said Cochran.

The two cranes held the big spruce in position as two men known for their role in the West Virginia forest industry brought down the tree in the old school manner: Ron Polgar, a 46-year veteran of the Monongahela Forest Service staff, and Arden Cogar Jr., who is well-known for his many years of competing in Timbersports, were selected to harvest the tree.

Cogar said cutting the tree with a cross-cut saw, a felling ax and wedges was a celebration of the hard work of many generations of West Virginia loggers.

"The Appalachian Mountains,

**SEE JOURNEY, A-3**



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STATE

Administration again says evidence in federal jails case wasn't intentionally destroyed

BY BRAD McELHINNY  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — Gov. Jim Justice said state workers should lose their jobs or even be subject to criminal charges if they were responsible for destroying a range of potential evidence in a federal lawsuit over conditions at the Southern Regional Jail.

But administration officials two weeks in a row have said they do not believe the destruction represents intentional acts.

A federal magistrate judge wrote this week that it defies logic that lost evidence from email accounts, cell phones, text messages, Criminal Investigation Division reports and other electronic and paper data would be anything but intentional. The judge concluded by saying he would forward his findings to a federal prosecutor for a possible investigation.

Justice, in a news briefing Wednesday, said his administration strives for transparency.

"Everybody knows, I expect everybody to be transparent," Justice said in response to a question by reporter Bob Aaron of WCHS Television. "I expect everybody to be honest. I expect everybody to be an absolute open book. Whatever you want to look at, I think that we ought to be able to show anyone anything that is within our capabilities or reason to be able to do so."

He continued, "Here's the net of the whole thing. When people are directed to not destroy something or whatever it may be or supply something and then they just don't, at the end of the day I think it would be a very, very, very long and difficult day for those folks. If they've done what it is alleged that they did do then they have to

be terminated."

The lawsuit filed in September 2022 is a class action against Southern Regional Jail, the West Virginia Division of Corrections and every county commission that pays Southern Regional to house inmates.

Allegations in the suit include inmates sleeping on mats soaked in toilet water, some being forced to sleep on concrete floors, poor air quality because of black mold and denial of nutritious food, running water or a toilet.

The most recent battle in federal court has been over whether state officials improperly disposed of records that could have been evidence in the case.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Omar Aboulhosn scrutinized the loss of evidence this week in a filing that recommends a default judgment in the case.

The judge wrote that "The Court is not convinced that there was some species of ineptitude that infected every individual in the chain of command regarding evidence preservation."

And the judge concluded that "the failure to preserve the evidence that was destroyed in this case was intentionally done and not simply an oversight by the witnesses."

Moreover, Aboulhosn wrote, "the intentional decisions to not preserve evidence, and to allow evidence to be destroyed was not done by low-level employees of the WVDCR but was perpetrated by the highest persons in the chain of command

"That these Defendants would ask this Court to believe that entire file cabinets of evidence disappeared without a trace is an ask too far. To do so, the Court would have to disregard all logic and reason to take these Defendants at their word."

The Justice administration's chief of staff, Brian

Abraham, last week said in a news briefing that the deletion of email records from departing corrections employees was not intentional.

This week, Homeland Security Secretary Mark Sorsaia again said the loss of several kinds of records that might have been evidence was not intentional.

"I can tell the public categorically," Sorsaia said, "we have no evidence — and I'll say it again, at this time we have no evidence — that any individual or individuals intentionally destroyed evidence or took affirmative action to make sure that evidence was hidden from disclosure.

"The federal magistrate made a comment in his opinion that he felt that our failure to provide evidence in a timely manner was so egregious that he had to conclude it was an intentional act to withhold evidence and I will tell you in all due respect to the magistrate we disagree with that contention."

MetroNews followed up by asking the administration officials to characterize what did happen if the records were not destroyed intentionally.

The governor again said the workers who were responsible should be held accountable.

"If people have done a derelict job, they need replaced. If people have done a purposeful, purposeful job to where they've done something knowingly — that they've done something that is wrong, such as destroying evidence or whatever like that when they know that it's dead wrong then they need to go to jail. That's how I see it, and that's all there is to it.

"They need to be either terminated for doing a derelict job or they need to go to jail. Because if they're doing something that's breaking the law then I have no sympathy."

Sorsaia, a longtime

Putnam County prosecutor, said he agreed — but he said there were complications in state government.

"I've learned how large state government is. We have an IT department that's in one side of the bureaucracy in state government and then we have Homeland Security and all the different agencies. We were unaware that the IT department had a policy that when an employee ceased working for the state — they left their job or went on — the IT department had a policy that after, I believe, five months they deleted their emails from the system.

"It was just a policy that was created by the IT department that if I leave office today and I hand my cell phone back that in five months my emails will be deleted. Well, we got requests for discovery and we were requested to provide emails in that discovery. I'm not just talking about a couple of emails; it could be thousands to even a hundred thousand emails; that's the volume that we're talking about."

So, the state is being taken to task in part because the email accounts of six corrections officials who departed in 2022 were purged.

"That just happened. It was not in any way, some conspiracy to destroy evidence. It was just one agency not understanding how another agency was handling their electronic data. That is what we're working on now. We're coordinating efforts. We're discussing this to make sure this kind of thing doesn't happen again."

Sorsaia concluded, "Why would any individual in the Department of Corrections or Homeland Security have a personal interest to destroy or hide evidence in a controversy that deals with the State of West Virginia vs. a private party. It just doesn't make sense."

SAVINGS

FROM PAGE A-1

passed more than 200 signatures.

Asked about the makeup of Stewards, DeGeorge said he developed the plan and put forward his name as the group front man. Other members wish to remain anonymous. "I am receiving direct support from about half a dozen other affected members of the WVU community, and indirect support from countless others."

DeGeorge explained that they had three specific WVU leaders in mind for their GIS cuts: President Gordon Gee, Provost Maryanne Reed and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Rob Alsop.

The Stewards' announcement on Tuesday coincided with WVU's announcement that Gee will reorganize the strategic initiatives unit as Alsop plans to leave the

university, following a temporary transition to the role of special adviser to the president, effective Nov. 18 through Jan. 31, 2024.

The Stewards' announcement hinted that Alsop's decision may have been tied to the release of its plan. DeGeorge said Wednesday, "Senior leadership learned of our proposal over the weekend, began intercepting our meetings and communications as we were collecting sympathetic faculty, and then unexpectedly 'resigned' VP Alsop — which our plan specifically calls for — within the hour we were planning on taking our proposal public. ... We do view this as a concession or appeasement effort on the part of President Gee (and VP Reed) in response to our Stewardship Plan, and in fact as an endorsement of the Stewardship Plan."

WVU spokeswoman April Kaull told The Dominion Post Wednesday, "Its assertion regarding yesterday's [Alsop] announcement is completely false."

In the Stewards' release, DeGeorge said the plan reflected the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity.

"Solidarity, because we shouldn't fire 220-430 people [they factor in possible additional, unannounced nonrenewals] and eliminate 32 programs if we can all sacrifice a little and accomplish the same goal."

"And subsidiarity," he said, "because it is the GIS department that has ballooned steadily during the Gee administration and needs to be reeled in. The Stewardship Plan does not provide guidance regarding application of the 15% reduction which will no doubt be made up of some combination of

work-force reductions, salary and wage rate reductions and deep cuts in outside consulting costs. The determination of these cuts will be in the hands of the new senior administration."

Stewards estimates a total impact through the plan of \$55 million or more in savings, with \$45 million of that to be permanent.

Asked to respond to the Stewards' plan, Kaull said, "We are taking a strategic approach to realign all areas of the WVU system to become the modern land-grant university that is increasingly relevant to the needs of today's students and our global society while also adjusting our budget, so we remain financially sound for the future. As we have throughout this process, we will continue to engage with all of our stakeholders."

UTILITIES

Hope Gas describes its vision of bringing hydrogen hub benefits to people's homes

BY BRAD McELHINNY  
WVMetroNews.com

Hope Gas is further describing its role in a hydrogen hub that is a multi-pronged public and private investment in the Appalachian region.

Although a federal investment of almost a \$1 billion was announced with a splash just a few weeks ago, specifics about aspects of the project have been taking shape more gradually.

Hope Gas intends to partner with WATT Fuel Cell Corp to produce hydrogen from natural gas for Hope's local distribution system and residential fuel cells. A WATT fuel cell is being installed at the Hope Gas headquarters in Morgantown. The company that makes the fuel cells is working to build a construction facility.

Another partner is the gas company EQT.

Hope aims to provide fuel cells to West Virginia homes starting in 2024, ramping up over the next three years. Hope Gas plans to leverage federal grant dollars under the ARCH2 hydrogen hub project to reach a total of 5,300 WATT Fuel Cell potential customers.

"There's only one project that DOE is funding that is bringing hydrogen into the home," Morgan O'Brien, chief executive of Hope Gas, said on MetroNews' "Talkline."

"We have this one, unique project and the punchline of it is we're not only partnering with the government but partnering with the technology business. So we have a company that makes a fuel cell that can burn hydrogen. It can also burn natural gas as well, and it can be put in your home and basically act either as a backup generator or actually help you, basically, come off the grid at some point and use the fuel cell to be one of your sources of energy."

Hope says West Virginia is in the top three states with electric reliability issues and that many residential customers rely on backup generators. The company says fuel cells will use a home's access to the existing, reliable natural gas infrastructure to provide affordable, reliable power. If customers currently have a generator, Hope officials say, installation of a fuel cell will be very simple.

With such a system, natural gas is converted to hydrogen, which in turn is converted to electricity using a chemical reaction similar to a battery. No nitrogen oxides (NOx) or sulfur oxides (SOx) are emitted from fuel cells, according to Hope.

Out of the box, Hope says, fuel cells can use a blend of natural gas and 20% hydrogen. They can be converted to use 100% hydrogen. In addition, according to Hope, fuel cells can be paired with solar panels to charge the batteries to provide additional power to homes.

"You could theoretically be buying hydrogen in your home, putting a fuel cell in your home and creating green energy in your home

in West Virginia," O'Brien said.

He added, "We think once people learn about them and particularly with the hydrogen hub subsidy, these are going to be very compelling for most families."

Shawn Bennett, division manager for energy and resilience at Battelle, one of the companies at the center of the hydrogen hub's development, described the Hope project during an online public meeting last week.

He described it as "finding those communities who may have electricity that kind of goes in and out, providing them an opportunity for backup power — something that is reliable and something they can use all the time."

The hydrogen hub project means having interconnected projects to produce hydrogen power, store carbon dioxide emissions and use the hydrogen power for activities like transportation or data storage.

President Joe Biden and officials with the U.S. Department of Energy on Oct. 13 announced the Appalachian hydrogen hub and six similar projects across the nation. The total federal support is \$7 billion, with the Appalachian project in line for \$925 million of that. Private investment is already lining up and will put up billions more in financial support.

Appalachian counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania are also participating in the hub. Officials said the project is geared toward the rich supplies of natural gas in the region, although some aspects of the project also rely on producing "green hydrogen" from renewable sources.

Other aspects of the hub include:

■ a CNX/Transgas ammonia production facility in southern West Virginia.

■ two TC Energy/Chemours facilities in the mid-Ohio Valley and Kanawha Valley to produce hydrogen through electrolysis.

■ a Fidelis/Mountaineer Gas "GigaSystem" site in the mid-Ohio Valley to use natural gas and biomass to produce hydrogen for data centers and other consumers.

■ a Hog Lick Aggregates site in north central West Virginia to use hydrogen to fuel delivery trucks, haul trucks and equipment.

■ an Empire Diversified Energy site at the tip of the Northern Panhandle producing hydrogen through anaerobically-digested food waste for industrial and transportation fuel.

■ and a Plug Power/Amazon site in northern West Virginia to produce "green hydrogen"

"It's going to be a long journey before we figure out all the challenges with hydrogen," O'Brien said. "At the same time, West Virginia is rich with natural gas, so it's not like we're not rich and plentiful with affordable energy here and clean energy. I'm a big believer that you want to define the future, so I think it's important for companies like Hope Gas to be engaged with hydrogen."

APPALACHIAN COUNTIES IN OHIO AND PENNSYLVANIA ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE HUB.

CLARIFY

The Dominion Post strives to publish accurate information. If a factual error does occur, notify: Editor Pam Queen, 304-291-9425 or editor@dominionpost.com

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PLANNING

# Goal to begin clearing Richwood development area by year’s end

**BY BEN CONLEY**  
BConley@DominionPost.com

MORGANTOWN – After three years of research, discussion and planning, the reimagining and redevelopment of some 9.5 acres along Morgantown’s Richwood Avenue has reached the “action phase.”

Morgantown Area Partnership CEO Russ Rogerson said the city is currently working to utilize some \$700,000 available through the Willey, Spruce, Brockway TIF district to begin razing the 55 structures spread across the property.

The goal, Rogerson explained during a public information session held Wednesday evening in the Woodburn Community Center, is to start bringing those structures down by the end of the year.

With the exception of the old Richwood Grill (318 Richwood Ave.), those old homes formerly represented some 300 beds of student housing.

Those days are gone.

Jay Rogers, of Omni Associates, explained the vision of master developer

Biafora Holdings is not stacks of bedrooms, gas stations and fast food, but an area adjacent to the city’s downtown focused on mixed use highlighting livability, walkability and sense of place.

“They know the university isn’t looking to grow. There’s not a need for all these beds. The beds are out there,” Rogers said. “They also know there’s a need for something affordable for workforce and for young professionals and they know those type of people want to be in an area where they can walk and get coffee or walk and have dinner or go to a tap house or tavern.”

Rogers said a great example of the vision for this project can be seen in Louisville, Kentucky’s Fourth Street.

To that end, project planners have shifted the initial focus away from the planned unit development approach and will ask the city’s planning commission to consider rezoning the area to B-1 (neighborhood business) when it convenes this month.

In the B-1 district,

structures must be between two and four stories above street level but cannot be more than 40 feet in height. Structures can be mixed use but cannot be strictly residential in a B-1 district.

Rogerson said it’s almost impossible to pull together nearly 10 contiguous acres of property near a city’s downtown, making this process critical to the city’s future.

“We see this as the first, current, new development to provide the kind of things we all want to see and the things we like when we go to other places,” he said, adding “If we do this with input and conversation throughout, we feel strongly we’ll be more successful.”

The property was purchased for \$11.8 from the Giuliani family by the Monongalia County Development Authority in late 2020. MCDA falls under the Morgantown Area Partnership umbrella.

Most of the redevelopment area falls within the city’s Willey, Spruce, Brockway TIF district, which was created in 2014.

WORLD

# Biden calls for humanitarian ‘pause’ in Israel-Hamas war

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — President Joe Biden said he thought there should be a humanitarian “pause” in the Israel-Hamas war, after his campaign speech Wednesday evening was interrupted by a protester calling for a cease-fire.

“I think we need a pause,” Biden said.

The call was a subtle departure for Biden and top White House aides, who throughout the Mideast crisis have been steadfast in

stating they will not dictate how the Israelis carry out their military operations in response to the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas.

But the president has faced intensifying pressure from human rights groups, fellow world leaders and even liberal members of his own Democratic Party, who say that the Israeli bombardment of Gaza is collective punishment and that it is time for a cease-fire.

In his comments, Biden was exerting pressure on

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give Palestinians at least a brief reprieve from the relentless military operation that’s left thousands dead and mired the 141-square-mile strip in a roiling humanitarian crisis.

The White House has refused to call for a cease-fire but has signaled that the Israelis should consider humanitarian pauses to allow civilians to receive aid and for foreign nationals trapped on the strip to leave Gaza.

## JOURNEY

FROM PAGE A-1

West Virginia itself, is deep seated in the mining and timbering industry. That’s what put food on my family’s table for over six generations. We wanted to celebrate the hard work ethic that makes us Mountaineer proud,” said Cogar.

Polgar is a traditionalist. He teaches the skills of using the cross-cut saw and sharpening the cross-cut blades as part of his work with the U.S. Forest Service. He was proud to be there.

“It’s quite an honor to provide the Christmas tree from our humble national forest to Washington, D.C.,” he said.

As the saw sliced through the last of the trunk and it was lifted from the stump, the crowd cheered.

“I think it’s an incredible sense of pride. It’s a beautiful tree,” said Meadow Arbogast from Randolph County who is an employee of the Forest Service. “It’s really a special way to show how awesome West Virginians are.”

The tree will now take a trip on a flatbed truck

around the state of West Virginia so the state’s population can see the history-making artifact before it’s finally erected on Capitol Hill for the holiday season. Along with the tree, West Virginians are sending along 14,000 homemade ornaments to adorn the tree. They were created by a number of school groups and other West Virginians as part of the Christmas Tree project.

The tree will be dedicated Nov. 28 on Capitol Hill.

**GRIG WHITE** contributed to this story

## SOURCES

FROM PAGE A-1

out to the city to ask what requirements or stipulations, if any, would come with that money and if there are concerns about the shelter being in a residential neighborhood.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli said the city is reviewing the proposal.

“We are in discussions with the group about their request but nothing is final at this time,” she explained.

Trumble, who also serves on Morgantown Planning Commission, said the location will mandate at least some additional oversight.

“This would require a temporary use permit through the city manager’s office because emergency shelters are generally not permitted in the R-1A zone,” she said. “So those who have proposed the shelter need to work with administration and figure out what kind of restrictions or conditions would potentially be applied

to that.”

During Monday’s presentation, Powell called on both the city and county for support.

Members of the Monongalia County Commission said they have yet to be approached regarding the proposal.

The commission previously allocated \$10,000 for warming shelter efforts, but Commission President Tom Bloom said that money does come with stipulations.

“We have not been contacted in any manner, but I will tell you the county

commissioners have made it very clear our money is going for an emergency shelter with a plan. That’s the key,” he said.

By “emergency shelter,” Bloom means a facility open when temperature or weather conditions meet a certain threshold.

“For years we had an emergency shelter and never had a problem. What has changed that we’ve had to go from an emergency shelter to a daily warming shelter? That’s something that really needs to be looked at because it

changes everything,” he said.

“When you make it a low barrier warming shelter and open it every night, aren’t you just competing against Bartlett House because they have rules? I have serious concerns when you open it every day.”

Commissioner Jeff Arnett serves as a board member for Morgantown Community Resources, the nonprofit that essentially serves as the landlord for Hazel’s House of Hope, where the shelter opened

daily last winter.

When it closed in March, representatives of the board said HHH would not be able to host the warming shelter again.

“It became a problem for the overall functioning of that whole center having it up there the way it was last year. I think of a warming shelter as an emergency thing,” Arnett said. “Certainly, we appreciate that individuals have stepped forward to take this on, but we haven’t heard a thing yet. We’d have to take a look at it.”

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COMMUNITY

# Milan Puskar Foundation helps Lauren’s Wish with major donation

**MORE COVERAGE**  
Read more about the one-year anniversary of Lauren’s Wish Addiction Triage Center in The Dominion Post this weekend.

**BY ERIN CLEAVENGER**  
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

“It covers a year’s worth of rent.”

“You could call it a month worth of keeping the doors open.”

“It could be applied to everything.”

The above are just a few examples of how Lauren’s Wish

Founder and Chairman Michael Cole and Board of Directors Members Edward Boyle and John Todd could see a \$50,000 donation from the Milan Puskar Foundation being used to support the mission of the organization.

“That’s big. And they’ve done that twice,” Boyle said, adding the Foundation’s first donation came before Lauren’s Wish opened the doors to its Addiction Triage Center at Hazel’s House of Hope one year ago.

“That first donation came sight unseen,” Boyle said. “... because they believed in the mission.”

Now, a year after they first opened the Addiction Triage

Center, Lauren’s Wish has a full staff, houses an average of 16-19 clients a day at the 24-bed facility, and has helped over 360 individuals suffering from addiction by providing a place to stay safe and sober until they are able to be placed in a longer-term treatment facility.

The board members explained how there is a gap in addiction treatment between the hospital following an overdose and a long-term treatment center where many suffering from addiction are left to fend for themselves while waiting for placement in a center.

“Nobody has ever addressed this

SEE WISH, A-5



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

John Todd, Michael Cole, Ed Boyle, Lori Maynard, Kyle Pratt and Dave Thomas pose during the check presentation for Lauren's Wish on Wednesday.

# Holiday shopping with Rudolph



Ron Rittenhouse /The Dominion Post photos

Shopper Barry Balon gets a goodbye from Rudolph as he leaves ReTails by M-SNAP at the Morgantown Mall. The fundraising retail space hosted the grand opening of its Christmas Shoppe on Wednesday.

# Christmas Shoppe opens to benefit local pets

**BY ERIN CLEAVENGER**  
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas at many local stores, but volunteers at a nonprofit thrift shop in the Morgantown Mall have spent the last few weeks transforming their space into a full Christmas Shoppe.

ReTails by M-SNAP (Mountaineer Spay and Neuter Assistance Program) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit thrift store located inside the mall, across from the Shoe Department.

The store celebrated the opening of its annual Christmas Shoppe on Wednesday, complete with cookies, coffee and a special visit from the most famous reindeer of all — Rudolph.

Store Manager, M-SNAP secretary, volunteer and animal lover Gisele Pernell-Toothman said volunteers with the group put a lot of time into swapping out non-seasonal items for things a little more festive as they have been working on the transition — sometimes up to 15 hours a day — since Oct. 20.

That hard work is evident walking into ReTails, which is now filled with everything Christmas from decorations and ornaments to wrapping paper and gift bags. Wreaths, Christmas village houses, glassware and plates, Santa Claus figurines, and even large, pre-made bows with Christmas ribbon.

While the shelves and walls are currently still full, Pernell-Toothman said they have even more Christmas items that have been donated waiting to be put out on the retail floor. As items that are currently displayed are purchased, volunteers will continue putting out new options for shoppers to peruse.

Year-round proceeds from the store support M-SNAP, which is a Monongalia County animal advocacy organization whose mission is to reduce pet overpopulation in the area. Throughout the year, the group distributes vouchers to help cover the often-hefty cost of spay and neuter surgeries at local veterinary offices or SNIP WV



ReTails by M-SNAP at the Morgantown Mall has gotten a holiday makeover. Volunteers at a nonprofit thrift shop have spent the last few weeks transforming their space into a full Christmas Shoppe.

(Spay Neuter Incentive Program), a low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter clinic on Earl L. Core Road in Sabraton.

According to M-SNAP Treasurer Nancy Young, ReTails opened in February 2010, it has contributed \$232,355 toward the M-SNAP Voucher Program’s total cost of over \$1 million.

While ReTails is a major fundraiser for the group, Young said it also gives M-SNAP more of a public presence in the community and a place to share pet stories and talk about the program.

Young said ReTails is also the only thrift store in the Morgantown area that saves 12 months of Christmas donations so they are able to set up the special Christmas Shoppe every year.

Pernell-Toothman said the shop will close a few days before Christmas and volunteers will begin changing the store back to normal for the new year.

ReTails by M-SNAP will be open for regular hours throughout the holiday season — from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

## PRESTON COUNTY

# Residents of Indian Rock mobile home park take concerns to commission

**BY JENIFFER GRAHAM**  
DPNews@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — Concerns about the Indian Rock mobile home park in Reedsville were brought before the commission during its Tuesday meeting.

Tammy Forshey told commissioners she is having trouble contacting someone at the mobile home park to pay her rent.

“There are about 50 people who don’t know what is going on and have no place to go,” she said. “The trailer park is currently in a trusteeship due to disagreements between the brother and one of the sisters that own the property.”

She said there is also a holding pond on the site that the Department of Environmental Protection said had to be cleaned up and treated prior to Dec. 31. Forshey said so far nothing has been done.

“We would gladly do the training and clean up around the pond and treat it if it would help,” she said.

Forshey said six mobile homes have already been moved by residents, but some families do not have

the option due to cost.

“It cost one couple \$1,700 to get their mobile home moved. There are elderly people here who can’t move. We need to know what to do to move forward,” she said.

“I called Meadows Law Office in Morgantown to find out who we should pay our rent to. They were supposed to call me back but haven’t done so yet. They are the attorneys handling the property.”

Dayton Meadows, of Meadows Law Office, said the Indian Rock park was founded by James Cobun who died in 2014. He said the property hasn’t yet passed down to the family, but an agreement was reached to close the estate out. He said that did not mean the trailer park is closing.

Meadows said his office was not collecting rent for the park. He said he was asked to stay on after the agreement was reached in case any other legal advice was needed by the three owners.

Commission President

SEE RESIDENTS, A-5

## ARTS COLUMN

# Artists need funds, too — luckily, the money’s out there

**WHETHER YOU’RE AN EMERGING TALENT** seeking financial support or an established artist craving new avenues for growth, the Arts Council of Greater Morgantown (ACGM) is here to inspire and empower your creative journey. As the calendar year nears its end, there are still some financial support opportunities left for our local artist community. The following are just a few of the options still available for 2023.

**Community Arts Mini-Grant**

The Community Arts Mini-Grant program is a funding opportunity of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) that provides direct project support to projects that present artists in performances, workshops, and other projects with a specific arts focus. This grant provides up to \$2,000 to local governments and 501(c)3 organizations for

their projects. There is a rolling deadline for this application, but those interested in applying must get their application in six weeks prior to their project date.

**Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Fast Track Grant**

The Fast Track ADA and Emergency Grant program provides funds for smaller renovation construction projects to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to provide buildings for people with disabilities, and for emergency needs when damage to arts/history museum infrastructure or sudden failure of equipment may result in harm to arts and history collections and public safety. This grant provides up to \$10,000 in emergency support to schools, local governments and 501(c)3

SEE FUNDS, A-5



**WISH**

FROM PAGE A-4

void between the ER and a treatment center,” Cole said of the center’s key purpose.

That void is what the Lauren’s Wish Addiction Triage Center is trying to fill.

At the center, a safe and healthy space is provided for individuals who are seeking treatment placement. Clients are monitored by peer recovery staff and have access to case management and addiction recovery resources in a healthy environment. When a placement is made, Lauren’s Wish transports them to their destination, ensuring that safe environment is not compromised.

Of course, all of this costs money. Employing a

qualified staff, transporting clients, general supplies like bottled water and toilet paper, and ensuring their clients’ needs are met are just a few of the expenses Lauren’s Wish faces daily. As a non-profit, the organization does not accept money from clients who in their eyes all deserve a chance to get well regardless of their financial situation.

Cole, Boyle and Todd said with donations like the one from the Milan Puskar Foundation and other supporters of their cause, donations and support from many organizations and individuals in the greater Monongalia County community, and funds contributed by board members, they have been able to accomplish so much. Following a check

presentation to Lauren’s Wish, representatives from Milan Puskar Foundation were given a tour of the Addiction Triage Center they are helping to support.

“I’m glad that we were able to see this and be a part of it and provide some support,” Milan Puskar Foundation Executive Director Lori Maynard said. “I’m happy we are here and have the opportunity as this foundation to do this for an organization that is working so tirelessly to fill that gap for those that are struggling with addiction, so they are not relapsing.”

If you would like more information about the work being done at Lauren’s Wish or would like to donate, visit their website [laurenswish.org](http://laurenswish.org).

**RESIDENTS**

FROM PAGE A-4

Samantha Stone told Forshy the commission could provide contact information but that was about all it could do.

County Administrator Nate Raybeck said the residents should contact Robin Dolly, an environmental inspector supervisor at

the West Virginia Department off Environmental Protection.

In other business, a request for \$5,000 to re-point the masonry on the History House building was unanimously approved by commission Tuesday. Commissioner Hunter Thomas said the History House houses a large number of commission artifacts.

He said members of the

History House are seeking donations. The town of Terra Alta has contributed \$5,000, Thomas said. Anyone interested in making a donation to the History House can send a check to P.O. Box 118, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525. The History house, 109 E. Washington St., Terra Alta, is open by appointment.

The next meeting of the Preston County Commission will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

**FUNDS**

FROM PAGE A-4

organizations. There is a rolling deadline for this application, and those interested in applying can apply when necessary.

**Travel and Training Grant**

The goal of the Travel and Training grant program is to provide 75% of costs up to \$500 in travel assistance to artists, arts administrators and arts educators attending conferences, workshops or seminars, or showcasing or demonstrating their work. This grant has a rolling deadline, but those interested in applying must get their application in four weeks prior to their event.

**Tamarack Foundation Creative Entrepreneur Fellowship**

The Tamarack Foundation for the Arts fosters in-depth relationships with creatives across generations. Through their Creative Entrepreneur Fellowship, they provide artists with intensive support as they develop their entrepreneurial skills and establish small businesses. Applications for 2024 will open on Thursday, Nov. 1. You can apply online or learn more about the 2023 fellows on their website [tamarackfoundation.org](http://tamarackfoundation.org).

If you have any questions about the grant application process, contact Cedrick.L.Farmer@wv.gov.

**Get connected to the creative community**

The Arts Council of Greater Morgantown (ACGM) is your local resource for arts information and opportunities. Here at the ACGM, we aim to advance the arts and enhance the community by encouraging investment in imagination, infrastructure, and invention. Please check out our website [artsgm.org](http://artsgm.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @theArtsCouncilofGreaterMorgantown.

**WANT TO STAY CONNECTED?** Email [Jordan@artsgm.org](mailto: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](http://artsgm.org).

**COMMUNITY**

**Boy Scouts of America to honor local citizens**

**Annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner to recognize Jeff Hostetler, Diversified Energy, others**

DPNews@DominionPost.com

The Boy Scouts of America, Mountaineer Area Council will recognize distinguished citizens whose leadership and philanthropy make a positive difference in its communities and represent the values instilled by the Boy Scouts of America.

Honors will be handed out this evening at the Annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner at The Erickson Alumni Center.

Those being honored:

- Jeff Hostetler as the Distinguished Citizen

- Diversified Energy as the Distinguished Corporate Citizen.

- Secretary of State and Eagle Scout Mac Warner; the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award.

The event will also recognize the 2023 recipients of the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award:

- Dr. Jay Cole and Dr. Michelle Richards-Babb of West Virginia University

- Sharon Petite of Ridgedale Elementary School in Monongalia County.

A presentation will also be made by several outstanding Scouts related to their personal achievements and Scouting experiences.

All proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the growth and support of

Scouting programs in north-central West Virginia.

The primary event sponsors are WVU Medicine and the Hayhurst Family and is also supported by many other community businesses and individuals.

Hostetler is a former quarterback for the WVU Mountaineers as well as in the NFL, most notably on the New York Giants as a two-time Super Bowl winner. He is the founder of the Hoss Foundation, which helps meet the needs of children and/or families facing hardships due to traumatic injury, illness, or financial crisis.

In 2017, Jeff and wife Vicky started the “Jeff and Vicky Hostetler Family Resource Center” at WVU Medicine Children’s. This space is dedicated to the support of families of patients at WVU Medicine Children’s who find themselves away from home and struggling to adjust to their new circumstances.

Diversified Energy Co. PLC is a leading independent energy company engaged in the production, marketing and transportation of primarily natural gas and associated liquids from upstream and mid-stream assets located within the U.S. Appalachian and Central Regions.

Its operations focus on consolidation and integration of existing,

low-decline natural gas and oil production assets, positioning the company to responsibly deliver stable, sustainable returns for its stakeholders from the point of asset acquisition to retirement.

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner earned the Eagle Scout Award in 1972 when he was a member of the Buckskin Council, Boy Scouts of America based in Charleston. Both of Warner’s sons have also earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He has been serving as secretary of state since 2017. He has been recognized throughout the country for his innovation in cybersecurity, secure online voting, election preparation and user-friendly business registration and licensing.

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation’s foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young boys and girls be “Prepared. For Life.®” The Scouting organization is composed of more than 1 million youth members (ages 5-17), participants (ages 17-21), and adult volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

The Mountaineer Area Council serves approximately 1,000 youth in Scouting programs throughout north-central West Virginia. For more information on the Mountaineer Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, visit [machsa.org](http://machsa.org).

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**1 Sabrina Ulrich and Darris Pratt** for Best Ad Campaign - Half Page or Larger

**2 Debbie Harrison** for Best Agency Ad

**2 Staff** for Best Theme Pages (Santa's Kids and Paws)

**3 Staff** for Best House Ad (Color Me Safe)

**3 Sabrina Ulrich and Composing Staff** for Best Ad Campaign - Half Page or Larger

Left to Right:  
**Jamie Nelson, Jessica Roberts Bellino, Debbie Harrison, Sabrina Ulrich, & Jesalyn Kamaka**

**WEST VIRGINIA Press**  
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EDITORIAL

Biden did his part. Now Congress must address AI

On Monday, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to put guardrails in place as artificial intelligence and large language models continue to be developed and released for public and commercial use. The order came just ahead of this week’s global summit on AI safety.

We can’t say Biden’s order puts us ahead of the curve, exactly, because AI is already frequently used and has already created problems. But, Monday’s order helps us from falling too far behind technological advancement to be able to regulate it at all, as happened with social media.

The two main parts of the executive order focus on encouraging the (safe) development and use of AI, as well as giving guidance to protect people from being victimized by artificial intelligence.

The executive order’s guidelines include new standards for safety and security (providing testing results to the federal government), for AI watermarking (labeling AI-generated text and images) and for landlords and federal agencies to identify and minimize bias produced from AI algorithms.

Watermarking will be increasingly important as the internet becomes flooded with AI-generated text and images. The images in particular can seem life-like enough to pass for something real — hence the danger of “deepfakes,” in which someone can be realistically depicted doing or saying something they haven’t.

The order’s guidance on identifying and bypassing the inherent bias in AI is also essential. It’s long been known that artificial intelligence programs have built-in implicit bias: Some of the first attempts at using facial recognition software to locate criminals in crowds regularly misidentified Black and other people of color as criminals. Even the most recent versions of generative AI produce stereotypical images when given generic prompts. For example, as the Washington Post found, the prompt “a portrait of a person cleaning” results exclusively in images of women doing chores.

Biden’s executive order is the most sweeping attempt at AI regulation to date, but its power is limited. It can provide guidance, but few requirements. It can issue orders to federal agencies, but not directly to private entities. It can outline goals for protecting people’s privacy and data, but it can’t establish specific rules without an act of Congress.

Data and privacy protection is the one thing missing from Biden’s order — and probably the most important issue when it comes to regulating AI. These large language models and image-generating softwares have been created and trained on the online data of millions of unsuspecting people, using everything from personal blogs (and possibly social media posts) to pirated copies and counterfeits of copyrighted work.

But something as complicated and broad as regulating what AI can and cannot be trained on can’t be done with just an executive order. Which is why Biden’s order urges Congress to “pass bipartisan data privacy legislation to protect all Americans, especially kids.”

Biden has done what he can. Now it is up to Congress to take the next steps — and it cannot drag its feet. AI technology is evolving so fast that it seems new models are released every month, and more and more companies are jumping on the bandwagon to create their own versions. We need appropriate regulations in place before AI spirals out of control.

After 75 years of conflict, it’s clear persistent war in Gaza isn’t the answer

THE MIDDLE EAST ONCE AGAIN PERCHES ON THE PRECIPICE OF ALL-OUT WAR.

Thousands of Israeli and Palestinian civilians are dead or wounded, many of them children. More than 200 Israelis and others remain hostages of Hamas in Gaza as that 25-mile-long coastal strip devolves into a humanitarian catastrophe. The U.S. military is sending more ships, planes and Marines, while American forces come under fire in Iraq and Syria and retaliate with airstrikes.

As Israel expands ground operations and Israeli tanks have rolled into parts of the Gaza strip, it is worth remembering this conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has gone on for 75 years, and if one thing has been proved again and again, war after war, it’s this: There is no military solution to this seemingly forever war.

With the worst violence and carnage unfolding since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, it should be agonizingly evident by now that peace can never be achieved without a long-term strategy to seek agreements between Israelis and Palestinians. Even families of the hostages have called for a pause in Israel’s ground assault.

Since the collapse of the 1993 Oslo peace accords, key final status issues remain unresolved between the parties, including competing claims to security, justice, Jerusalem and fair shares of the Holy Land — not to mention what to do about Israeli settlers and Palestinian refugees. The bloodshed of October has extinguished any prospect for peace for now, perhaps for years to come.

The war is more awful evidence that the current Israeli strategy regarding Palestinians is not working. Five wars between Israel and Hamas over the past 15 years should make it manifestly obvious that managing the conflict is not viable. Violence grows in the West Bank while the besieged Gaza Strip remains an open-air prison that some now call a graveyard.

Eventually, the parties must return to serious nego-

tiations, even though those seem ineffably distant. U.S. support for a two-state solution sounds like a naive dream right now, but that remains the most likely plan for a successful, permanent solution.

America has lived through this kind of bloody scenario after the 9/11 attacks by al-Qaida, and President Joe Biden reminded Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the U.S. made errors in its rushed response. When Biden visited Israel recently, he wisely cautioned the Israeli government “not to be blinded by rage,” noting, “We felt enraged as well. While we sought and got justice, we made mistakes.”

Israel has every right to defend itself after Hamas terrorists slaughtered at least 1,400 Israelis on Oct. 7 — the largest massacre of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust. There is no justification for Hamas atrocities. Iran-backed Hamas is not interested in making peace with Israel. Per its charter, this group is dedicated to killing Jews and destroying the Jewish state. It is classified by the U.S. and the European Union as a terrorist organization.

But the Israeli bombing campaign in Gaza since Oct. 7 has killed more than 7,000 Palestinians, more than a third of them children; displaced 1 million people; and destroyed thousands of buildings. If Israel moves in next with a major ground offensive, many more will die in Gaza in close urban battles.

Biden was right to tell the world the U.S. stands with Israel, but he was also wise to caution Netanyahu to follow the laws of war, minimize civilian deaths and not to reoccupy Gaza. More important, Israel needs to think

through its endgame and an exit strategy and who will be in charge of Gaza once it crushes Hamas and its leaders.

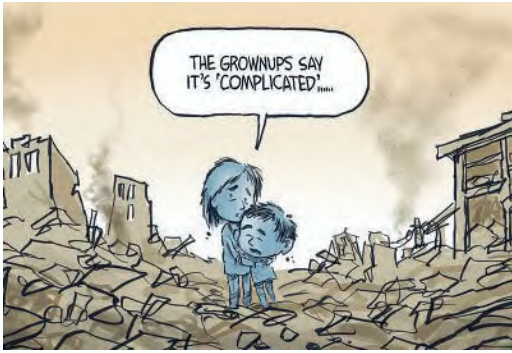
The moderate self-rule Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is the logical choice, and it has recognized Israel and agreed to negotiate the final status issues. However, it will be loath to take over Gaza — and have little credibility with Palestinians — if it is installed after an Israeli invasion. More likely, an international, Arab League or United Nations peacekeeping force will be needed first.

Netanyahu’s government is the most extreme in Israel’s history and includes racist and anti-Arab cabinet ministers determined to expand illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank and kill the possibility of a two-state solution. Unless Netanyahu can offer Palestinians a vision of a brighter future or a path back to peace talks and eventual statehood, there is little incentive for Palestinians to work for peace. Crushing Hamas will not eliminate the resistance to an occupation most of the world considers illegal under international law.

Moreover, Mideast experts see Netanyahu’s strategy through successive governments as a way of keeping Hamas propped up in Gaza with aid from Qatar, while keeping the rival Palestinian Authority under President Mahmoud Abbas weak and ineffectual in the West Bank — in effect, giving Israel an excuse for not negotiating with Abbas on Palestinian statehood.

In the Mideast conflict, stalemate creates a vacuum, and violence always fills the gap. The U.S. should stand with Israel but also for a free Palestine. The two are not mutually exclusive. Only a political decision by both sides to create a path to peace, as impossible as that seems right now, can bring an end to persistent war.

STORER H. ROWLEY, a former national editor and foreign correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, teaches journalism and communication at Northwestern University.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMAIL submissions to opinion@dominionpost.com. MAIL submissions to: The Dominion Post, 1251 Earl L. Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505. INCLUDE your name, hometown and phone number for confirmation. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

Gun cultures need gun laws, too

REP. JARED GOLDEN’S ABOUT-FACE ON GUN LAWS IS NOT SURPRISING. He is a Democrat representing Lewiston, Maine, still convulsed by a mass shooting that took 18 lives. Formerly against tightening the laws, Golden now wants a ban on semiautomatic weapons.

One can understand why elected officials in rural areas, even in generally liberal states, would put forth the argument that guns really aren’t a problem. Maine, after all, is a low-crime place. Its murder rate is fourth-lowest in the nation, despite a strong gun culture. Many Mainers rely on firearms to hunt for dinner. Vermont, another New England state with little gun violence and lax guns laws, has the second lowest murder rate in the country.

And what’s true in northern New England is true throughout much of rural America. What



FROMA HARROP

fuels the impression that homicides are high in these areas is that the official statistics for gun deaths include suicides, which account for just over half of the deaths by firearms. Wyoming had one of the lowest homicides rates in America but the highest gun suicide rate in 2021, according to the latest numbers.

In opposing sensible gun laws, the National Rifle Association summons visions of peaceful gun-owning communities centered on

hunting. Of course, the killing machine used in Lewiston was designed not for hunting deer but for mowing down large numbers of humans in seconds.

The massacre in Maine also underscored the insanity of letting anyone with severe mental illness own any firearm. The Lewiston killer, paranoid and hearing voices, was mentally ill enough to be hospitalized during the summer. And less than two weeks after he legally bought a high-powered rifle, he had run-ins with New York State police and his National Guard superiors.

Maine might have seen a stadium of waving red flags regarding this sick man if it had red flag laws. But it doesn’t. These laws enable the authorities to take away firearms from someone they believe is dangerous. Maine has a weaker yellow flag law. It

requires a family member to first contact law enforcement when they fear someone at home is a threat to himself or to others. After that, police would take the disturbed family member into protective custody.

Many New Englanders harbor the delusion that these shootings are mainly a problem to their south and west, in places like Texas, Florida or Colorado. But of course, one of the most horrific school shootings took place in Newtown, a leafy Connecticut town where a mentally ill local kid shot dead 26 at an elementary school. And shocking as that event was, it was not enough to bring about a national ban on assault rifles.

Efforts to merely limit who may buy them are doomed to fail. The 20-year-old Newtown killer simply picked up his mother’s assault weapon plus 10 magazines with 30 rounds each.

Maine’s two senators, Republican Susan Collins and Indepen-

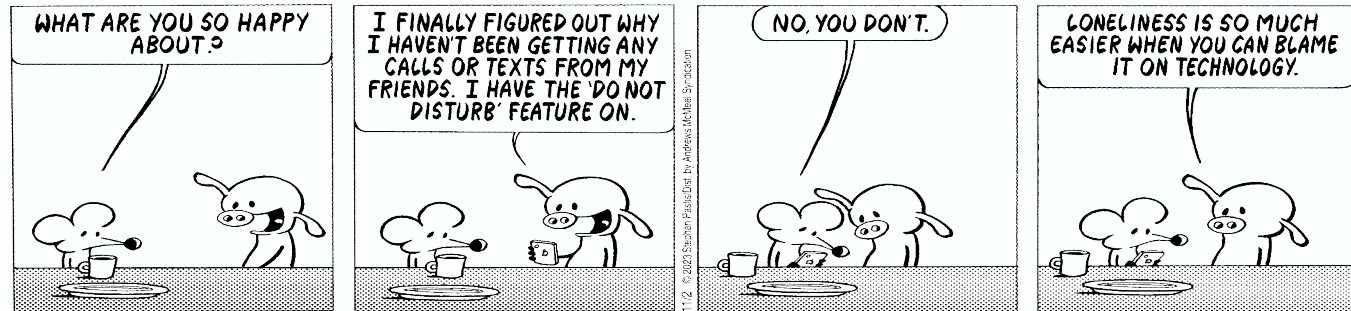
dent Angus King, won’t go the distance to backing a ban on military-style weapons. They’ve even supported an amendment to a spending bill that would forbid the Department of Veterans Affairs from automatically alerting the federal firearms background check system if a veteran is mentally unable to manage their benefits.

One would like to think that Golden has seen the light and is not proposing tighter gun laws only because his own community is in mass mourning. Whatever the reason, though, he is now in the right place.

To sum up: No one who is not in the military or law enforcement should possess a military-style weapon. No one who has been deemed severely mentally ill should own any firearm. Those reforms shouldn’t be so hard to support, including in gun country.

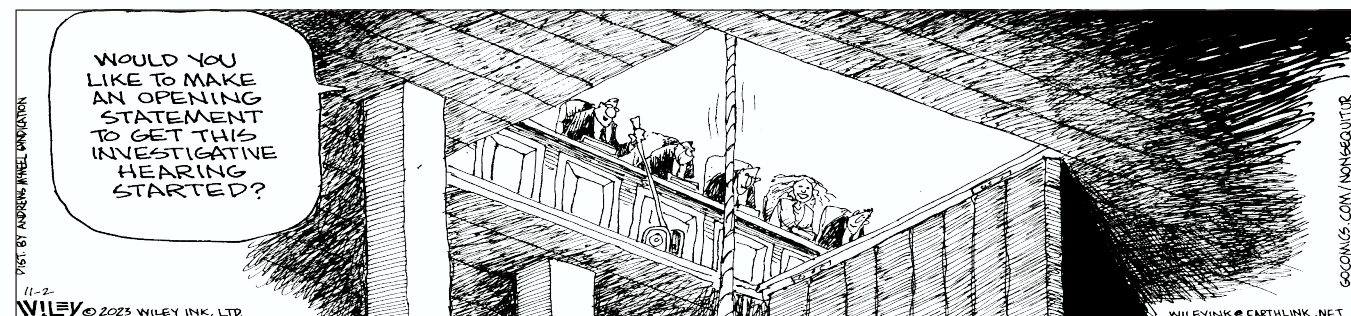
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



BY STEPHAN PASTIS

NON SEQUITUR



BY WILEY

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OBITUARIES

Stuart Root Jr.

Stuart Edward Root Jr., affectionately known as “JR,”



**Stuart Root Jr.**

passed away peacefully on Oct. 31, 2023, in Morgantown, at the age of 71. Born on Aug. 20, 1952, in Kingwood, JR was a man of many talents and interests, known for his handy, thoughtful, and loving nature.

JR was a proud veteran, having served in the Army for six years during the Vietnam Era. After his service, he worked in construction for various companies, as well as independently. He also made use of his culinary skills as a chef at the Hotel Morgan, where he met his beloved wife, Anna. Their love story spanned 48 years, a testament to JR's dedication and commitment.

JR was a hardworking family man, always putting his loved ones first. He was the loving husband of Anna Root, and the proud father of his baby girl, Christy Jo (John) Adkinson, Artina Martin (partner Jeffrey Brown), Julie Martin, Artinnes Martin, and Brian Murray. He was also a cherished brother to Beverly Murray, Sandy Harrison, Patty Ryan, and Peggy Wolfe. JR was preceded in death by his parents, Stewart Root Sr. and Geraldine

Root; his brother, Thomas Knight; and his son-in-law, Carl Dwayne Barker Jr.

JR was a doting grandfather to Kenneth Hager, Amanda Moore, Brandon Barker, Casey (Candace) McDonald, Christopher Hostutler, Chelsie Hostutler, Alexis Martin, Zachary Hostutler, Alexandria (Brandon) Matthews, Jodi (Joseph) Keplinger, and Emily Adkinson, as well as 21 great-grandchildren.

An avid outdoorsman, JR loved fishing and hunting with his family. His love for the outdoors was only matched by his love for his grandkids and his loyal dog, Shelby. He and his wife Anna also had a lifelong friendship with Brenda Duncan, who was like a sister to him.

JR's legacy will live on through his family and the countless lives he touched with his kindness and generosity. His handy skills, thoughtful nature, and loving heart will be remembered by all who knew him. He was a pillar of strength and a source of comfort to his family, and his absence will be deeply felt.

Friends and family are invited to gather at Fred L. Jenkins Funeral Home from 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, until the time of service at 6 p.m. with Pastor Rich Schimansky officiating.

Condolences: fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

Tina Ruth Tichnell, 88, of Aurora, passed away on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, at Dennett Road Manor, Oakland, Md.



**Tina Tichnell**

She was born Sept. 25, 1935, in Rowlesburg, daughter of the late Clifford Howard and Alberta Ellen Hershman Sigley. She is preceded in death by her husband, Frederick “Fred” Grant Tichnell on June 1, 2008, whom she married on Sept. 18, 1954.

Tina was a homemaker, known for her baking, quilting and gardening. She was a member of the VFW Ladies Aux, Rowlesburg, Cannon Hill Post 3008; and Flag Chapel Church, Etam.

Tina is survived by her two sons, George “Joe” Tichnell and Barbara of Port Orange, Fla., Fred Tichnell and Jane of Aurora; five grandchildren, George Tichnell Jr., Lacey Tichnell, Melanie Tichnell, Waylon Kitzmiller, and Billie Wiltson; eight great-grandchildren, Cole Tichnell, Ethan Glotfelty, Haven Tichnell, Addyson Gore, Grayson Gore, Abby

Kitzmiller, Izzy Kitzmiller and Riley Wiltson; one sister, Lucille Burns of Rowlesburg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three grandsons, Jeffrey Tichnell, Joshua Tichnell and Jeremy Tichnell; one great-grandson, Carson Gore; siblings, Mary Goins, Audrey Cathell, Robert Sigley, Howard Sigley, Jerry Sigley, and Larry Sigley.

Friends may call at Kingwood Funeral Home, 295 S. Price Street, from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, and on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Flag Chapel Church at 2269 Birch Root Rd., Rowlesburg, from 10 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 11 a.m. with Pastor Sabrina Tenny officiating. Interment will follow at Flag Chapel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Flag Chapel Cemetery or Flag Chapel Church, C/O Cindy Wiles, 272 Flag Run Lane, Rowlesburg, WV 26425.

Kingwood Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the Tichnell family.

Condolences: www.kingwoodfuneralhomevw.com

Delbert Bowmar

Delbert “Deb” Junior Bowmar, 78, of New Port Richey, Fla., passed away Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, at HCA Florida Trinity Hospital. He was born Sept. 30, 1945, in



**Delbert Bowmar**

Tunnelton, a son of the late Marvin “Joe” Allen and Letha Lavara (Rosier) Bowmar.

Deb graduated from Tunnelton High School and served in the U.S. Army serving during Vietnam War. Deb retired as a Coalminer mechanic from Consol Energy at the Prep Plant. He was a member of the Col. Rowan Post VFW #2345 of Tunnelton, the Local DAV, the United Mine Workers and NRA. He enjoyed hunting, being outside, tinkering on anything and everything and enjoying the Florida weather.

He is survived by two children, Kelly Dawn Wolfe and Rick of Burton, Delbert Allen Bowmar and Crystal

of Tunnelton; four grandchildren, Ben Shaffer and Linda, Kerrilyn Wolfe, Cody Wolfe and Jesse Bowmar; one great-grandchild, Sidney Shaffer; one sister, Betty Luola Kimmins and husband Calvin of Dallas; several nieces, nephews, and many close friends.

In addition to his parents, Deb was preceded in his three brothers, Lester Allen Bowmar, Blake Wilbur Bowmar, and Lorin Russell Bowmar

Friends may call at Kingwood Funeral Home, 295 S. Price Street, Kingwood, from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, and on Friday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at noon with Rev. Ray Frankhouser officiating. Interment will follow at West Virginia National Cemetery. Full military honors will be accorded by the honor details of VFWs and Vietnam Veterans of Preston County and the U.S. Army Honor Guard.

Condolences: www.kingwoodfuneralhomevw.com

NATION

The U.S. infant mortality rate rose last year. The CDC says it's the largest increase in two decades

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. infant mortality rate rose 3% last year — the largest increase in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

White and Native American infants, infant boys and babies born at 37 weeks or earlier had significant death rate increases. The CDC's report, published Wednesday, also noted larger increases for two of the leading causes of infant deaths — maternal complications and bacterial meningitis.

“It's definitely concerning, given that it's going in the opposite direction from what it has been,” said Marie Thoma, a University of Maryland researcher who studies maternal and infant mortality.

Dr. Eric Eichenwald, a Philadelphia-based neonatologist, called the new data “disturbing,” but said experts at this point can only speculate as to why a statistic that generally has been falling for decades rose in 2022.

RSV and flu infections rebounded last fall after two years of pandemic precautions, filling pediatric emergency rooms across the country. “That could potentially account for some of it,” said Eichenwald, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that writes guidelines for medical care of newborns.

Infant mortality is the measure of how many babies die before they reach their first birthday. Because the number of

babies born in the U.S. varies from year to year, researchers instead calculate rates to better compare infant mortality over time. The U.S. infant mortality rate has been worse than other high-income countries, which experts have attributed to poverty, inadequate prenatal care and other possibilities. But even so, the U.S. rate generally gradually improved because of medical advances and public health efforts.

“Today's data underscores that our failure to better support moms before, during, and after birth is among the factors contributing to poor infant health outcomes,” Dr. Elizabeth Cherot, chief executive of the March of Dimes, said in a statement.

The national rate rose to 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, up from from 5.44 per 1,000 the year before, the new report said.

The increase may seem small, but it's the first statistically significant jump in the rate since the increase between 2001 and 2002, said Danielle Ely, the CDC report's lead author. She also said researchers could not establish whether the 2022 rise was a one-year statistical blip — or the beginning of a more lasting trend.

Overall in the U.S., the death rate fell 5% in 2022 — a general decrease that's been attributed to the waning impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on people 65 and older. U.S. maternal deaths also fell last year.

COURTS

Cooking spray burn victim awarded \$7.1M after can 'exploded into a fireball'

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A jury in Illinois has ordered Chicago-based Conagra Brands to pay \$7.1 million to a Pennsylvania woman who was badly injured in 2017 when a can of commercial brand cooking spray ignited in a kitchen at her workplace and set her aflame.

The verdict, issued Monday in favor of Tammy Reese of Shipensburg, Pennsylvania, is the first of numerous other cases from burn victims across the country with similar stories citing accidents that occurred with Conagra-made cooking spray brands, including its popular grocery store brand Pam.

Reese was working at a social club kitchen in May 2017 when “suddenly and without warning” a can of Swell cooking spray “exploded into a fireball, causing burns and injuries,” according to a lawsuit filed on her behalf. She suffered deep second-degree burns on her head, face, arms and hands, and scar tissue continues to constrict her movement six years later, according to one of her lawyers, Craig Smith.

Chicago-based Conagra Brands must pay out \$3.1 million in compensatory damages and \$4 million in punitive damages to Reese, according to the Cook County Circuit Court verdict. Conagra Brands is the parent company of Pam and many other high-profile food brands including Marie Callender's, Reddip, Swiss Miss, Hunt's, Chef Boyardee and Slim Jim.

The company said in an emailed statement that it disagreed with the jury's verdict and that the

“safety of our products and our consumers is always a top priority of Conagra.”

“We continue to stand by our cooking spray products, which are safe and effective when used correctly, as instructed. We are evaluating our legal options, including appeal,” the statement said.

Smith said there are more than 50 pending cases against Conagra from other burn victims across the country, and that the company has refused to issue a product recall for the “defective” cans.

“This is really the beginning of a serious problem for Conagra,” Peter Flowers, another attorney for Reese, said Tuesday.

The accidents involved spray can models of various brands manufactured between 2011 and 2019 that used a venting system with a lower threshold for heat than previous versions, Smith explained. When the can gets too hot, the vents on the bottom open to release pressure, discharging its very flammable contents into the air, according to the lawsuit.

Consumers can check if their cooking spray cans are vented by looking at whether the bottom of the can has four small U-shaped slits, Smith said. In general, larger spray cans — 10 oz. or more — rather than the commonly-sold 6 oz. cans are affected, he said.

The cooking spray that exploded near Reese had been stored on a shelf about 18 inches above the stove, according to Flowers.

NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Ozone hole is about average size

With last year's under-sea volcano injecting massive amounts of water high into the atmosphere, scientists were bracing for a big Antarctica ozone hole this fall. But it didn't happen. Instead this year's ozone hole is about average size for the last 20 years, even a bit smaller than 2022's, according to NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. From September to mid October, the ozone hole this year averaged 8.9 million square miles, which is the 16th largest since satellites started tracking it in 1979. It peaked this year at 10 million square miles, about the size of North America.

Cher set to star in Macy's Parade

NEW YORK — Cher is obviously a superstar but even a superstar is happy to be the opening act when it comes to Santa. Organizers of this year's Macy's Thanksgiving

Day Parade have nabbed the Oscar-, Emmy- and Grammy Award-winner for their 97th annual event. Cher will make her appearance just before the parade's end, signaled by the arrival of Santa's sleigh. This year's parade will feature 16 giant character balloons, 26 floats, 32 novelty and heritage inflatables, 12 marching bands, 700 clowns, and eight performance groups. The parade airs on NBC and streams on Peacock.

Mormon church sued again over contributions

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A federal lawsuit alleges the investment arm of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints misused hundreds of thousands of dollars donated by three men by investing the money instead of using it for charitable purposes as they claim was promised. The lawsuit was filed in Salt Lake City Tuesday by three men, one from Virginia and two from Utah. They say they collectively donated about \$350,000 over the past decade.



Worries  
and tensions  
are like birds;  
we cannot stop them from  
flying near us, but we can  
stop them from making  
nests in our minds.

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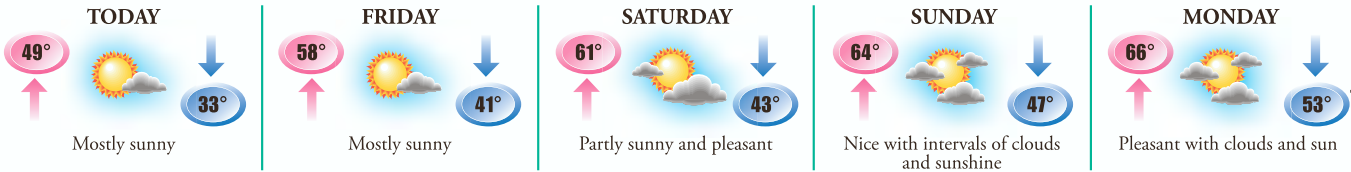
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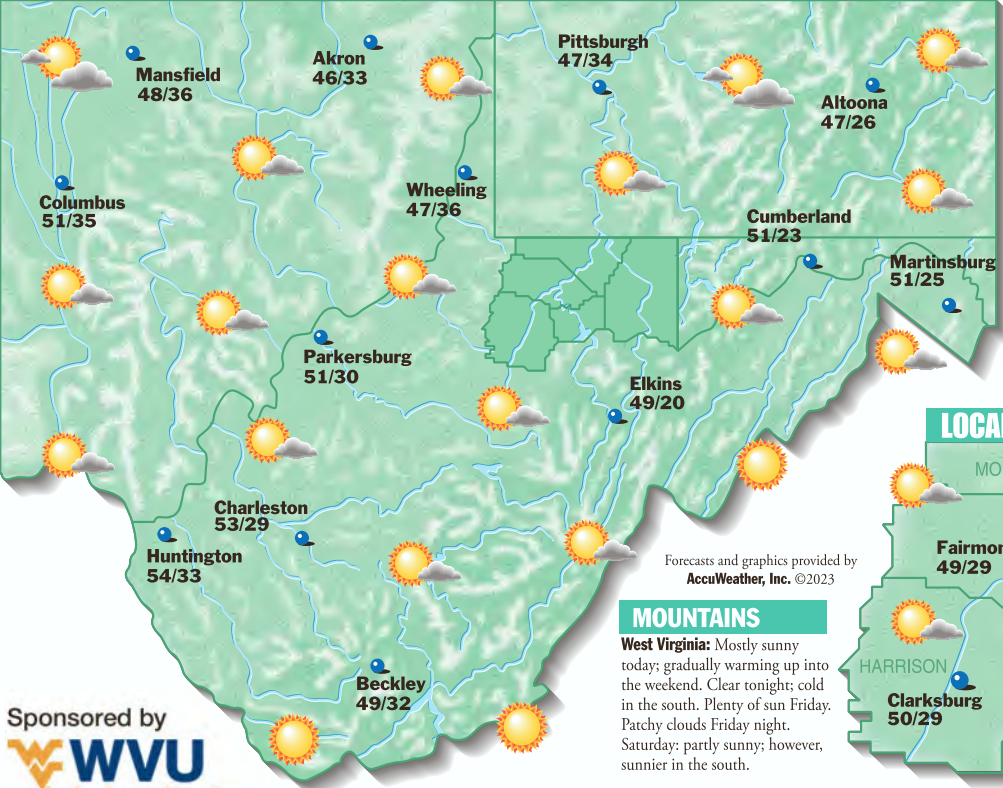
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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Wednesday

Temperature: High/low 43°/30°, Normal high/low 59°/37°, Record high 80° in 2016, Record low 21° in 1893

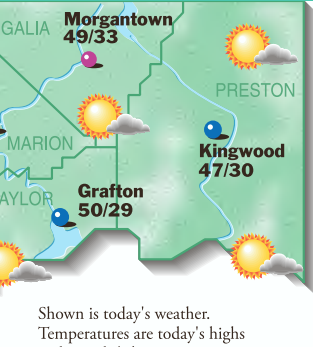
Precipitation: 24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Wednesday Trace, Month to date Trace, Year to date 30.69"

SUN AND MOON

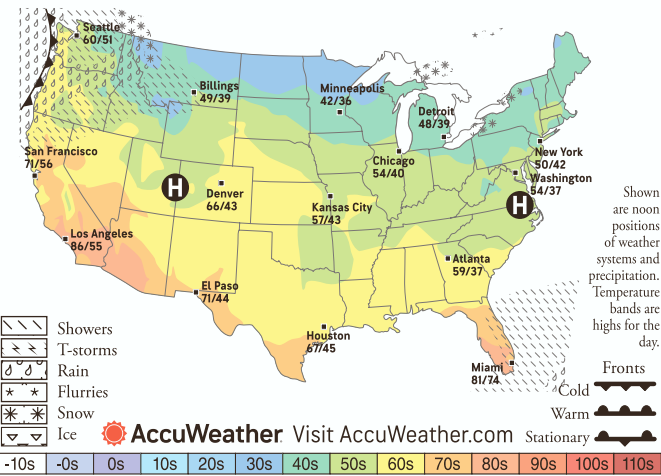
Sunrise today 7:49 a.m., Sunset tonight 6:17 p.m., Moonrise today 9:56 p.m., Moonset today 1:03 p.m.

Last Nov 5, New Nov 13, First Nov 20, Full Nov 27

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



POLLEN

Grasses N/A, Weeds N/A, Trees N/A, Molds N/A

UV INDEX

Highest today 3, moderate. The ultraviolet index is a guide to exposure to the sun.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thu. Hi/Low	Fri. Hi/Low
Beckley, WV	49/32/s	59/38/s
Charleston, WV	53/29/s	63/34/s
Columbus, OH	51/35/s	59/43/pc
Cumberland, MD	51/23/s	63/36/s
Fairmont, WV	49/29/s	58/37/s
Grafton, WV	50/29/s	60/39/s
Huntington, WV	54/33/s	62/39/s
Kingwood, WV	47/30/s	57/39/s
Pittsburgh, PA	47/34/pc	57/43/s
Wheeling, WV	47/36/s	56/44/s

SOLUNAR TABLES

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Thu.	3:51 a.m.	10:05 a.m.	4:18 p.m.	10:32 p.m.
Fri.	4:50 a.m.	11:03 a.m.	5:16 p.m.	11:29 p.m.
Sat.	5:44 a.m.	11:56 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	---
Sun.	6:33 a.m.	12:20 a.m.	6:56 p.m.	12:44 p.m.
Mon.	6:17 a.m.	12:28 p.m.	6:38 p.m.	---

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	869.04	-0.80
Deep Creek, MD	2458.47	none
Jennings Randolph	1417.76	-0.39
Stonewall Jackson	1068.82	+0.02
Tygart	1071.04	+0.43
Youghiogheny	1395.50	+0.80

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 2, the 306th day of 2023. There are 59 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

On this date:

In 1783, General George Washington issued his Farewell Address to the Army near Princeton, New Jersey.

In 2020, in the closing hours of the presidential campaign, President Donald Trump charged across the nation delivering a false allegation that the election was being rigged, while Democrat Joe Biden pushed to claim states that were once seen as safely Republican.

In 2022, the two largest U.S. pharmacy chains, CVS Health and Walgreen Co., announced agreements in principle to pay about \$5 billion each to settle lawsuits nationwide over the toll of opioids.

Today's birthdays:

Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 85. Actor Stefanie Powers is 81. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 78. Actor Kate Linder is 76. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 65. Actor Peter Mullan is 64. Singer-songwriter k.d. lang is 62. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 60. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 59. Actor Lauren Velez is 59.

Holidays become less fun with the in-laws around

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's in-laws have no place to go on holidays. They have two children, but haven't spoken to one of them in several years, so my son-in-law is their only family close by.

I enjoy entertaining and having family over, but I really don't care for their company. It's a different vibe when they're here because her father-in-law, "Sam," and my husband drink too much and talk politics (both activities I avoid). They know how I feel, but make comments behind my back, thinking I don't hear them.

My husband loves their company and goes out often with my son-in-law and Sam. My daughter understands how I feel. She doesn't like to cook or entertain, but will host a holiday once in a while. However, it doesn't solve the problem, because I end up doing a lot of the work and I miss not entertaining in my own home. Please advise. — CATCH-22 IN NEW YORK

DEAR CATCH-22: I'm not sure why you feel it's your responsibility to entertain your daughter's in-laws on every holiday. Discuss



JEANNE PHILLIPS

this with your husband (when he's sober) and tell him you don't like it when he and Sam get drunk, talk politics and make snide remarks behind your back. Inform him he should be more respectful, or the in-laws won't be invited to your home for the holidays anymore.

Nowhere in your letter did you mention your daughter's mother-in-law. Do you have anything in common with her? If so, spend most of your time with her and your daughter or, once the meal has been served, ask them if they'd like to go out to a movie, get some exercise, etc. That way you won't be forced to stick around when the "boys" overimbibe and indulge themselves in their favorite subject.

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

11/2/23	► 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)	Buddy Games "Lodge's Last Hurrah" (SF) (N)		Big Brother Following a vote, a houseguest is evicted and interviewed. (L) (N)	SEAL Team A weapons expert must be extracted from a dangerous country.	KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)	Late Show-Colbert (N) ►		
4	WTAE Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Golden Bachelor (N)		Bachelor in Paradise Stars and villains from "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" get another chance to find love. (N)		Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N) ►		
5	WDTV First News	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Buddy Games (N)		Big Brother (L) (N)	SEAL Team	5 News	Colbert		
7	WTRF 7News at	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	Buddy Games (N)		Big Brother (L) (N)	SEAL Team	7News at	Colbert		
9	WTOV News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent and Shaw unravel the truth about a doctor's murder.		Transplant "Multiple Choices" Mags speaks out against her supervising doctor. (N)	Dateline NBC	News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show ►		
11	WPXI Channel 11	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Law & Order		Transplant (N)	Dateline NBC	News (N)	J. Fallon		
12	WBOY News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	Law & Order		Transplant (N)	Dateline NBC	News (N)	J. Fallon		
13	WQED PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America (N)	Tell Me More	Portraits for the Home Front: The Story of Elizabeth Black			POV "Advocate"	POV Shorts	Amanpour and Company (N)			
22	WCWB Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Modern Family "Crying Out Loud"	Modern Family "American Skyper"	Dateline "Betrayed" Police investigate the murder of a South Florida attorney.		Chicago P.D. A grieving father wants to avenge his daughter's death.	Court Cam iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas (N)	The National Desk (L) (N)			
24	WPNB Context	America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Doc Martin	Little Bird (N)		Two Wars	Amanpour (N)				
46	WVFX News (N)	Investig.	Last Man	Hell's Kitchen (N)	LEGO Masters (N)		WVFX 10 Seinfeld	Seinfeld Housewife				
53	WPGH The Big Bang Theory	Channel 11 News on Fox 53 at 6:30 (N)	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Hell's Kitchen The chefs face a soccer-themed fusion cuisine challenge. (N)		LEGO Masters The builders must choose an item and make a replica of it. (N)	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	Seinfeld "The Gymnast"		
CABLE CHANNELS												
	► 7 PM			► 8 PM			► 9 PM		► 10 PM		► 11 PM	
A&E	The First 48			The First 48			Interrogation Row (N)		Accused: Guilty (N)		The First 48 ►	
AMC	*** World War Z (13) Brad Pitt.			*** The Fugitive (93)			Tommy Lee Jones, Sela Ward, Harrison Ford.				The Perfect Storm	
AT&TSP	World Poker Tour			College Hockey			Duquesne Sports (N)		Kickboxing (N)		United Fight Alliance	
BET	As. Living			Payne Payne			Neighbor Neighbor		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Tyler Perry's Sistas	
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)			E. B. OutFront (L) (N)			Cooper 360 (N)		The Source With (N)		CNN NewsNight (N)	
DISC	BattleBots (N)			BattleBots (N)			BattleBots (N)		Catastrophes		Catastrophes	
DISN	Kiff			Big City			*** Coco Anthony Gonzalez.		Wonderful		Marvel's	
ESPN	SportsCenter (L) (N)			Countdown			College Football Wake Forest at Duke (N)		College Football South Alabama at Troy (N)		SportsCenter (L) (N)	
ESPN2	Daily Wager (L) (N)			SportCtr			College Football South Alabama at Troy (N)		SportsCenter (L) (N)		SportsC. SportsCenter (L) (N)	
FOOD	Beat Bobby			Beat Bobby			Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie (N)		Christmas Cookie	
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)			Ingraham			Jesse Watters (L) (N)		Hannity (L) (N)		Gutfeld! (N)	
FREE	4 Rio 2			*** Zootopia (16) Ginnifer Goodwin.			*** The Lion King (94) Matthew Broderick.				The 700 Club	
HIST	Mountain Men			Mountain Men			Mountain Men (N)		Alone Australia (N)		Mountain Men ►	
LIFE	Castle "Lincoln"			Castle			Castle		Castle "47 Seconds"		Castle "The Limey"	
NEWSN	Vargas Report (N)			On Balance (N)			Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams Live (N)		Banfield (N)	
NICK	Loud House Loud House			SpongeBob			SpongeBob		Friends Friends		Friends Friends	
PARMT	Two Men Two Men			Two Men Two Men			Yellowstone "Daybreak"		Yellowstone		Yellowstone	
TNT	*** Horrible Bosses (11) Jason Bateman.			*** Bad Teacher (11) Cameron Diaz.			*** Bad Moms (16) Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis.					
TVLAND	A. Griffith			A. Griffith			A. Griffith		Raymond Raymond		King King	
USA	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
WE	9-1-1			9-1-1			9-1-1 "Crash & Learn"		Love After		Keke Wyatt (N)	
WTBS	Big Bang			Big Bang			Big Bang		Big Bang		Big Bang	
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** Elizabethtown (05) Orlando Bloom.			To Be Announced			*** Pulp Fiction (94) Samuel L. Jackson, John Travolta.		Movie			
MAX	*** Heist			*** The Cold Light of Day			*** Teen Wolf (85) Michael J. Fox.		*** Teen Wolf Too Jason Bateman.		Big Momma's House	
SHOW	*** Caine Mutiny Court.			*** The Godfather, Part II (74, Cri)			Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, Al Pacino.		Fellow Travelers		Movie	
TMC	The Forger (22) Louis Hofmann.			*** Schindler's List (93) Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Liam Neeson.			The Conversation (P)					

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Lauren Fields has felt success against WVU; now playing her final season in Morgantown

BY JUSTIN JACKSON  
JJackson@DominionPost.com

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em, right? That's the saying.

Well, WVU women's basketball guard Lauren Fields blew that thinking right out of the water in April, when she signed to play this season with the Mountaineers.

Fields, a 5-foot-9 guard from Shawnee, Okla., has already beaten WVU, doing so in March when Arizona knocked the Mountaineers out of the NCAA tournament with a 75-62 victory.

Now she's joining WVU in her final season of eligibility, having

signed with new head coach Mark Kellogg and his staff.

"Over the summer, I thought a lot about that question, is it going to be weird when I get there?" Fields said Wednesday. "Honestly, the transition has been real smooth."

She admits there's been a few jokes made about the situation, but her WVU teammates have welcomed her with open arms.

"It's been good for me," Fields said. "A large reason for that has been my teammates. They've made me feel welcomed. Honestly, they've made me feel like I've played here for all five years."

If Fields' name sounds familiar, it should. Prior to her one season at Arizona, she played three seasons at Oklahoma State.

OSU went 3-4 against WVU during Fields' career there, although she missed one of the matchups with an injury.

Her career at Oklahoma State saw her have her best individual season in 2021-22, when she averaged 15.4 points per game to finish second team all-Big 12.

It's that exact version of Fields that Kellogg wants to see in Morgantown this season.

SEE FIELDS, B-3



AP photo

Lauren Fields (23) played three seasons at Oklahoma State and one at Arizona before transferring to WVU this season.

# MOHIGANS MAKE SOME HISTORY

## Morgantown boys and girls soccer teams set for state tournament

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH  
Sports@DominionPost.com

For the first time in school history, the Morgantown boys and girls soccer teams will both compete in the WVSSAC state tournament after qualifying out of Region 1.

The defending state champion MHS girls team and first-year head coach Brianna Frontuto defeated Buckhannon-Upshur 4-1 in the regional championship to qualify for the state tournament as the top seed. No. 4 Hedgesville awaits the Mohigans in the semifinal round on Thursday morning.

For the boys and head coach Sam Snyder, who won their last state championship two years ago in 2021, a 1-0 victory over University secured their Region 1 spot. The fourth-seeded MHS boys will face No. 1-seeded George Washington (18-2-1) on Thursday to kick off the evening session.

Frontuto said being able to take the team to the state tournament in her first season is a testament to the players.

"They've adapted to not only the coaching style and style of play but have also executed in areas beyond anything I could begin to touch on in my first year," she said. "We have a handful of girls with a really high soccer IQ and that was very instrumental for me to get used to



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Morgantown girls soccer players celebrate after defeating Wheeling Park in the sectional championship.

coaching in West Virginia as well as executing the game plan."

The MHS girls have an eye-opening 72 goal differential in their 18 games played this season, scoring 81 and only allowing nine.

Seniors Emily Carpenter and

2022 Gatorade Player of the Year Gracie Brown have led the Mohigans in the attack. Carpenter has a total of 21 goals and eight assists from her striker position while Brown has netted 28 goals with nine assists of her own.

Not to mention, Frontuto and

her squad have battled low numbers for the majority of the year, sometimes playing a full match with only one substitute player on the bench.

"This is a team that has faced adversity from the moment they won the title last year," Frontuto

said. "New coach, lost eight seniors, battled injuries and played with nearly no subs, let alone defending the title. I think the grit, hard work, and desire to improve are qualities of this team

SEE SOCCER, B-3

COLLEGE SPORTS

# Big 12 announces future conference football schedules

Sports@DominionPost.com

The Big 12 Conference has announced its 16-team, four-year scheduling matrix for the 2024-27 football seasons. The scheduling model was developed with a priority on geography, historic matchups and rivalries as well as competitive balance.

"As we look towards the future of this Conference, we are thrilled to introduce the first football scheduling matrix for the new-look Big 12," said Commissioner Brett Yormark. "I'm

grateful to our membership for their support throughout the scheduling process. In this model, competitive balance and student-athlete wellness was prioritized. Rivalries will be protected and new matchups will be introduced — the excitement and parity this Conference is known for will continue for years to come."

During the four years, all teams will play one another at least once home and away. Some matchups will occur over three seasons while others take place in

all four. Matchups in 2024 that were also played in 2023 will not repeat at the same site.

The conference looked to maintain the current 5/4, 4/5 home/away rotation for all 16 members to minimize non-conference scheduling disruptions. Other important factors were balancing annual travel by distance and time zones as well as maintaining connectivity to rivalries without compromising a balanced rotation for all teams.

In 2024, WVU's home games

will be Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State and UCF. The road matchups will be Arizona, Cincinnati, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech.

In 2025, WVU's home slate will be Colorado, TCU, Texas Tech and Utah. The five road games will be Arizona State, BYU, Houston, Kansas and UCF.

In 2026, WVU will play five home games against Arizona, Cincinnati, Houston, Kansas and Oklahoma State. The road games will be Iowa State, TCU, Texas Tech and Utah.

Finally in 2027, WVU will host Arizona State, BYU, Iowa State and UCF and travel to Baylor, Cincinnati, Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma State.

The Big 12 will compete as a 16-team conference for the first time in 2024. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah will become members in the summer of 2024 joining Baylor, BYU, UCF, Cincinnati, Houston, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, TCU, Texas Tech and West Virginia.

CONNECT

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NFL

# Titans rookie QB Will Levis brings big arm, expectations to Pittsburgh to face uneven Steelers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — It took all of four quarters for Will Levis to offer a glimpse of why the Tennessee Titans were so high on him in the draft.

Throwing for four touchdowns in your debut — three of which came on the kind of downfield heaves that left scouts in awe — will do that.

Levis and the Titans (3-4) don't have much time to prep for an encore. Tennessee visits Pittsburgh (4-3) tonight with a chance to prove their electric win over Atlanta wasn't a fluke but a sign of things to come.

It's a game Levis circled when the schedule came out even though he was buried on the depth chart at the time. Not anymore. Ryan Tannehill is expected to miss a second straight game with a sprained right ankle, meaning Levis will run onto the Acrisure Stadium turf as the starter for now ... and quite possibly for good.

"I know that their fans are going to come out, and it's going to be a nice environment," Levis said. "So I mean, we're ready to handle it and just looking forward to going, taking it all in and then just do my thing."

That "thing" is stretching the field with his arm. He's certainly caught the attention of the Steelers, who have dominated rookie quarterbacks through the years, but also found themselves on the wrong side of a 30-6 blowout loss to Houston and second overall pick C.J. Stroud on Oct. 1.

"He throws that ball, it's a pretty ball, gets there fast," Pittsburgh defensive coordinator Teryl Austin



AP photo

Tennessee Titans quarterback Will Levis (8) reacts after throwing a touchdown pass against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, in Nashville, Tenn.

said of Levis, later adding, "he's not afraid."

Levis will be facing a secondary missing All-Pro safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, who is out after injuring his hamstring in the first quarter of a loss to Jacksonville on Sunday.

The Steelers could experiment a bit with Fitzpatrick sidelined, though what happens on the back end of the defense likely depends on what happens up front, where Pittsburgh and the edge rush tandem of T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith will try to wreak their unique brand of

havoc.

"You have to do something so (Levis) doesn't feel comfortable," Austin said.

Comfort — literally and figuratively — has been elusive for Steelers starting quarterback Kenny Pickett. The second-year starter left Sunday's loss to Jacksonville late in the first half after taking a shot to the ribs and while he expects to play, he's likely not close to 100%, though he stressed he doesn't plan to use the injury as a "crutch" while the NFL's 30th-ranked offense tries to find something — anything — to get

going.

"It's not about scripting (plays), it's not about anything," said Pickett, who has five touchdown passes in 200 attempts on the season, or one more than Levis had in 29 attempts against the Falcons. "It's about us playing and being better than we're doing right now. 'It's not where it needs to be. It has to get better.'"

## TAPE ON LEVIS

While the Falcons had only tape of Levis from Tennessee's preseason opener in the Titans' offense, Pittsburgh has a full game to break down and study the rookie for anything to exploit. Levis knows that.

"Not that it's going to change necessarily how I play, but just something to keep in mind," Levis said.

Levis, matching Pro Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton (1961) and Marcus Mariota (2015 with Tennessee) by throwing four TDs for the most in a quarterback's NFL debut, certainly gave the Titans a much-needed boost of confidence snapping a two-game skid.

## JOEY'S JOURNEY

Steelers rookie cornerback Joey Porter Jr. will make his second straight start and this time, it won't be because of an injury to veteran Levi Wallace. Porter has perhaps been Pittsburgh's best defensive back over the past month as his playing time has increased, one of the reasons he's leapfrogged Wallace on the depth chart.

"He's doing the things we want him to do," Austin said. "We feel comfortable now that he's able to handle everything. So that's why he's the guy moving forward."

## PRO HOCKEY

# Player's death from a skate cut to the neck in England leads to more NHL talks on cut protection

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The death of American hockey player Adam Johnson from a skate blade to the neck in a game in England is leading to further discussions about cut-resistant protection in the NHL and other leagues.

Commissioner Gary Bettman and Players' Association executive director Marty Walsh touched based Sunday in the immediate aftermath of the death to set up further talks between the league and union. For several years the two sides have been studying skate cut injuries and how to reduce and avoid them, and now the topic has taken on greater urgency at various levels of the sport.

"We're going to explore everything," Walsh said Wednesday. "We have to continue to have conversations on this as we move forward here. It's a change for the players, but it's also about protecting them, so I think we will have those conversations as we move forward here."

Johnson, a 29-year-old from Minnesota, died at a hospital after being cut in the neck by the skate blade of an opponent during a game Saturday night in the Elite Ice Hockey League. The league called it a "freak accident," and South Yorkshire Police have said they are investigating.

The incident already has had an impact across the Atlantic Ocean, with the American Hockey League and ECHL affiliates of the Pittsburgh Penguins, the organization Johnson once played for, mandating neck guards for players. The AHL and ECHL mandated cut-resistant wrist and foot/ankle protection last summer, in consultation

with the Professional Hockey Players' Association.

"We've seen it with other things, particularly with visors: If the players get used to it in the AHL, then they're going to want to continue to use it in the NHL, so that's the theory with the wrist guards and the foot socks that it's something new and the players have to get used to it," AHL president and CEO Scott Howson told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. "Given what's happened over the weekend with Adam Johnson, we are working with the NHL to figure out what the next step is in term of neck guards."

The English Ice Hockey Association announced it would mandate neck guards beginning Jan. 1, 2024, citing possible supply issues. T.J. Oshie of the NHL's Washington Capitals said the apparel and equipment company he co-owns already has run out of its entire supply of cut-resistant neck protection.

No such mandate currently exists in the NHL, though many players have added Kevlar or other protective material in the decade since five-time All-Star Erik Karlsson suffered a torn Achilles tendon from a skate cut. Evander Kane missed more than two months last season after his left wrist was cut by a skate blade.

Such injuries have made skate cuts a matter of great importance for several years.

"It's been on the burner," Bettman said. "It's something that we've been looking at in terms of cuts to the wrist, cuts to the leg — and worse — and it's something we're going to continue to discuss and continue to study."

## FIELDS

FROM PAGE B-1

"She's a wing who can shoot the three and put it on the floor," Kellogg said. "She's pretty good at the mid-range, too, which is kind of a lost art. She's a phenomenal defender. She is active, active, active on the defensive end. She's pretty complete right now."

How Kellogg was able to sign Fields out of the transfer portal is a story of having good connections.

WVU assistant coach Erin Grant was an assistant at Arizona last season, while WVU assistant coach Jessica Grayson coached

Fields at Oklahoma State.

WVU guard Zya Nugent was also an AAU teammate with Fields when they were both in high school.

"We had two coaches who had coached her and a teammate who was her teammate at one point," Kellogg said. "We had some connections, but she was one of the first ones we recruited."

WVU's affiliation with the Big 12 didn't hurt, either.

"I'm from Oklahoma, so it was hard for family to come out and see me play in Arizona," Fields said. "(WVU), being in the Big 12 we'll play games closer to home. I know the play in the Big 12. This is my last year,

so I wanted to make the best of it, so being back in the Big 12 was a part of it."

By most accounts, Fields has developed into one of the Mountaineers' top scoring threats along with guard J.J. Quinerly.

She did struggle with her shot at Arizona, though, shooting just 28% from the field, the lowest since her freshman season.

"She's been really good," Kellogg said. "She's a fantastic kid. She's quiet, but not a bad quiet. Her and Jordan (Harrison) have been working pretty well together when they're on the same team. I think she's going to have her best year. I don't know if she'll aver-

age 15 points like she did at Oklahoma State, but her efficiency is going to go up. She still scores the ball pretty well. She'll have some big nights."

## Note

Kellogg said Quinerly injured her ankle in practice and was forced to sit out both of the team's closed-door scrimmages.

"She's coming back from that injury," Kellogg said. "We think she'll be available next Tuesday. She's missed a little bit of time, but the expectation is she'll be back here pretty soon."

Quinerly was a first-team all-Big 12 player last season, averaging 14.5 points per game.

## SOCCER

FROM PAGE B-1

that drive the culture and it's unmatched."

The MHS girls and Hedgesville will kick off the day for the Class AAA soccer tournament on Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the YMCA Youth Sports Complex in Beckley.

The MHS boys return to the state tournament for the first time since capturing the title in 2021. Snyder and company will enter as the four-seed but have confidence in their abilities and game plan as a tough GW team awaits, who the Mohigans lost to 1-0 previously this season.

"Returning to the state tournament is always a blessing because it's difficult to make the final four," Snyder said. "We have players who started and contributed to the state championship two years ago and players in the wings then witnessed winning and have since dreamed of being the ones to go out and perform."

The Mohigans have scored 67 goals this season while only allowing 14 against them. In fact, MHS hasn't conceded a goal in four straight matches



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

Morgantown players celebrate after defeating Wheeling Park in the sectional championship.

entering Thursday's state semifinal.

Senior keeper Tyler Crites has 11 total clean sheets on the season, while junior forward Riley Brabson leads the attack with 19 goals and 12 assists. Fellow attacker Alex Gonzalez-Tanon leads the team with 14 assists of his own.

With a mix of experience and hunger, Snyder says his club is excited about the opportunity and where the program is headed. Also, that having some players who have been in the moment before will help

the others on the team.

"You have to remove the feeling from the action," he said. "So, having seniors who can regulate the nerves of the others is an advantage. On another note, the juniors are an exciting bunch. They have dreamed of this moment since being a freshman. If the seniors are the spine, then the juniors are the juice."

The MHS boys will begin the evening session for Class AAA on Thursday against top-seeded George Washington at 5:00 p.m. in Beckley.

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IN MEMORIAM

Bob Knight, Indiana’s combustible coaching giant, dies at age 83

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Bob Knight, the brilliant and combustible coach who won three NCAA titles at Indiana and for years was the scowling face of college basketball, has died. He was 83.

Knight’s family made the announcement on social media on Wednesday night.

“It is with heavy hearts that we share that Coach Bob Knight passed away at his home in Bloomington surrounded by his family,” the statement said. “We are grateful for all the thoughts and prayers, and appreciate the continued respect for our privacy as Coach requested a private family gathering, which is being honored. We will continue to celebrate his life and remember him, today and forever as a beloved Husband, Father, Coach, and Friend.”

Knight was among the winningest coaches in the sport, finishing his career with 902 victories in 42 seasons at Army, Indiana and Texas Tech. He also coached the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in 1984.

The Hall of Famer cared little what others thought of him, choosing Frank Sinatra’s “My Way” to celebrate his 880th win in 2007, then the record for a Division I men’s coach.

He was nicknamed “The General” and his temper was such that in 2000 it cost him

his job at Indiana. He once hit a police officer in Puerto Rico, threw a chair across the court and was accused of wrapping his hands around a player’s neck.

His critics fumed relentlessly about his conduct, but his defenders were legion. There was this side of Knight as well: He took pride in his players’ high graduation rates, and during a rule-breaking era he never was accused of a major NCAA violation.

At Indiana, he insisted his base salary not exceed that of other professors. At Texas Tech, he sometimes gave back his salary because he didn’t think he earned it.

Knight expected players to exceed expectations on the court and in the classroom. He abided by NCAA rules even when he disagreed with them, never backed down from a dust-up and promised to take his old-school principles to the grave.

His disposition and theatrics, however, often overshadowed his formidable record, tactical genius and dedication to his players and the game, leaving behind a singular resume.

“He changed basketball in this state, the way you compete, the way you win,” Steve Alford, the leader of Knight’s last national championship team in 1987, once said. “It started in Indiana, but he really changed college basketball.



AP file photo

Texas Tech coach Bob Knight yells from the sidelines in the first half of a college basketball game against Houston, Dec. 14, 2001 in Houston. Bob Knight, the brilliant and combustible coach who won three NCAA titles at Indiana and for years was the scowling face of college basketball has died. He was 83. Knight’s family made the announcement on social media Wednesday evening.

You look at the motion offense and people everywhere used it.”

Long esteemed for his strategy and often questioned for his methods, Knight reveled in constructing his best teams with overachievers. As a hard-to-please motivator, he clung to iron principles, and at 6-foot-5 was an intimidating presence for anyone who dared cross him.

When Knight retired in 2008, he left with four national championships

(one as a player at Ohio State) and as the Division I men’s record-holder in wins. He coached everyone from Mike Krzyzewski to Isiah Thomas to Michael Jordan. His coaching tree included Krzyzewski, who broke Knight’s wins record; Alford; Lawrence Frank, Keith Smart, Randy Wittman and Mike Woodson, Indiana’s current coach, among others.

“I have molded everything we do from practices to academics to community

service and even how you should represent the school from that time,” Alford said. “Coach Knight had a lot to do with that.”

Robert Montgomery Knight was born Oct. 25, 1940, in Massillon, Ohio. His mother, whom Knight credited as his strongest childhood influence, was a schoolteacher and his father worked for the railroad.

Hazel Knight seemed to understand her son’s temperament. Once, when Indiana was set to play Kentucky on television, two of Knight’s high school classmates ran into her at a grocery store and asked if she was excited about the game, according to his biography, “Knight: My Story.”

“I just hope he behaves,” his mother remarked.

He played basketball at Ohio State, where he was a reserve on three Final Four teams (1960-62). He was on the 1960 title team that featured Jerry Lucas and John Havlicek, two future Basketball Hall of Famers.

After a year as a high school assistant, Knight joined the staff of Tates Locke at West Point. In 1965, he took over as head coach at age 24. In six seasons, coaching the likes of Krzyzewski and Mike Siliman, his teams won 102 games and it was off to Indiana in 1971.

Knight quickly restored the Hoosiers’ basketball tradition with a revolution-

ary offense and an almost exclusively man-to-man defense. Most opponents struggled against his early Indiana teams, with the Hoosiers going 125-20 and winning four Big Ten Conference crowns in his first five seasons.

The run concluded with Indiana’s first national championship in 23 years. That 1975-76 team went 32-0, ending a two-year span when the Hoosiers were 63-1 and captured back-to-back Big Ten championships with 18-0 records. It remains the last time a major college men’s team finished with a perfect record. That team was voted the greatest in college basketball history by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association in 2013.

Knight won his second title in 1981, beating Dean Smith’s North Carolina team after NCAA officials decided to play the game hours after President Ronald Reagan was shot and wounded earlier in the day. His third title at Indiana came in 1987 when Smart hit a baseline jumper in the closing seconds to beat Syracuse, one of the most famous shots in tournament history.

Knight spent five decades competing against and usually beating some of the game’s most revered names — Adolph Rupp, Smith and John Wooden in the early years; Krzyzewski, Rick Pitino and Roy Williams in later years.

NBA

Jayson Tatum has 30 points and 12 rebounds, Celtics rout Pacers 155-104 to remain unbeaten

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum had 30 points and 12 rebounds in less than three quarters and the Boston Celtics used a blistering start to pull away from the Indiana Pacers, winning 155-104 on Wednesday night to remain unbeaten.

The 155 points was the second-most in a regular-season game in franchise history.

One game after blowing out the Wizards in Washington, the Celtics returned home and beat the Pacers even worse, opening a 10-point lead in the first three minutes, making it 20 in the second quarter, 30 in the third and 53 in the fourth.

Derrick White had 18 points and Jaylen Brown had 16 before the Boston starters went to the bench late in the third quarter, when the Celtics opened a 38-point lead. Sam Hauser scored 17 points and Payton Pritchard had 15 in extensive minutes off the bench. T.J. McConnell scored 18 points for the Pacers.

NETS 109, HEAT 105

MIAMI — Mikal Bridges scored 21 points, Lonnie Walker IV and Armoni Brooks each added 17 and Brooklyn overcame a 15-point second-half deficit to beat Miami.

Dorian Finney-Smith scored all 15 of his points in the second half for Brooklyn, and Cam Thomas had 13 for the Nets.

Tyler Herro scored 30 points for Miami, which has dropped four straight to fall to 1-4 — its worst five-game start since opening 0-5 in the 2007-08 season.

RAPTORS 130 BUCKS 111

TORONTO — Dennis

Schroder had season highs of 24 points and 11 assists, and Toronto beat Milwaukee to snap a three-game losing streak.

Pascal Siakam added 26 points, and Scottie Barnes scored 21 points and matched his season best with 12 rebounds. Toronto’s biggest lead with 27 points.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 16 points and Damian Lillard had 15 for the Bucks. Antetokounmpo shot 5 for 11, and Lillard was 4 for 9.

TRAIL BLAZERS 110 PISTONS 101

DETROIT — Shaedon Sharpe scored 26 of his 29 points in the second half and Portland overcame an 18-point deficit to beat Detroit.

Former Piston Jeremi Grant added 24 points for the Trail Blazers, and Deandre Ayton had 16 points, 11 rebounds five steals and a block in his first game against Pistons coach Monty Williams since they both left the Phoenix Suns.

Cade Cunningham had 30 points for Detroit, but missed 16 of 27 shots and turned the ball over six times. The Pistons shot 37.8% in a 42-point second half.

HAWKS 130 WIZARDS 121

ATLANTA — Dejounte Murray had 24 points and Atlanta beat Washington for its third straight win.

Coming off a career-high-tying 41-point effort against Minnesota, Murray shot 10 for 15 from the field, including 3 for 5 from 3-point range.

Trae Young added 23 points and 10 assists. Kyle Kuzma led the Wizards (1-3) with 25 points.

AUTO RACING

Longtime dirt rivals Larson and Bell at last go head-to-head for NASCAR championship

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — The rivalry hardly reaches the heights of Petty versus Pearson or Earnhardt against Gordon as one of NASCAR’s great competitions. But there is no doubt that dozens of dirt track battles between Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell have created an interesting dynamic ahead of Sunday’s championship.

Larson beat Bell at Las Vegas Motor Speedway to claim the first of four spots in Sunday’s title-deciding season finale, then Bell won the next week at Homestead-Miami Speedway to take the second slot.

Their rivalry is the most intense of the championship contenders — William Byron dates Ryan Blaney’s youngest sister and referred to Blaney as his “brother-in-law” last week — and Bell and Larson will finally race each other for the biggest trophy to date.

“I don’t know how fans view it, (but) I really enjoy getting to race a guy in the Cup Series that when we were starting out racing with each other, neither of us were in the Cup Series,” Larson said.

Larson has 23 wins over nine full Cup Series seasons and won the 2021 Cup title driving for Hendrick Motorsports. Bell has six wins in four Cup seasons driving for Joe Gibbs Racing. He won the Truck Series championship in 2017.

For most of their careers, the annual Chili Bowl Nationals in Bell’s



AP file photo

Christopher Bell, left, and Kyle Larson, right, are shown at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Oct. 22. Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell are locked into NASCAR’s championship-deciding finale, leaving two spots open Sunday at Martinsville Speedway.

home state of Oklahoma was the only race that mattered. Bell won it three consecutive times in small open-wheel midget cars from 2017 to 2019 as Larson came up short time and time again.

Larson finally broke through with back-to-back wins in 2020 and 2021.

The two were once dirt midget teammates at Keith Kunz Motorsports, where Bell seemed to consistently beat Larson in equal equipment, and the relationship hasn’t always been warm.

“He kicked my ass for a few years straight, like every race,” Larson said. “I don’t know if I ever beat him. He made me work really hard to get better as a driver, especially on the dirt track stuff.”

The two had a NASCAR incident on the road course at Watkins Glen two years ago that created a brief but

public feud: Larson said Bell ignored an apology text, Bell said Larson “cried to the media” about the snub before Bell had a chance to respond.

They went quite some time without speaking before eventually resolving the dispute and moving on with their careers. Larson at Phoenix Raceway on Sunday is racing for a second Cup title in three years, while Bell is back in the championship four for the second consecutive year but seeking his first championship.

The respect level is certainly there and was evident after Larson held off Bell over the closing laps to win Las Vegas for the championship berth. He flashed a thumbs-up to runner-up Bell after the finish.

“That was just me kind of showing respect and saying thanks in a way for

having us race it out,” Larson said. “He’s always been a really fair, clean racer. We’ve had numbers and numbers of battles in stock cars, but mostly in dirt track. I’m typically the one that is the aggressor or the aggressive one in our battles. Probably push the limit of being dirty sometimes.

“For him to continue to race me clean, I definitely have a ton of respect for him. Always have. In my opinion, he’s one of the best race car drivers in the world, and could do everything that I get to do outside of NASCAR if his team would let him.”

Hendrick Motorsports allows Larson to race outside of NASCAR, and he will attempt the Indianapolis 500 next May. Joe Gibbs Racing has curtailed almost all of Bell’s extracurricular racing.

But Larson takes credit in Bell even being in NASCAR with a top team.

Bell had an offer on a development deal with struggling Roush Fenway Racing in 2014 that, if he signed, would take him out of Toyota’s program. Toyota had already lost Larson to Chevrolet and swooped in to stop Bell from being a Ford driver.

“I think his story and all of that, me being with Toyota, then not moving forward with them, then kind of pushing him along after they felt like they lost an opportunity on me, I feel like I take pride a little bit in that, that he is in the Cup Series maybe partly because of me,” Larson said.

PRO BASEBALL

D-backs’ Zac Gallen loses World Series no-hit bid on Corey Seager’s leadoff single in 7th inning

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona ace Zac Gallen lost his World Series no-hit bid when Texas’ Corey Seager singled through a hole in the shifted infield leading off the seventh inning in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Seager hit a knuckle-curve off the end of his bat with third baseman Evan Longoria positioned near the shortstop position and shortstop Geraldo Perdomo near second base.

Evan Carter followed with a double, and then Mitch Garver scored Seager with a single, giving

Texas a 1-0 lead. Gallen struck out Josh Jung with his 83rd pitch, then was pulled by manager Torey Lovullo.

With the Diamondbacks trying to overcome a 3-1 Fall Classic deficit, Gallen retired his first 14 batters before walking Nathaniel Lowe on a low 3-1 fastball.

The 28-year-old right-hander struck out five.

Before Seager’s hit, Gallen allowed just five balls out of the infield, fly-outs by Marcus Semien leading off the game, by Leody Taveras in the third, by Garver and Jung in the fifth and by Travis Jankowski in the sixth.

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# The Mini Page

Issue 43, 2023

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:  
Veterans Day



photo by Chesapeake Bay Program

## Old Dominion

Ever since the first British colonists landed in America, the Commonwealth of Virginia has played a major role in our country's history.

Eight presidents were born there: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor and Woodrow Wilson. One of the state's nicknames is "Mother of Presidents"; another is "Old Dominion."

Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America, was founded there in 1607. Before that, many **Indigenous** people lived in the area. Pocahontas, the daughter of a Powhatan Indian chief, helped bring peace between settlers and Powhatans near Jamestown.

### Welcome to Virginia

Our 10th state is home to about 8.7 million people. Its capital is Richmond, but Virginia Beach is the largest city.

Because northern Virginia borders Washington, D.C., many employees of the federal government work and live in the area.



photo by Touch of Light

The Pentagon in Arlington is the headquarters for the U.S. Defense Department. This five-sided complex is the world's second-largest office building.

### Virginia's gifts

Forests cover 62% of the state. The Blue Ridge Mountains run along the western edge of the state.

Many of our former presidents' homes in the state are open to visitors: Mount Vernon (Washington's home); Montpelier (Madison's home); Monticello (Jefferson's home); and Highland (Monroe's home).



photo by Kyle Magnuson

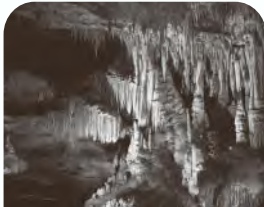
Monticello

### At work and play

Many Virginians work in government or the military. Others are farmers or work in technology businesses. Tourism is also important in the state.

There are no professional sports teams in Virginia. Residents follow nearby teams in Washington, Baltimore, and Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina. Sports fans also follow college teams, including those representing Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

The state offers two amusement parks: Kings Dominion and Busch Gardens. Luray Caverns, the largest caves in the eastern United States, are visited by more than a half-million people a year.



Stalactites, stalagmites and columns in Luray Caverns.

### Famous Virginians

Along with many presidents, Virginia has been home to athletes, entertainers and other historical figures.

• Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856 in Hale's Ford, Virginia. He taught himself to read and write and later became the first leader of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University).



Booker T. Washington

• Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas was born in Newport News, Virginia. She was part of the gold-medal-winning team at the 2016 Summer Olympics and hopes to compete at the 2024 Games.



Gabby Douglas

• Actor Grant Gustin, who was born in Norfolk, Virginia, is best known as Barry Allen/The Flash on the TV series "The Flash."



Grant Gustin

• Willa Cather was an author in the early 20th century. She was born in Gore, Virginia. She wrote novels about pioneers on the frontier.



Willa Cather

### Resources



#### On the Web:

• [bit.ly/MPVirginia](https://bit.ly/MPVirginia)

#### At the library:

• "Virginia" by Moira Rose Donohue  
• "Explore Virginia With Me!" by Rebecca Greene

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Virginia are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



CAVES, COMMONWEALTH, DOMINION, FOREST, GOVERNMENT, HOMES, INDIGENOUS, JAMESTOWN, LURAY, MOTHER, MOUNTAINS, PEACE, PENTAGON, POCAHONTAS, PRESIDENTS, RICHMOND, TOURISM, VIRGINIA.

S R H T L A E W N O M M O C T  
T N E M N R E V O G Y A R U L  
N S A T N O H A C O P V D R M  
E P H O M E S E V A C U O I S  
D K S N I A T N U O M R M C I  
I N D I G E N O U S E E I H R  
S J A M E S T O W N C H N M U  
E I Y W F O R E S T A T I O O  
R U N O G A T N E P E O O N T  
P S V I R G I N I A P M N D W

## Cook's Corner

### Apple Oatmeal

#### You'll need:

- 1 cup water
- 3/4 cup apple juice
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 cup regular oats, uncooked

- 2 1/2 tablespoons powdered milk
- 1 apple, chopped
- 1 1/2 teaspoons brown sugar



#### What to do:

1. Combine first four ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat.
2. Add oats and powdered milk. Reduce heat to medium. Cook 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Remove from heat. Stir in apples and brown sugar.
4. Let stand for 5 minutes. Serves 4.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Mini Jokes



**Vince:** Where did George Washington buy his hatchet?  
**Violet:** At the chopping mall!

## Eco Note



Researchers say they are working to create plastic from the carcasses of dead flies, which would biodegrade naturally after use. A team from Texas A&M University say flies are already being raised as animal feed, but many are unused and discarded. Researcher Cassidy Tibbetts says these flies are the sources of the team's research because they are made up of **chitin**, a nontoxic, biodegradable, sugar-based polymer that strengthens the insects' exoskeletons.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about events in Virginia.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



1. Part of a shoreline along an ocean or lake (5-letter noun)  
□ □ □ □ □

2. Hollow places in a hill, cliff or underground (5-letter plural noun)  
□ □ □ □ □

3. Trees and underbrush covering a large area (7-letter plural noun)  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. The head of a government or chief officer of a company (9-letter noun)  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. The longest \_\_\_\_\_ resort in the world is in Virginia.
2. Tourists love to visit underground \_\_\_\_\_ in Virginia.
3. Sally explored \_\_\_\_\_ near her home.
4. The first \_\_\_\_\_ born in Virginia was George Washington.

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Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Beach, Caves, Forests, President.

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NATION

Firefighters battling to contain Southern Calif. wildfire though many homes remain threatened

Associated Press

AGUANGA, Calif. — More than 1,200 firefighters are attacking a big Southern California wildfire, and fire officials said Wednesday they've made inroads in containing the flames though many homes remain threatened. The size of the Highland Fire remained unchanged at just under

4 square miles after minimal overnight activity but containment grew to 15%, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement. One firefighter was reported injured as crews tackled the fire, aided by air tankers and helicopters. Gusty, dry Santa Ana winds were blowing

Monday when the fire erupted near rural Aguanga in Riverside County about 53 miles north of San Diego. Evacuation orders were issued for 4,000 residents as flames spread rapidly in the brush-covered hill country. As of Wednesday morning, Cal Fire tallied seven structures destroyed, six damaged and 2,356

threatened. At least two of those were homes destroyed by the flames, residents said in news media interviews. Retiree George Boyles told The Press-Enterprise that the fire seemed far away at first but suddenly was coming toward his home. He and his wife, Lucila, initially planned to drive out but instead had to ride out the

firestorm in a cleared area of dirt on their property. Their house and garage were destroyed, said Boyles, adding they had paid off the property in April. Another resident, Luis Quinonez, was away when one of his two properties burned to the ground. No one was hurt, and his dogs, cats, chickens and roosters all survived, he told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The Santa Anas weakened to the point where most gusts were below 35 mph but relative humidity levels remained very low, keeping fire weather conditions elevated, the National Weather Service said. Firefighters were on the lookout for erratic fire behavior, and extremely steep and rugged terrain also posed a challenge, Cal Fire said. The Santa Ana winds, which have a long history of stoking the region's wildfires, blow out of the interior toward the Pacific Coast. The dry air saps moisture from vegetation, making it easier to burn. Forecasters predicted a return of moist ocean air by Friday.

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PAR SCORE 200-210 TOTAL 271

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28701 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000321-MONONGALIA COUNTY-WVTA LLC

To: GARY CARL WALDEN, TIFFANY WALDEN, TIFFANY WALDEN, CITY OF MORGANTOWN, PHILLIP M. MAGRO, TRUSTEE, AMANDA BOLIYARD, ANGOTTI & STRAFACE, PLLC, REAL MAC, LLC DBA CHICO APPRAISAL SERVICES C/O JASON WINGFIELD, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WESTOVER CORP MAP 7 PARCEL 0082 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000321, located in WESTOVER CORP District, BL 5, LOT 10 128 PARKVIEW DRIVE which was returned delinquent or non-entered in the name of WALDEN BRIAN CARL & TIFFANY MARIE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 24, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 23, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 70262 .

\$1,486.29

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-77814.

\$1,285.29

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$1,053.48

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$4,036.36**

**You may redeem at any time before March 23, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 25, 2023

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

28657 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000322-Monongalia County-WVTA LLC

To: MARK GODFREY, JEFFREY S. COMPTON, TRUSTEE, THE UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, MARK GODFREY, MARK GODFREY C/O RAYMOND H YACKEL, MARK GODFREY, LAURA GODFREY, LITMAN EXCAVATING INC, ERB ELECTRIC COMPANY C/O SPILMAN THOMAS & BATTLE STE 4000, MARK GODFREY DBA MID ATLANTIC CONTRACTORS, VALLEY FENCE COMPANY LLC C/O JOHN & WERNER LAW OFFICE PLLC, MARK GODFREY, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, MARK GODFREY, UNITED BANK INC C/O KIETH J PAPPAS ESO, MARK GODFREY, MARK GODFREY, MARK GODFREY, MARK GODFREY, MARK GODFREY, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WESTOVER CORP MAP 7 PARCEL 0269 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000322, located in WESTOVER CORP District, BL 16, LOTS PT 8, 9, 24 GARFIELD ST which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GODFREY MARK E, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and non entered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25,2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 24, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 23, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 68843 .

\$1,552.40

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-76313 .

\$1,669.65

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$1,352.15

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$4,785.50**

**You may redeem at any time before March 23, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 25, 2023

/s/ **G Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28404 OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 2

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

**TARA EDGELL,**  
Plaintiff,

Vs. Civil Action: **23-D-275**

**MATTHEW EDGELL,**  
Defendant(s),

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE

To The Above Named Defendant:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that **MATTHEW EDGELL** has been unable to be located by **TARA EDGELL** and that she has used due diligence to determine the address. Therefore, **MATTHEW EDGELL** shall serve upon **TARA EDGELL, plaintiff, 94 Burnt Meeting House Road, Morgantown, WV 26501**, an answer, including any related counterclaim or defense he may have to the Petition filed in this action on or before **November 23rd, 2023**. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgement, upon proper hearing and trial, may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

A copy of said petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office. Entered by the Clerk of said Court: **October 23rd, 2023**

/s/: **Donna Hidock**  
**Donna Hidock, Clerk of the Court**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28694 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000053-MONONGALIA COUNTY-WVTA LLC

To: BYRON JONES, DARRELL JONES, HEATHER GOODEN, BYRON JONES, BRYON NAZELROD, WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL WEST VIRGINIA, INC., OCCUPANT, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY MAP 23 PARCEL 0014 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000053, located in CLAY District, 2 ACS SUR BIG INDIAN CREEK which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of JONES BYRON N, DARREL G: HEATHER M, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 23, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 22, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 14077 .

\$420.73

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-15025.

\$325.71

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$1,014.52

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$1,972.26**

**You may redeem at any time before March 22, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 24, 2023

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28693 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000250-MONONGALIA COUNTY-WVTA LLC

To: LEAH HOBBS, PERRY HOBBS, MARK HOBBS, MARK HOBBS C/O MARK HOBBS LAW OFFICE, LEAH HOBBS PERRY C/O MARK HOBBS LAW OFFICE, MARK HOBBS ESQUIRE, MARK HOBBS, LEAH HOBBS PERRY, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT MORGANTOWN 7TH WARD CORP MAP 55 PARCEL 0087 0001 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000250, located in MORGANTOWN 7TH WARD CORP District, 160X75 SUR SEC E 563 BURROUGHS ST which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HOBBS LEAH HOBBS PERRY & MARK E, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 23, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 22, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 55372 .

\$3,873.98

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-62643.

\$3,529.15

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$988.69

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$8,603.12**

**You may redeem at any time before March 22, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 24, 2023

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28394 OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 2

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

FAMILY COURT OF MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF: CIVIL ACTION No. **23-FIG-11**  
**Evan David Lee DeVault**

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS A PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AND PETITION

It appearing that the whereabouts of **Willis DeVault** and **Vanessa DeVault** are unknown. Please take notice that on **September 29, 2023**, a petition for appointment of guardian was filed relating to the above-named minor by **Linda Wengerd and Heidi Cole**.

Please take further notice that a hearing on this petition is scheduled for 1:00p.m., on December 18, 2023, at the Monongalia County Family Court, 75 High Street, Suite 26, Morgantown, WV 26505, before the Honorable Judge **Randall Minor**, at which time you appear and make any objection known or to otherwise protect your interest.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office, 75 High Street, Suite 12, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court **October 20, 2023**

/s/: **Donna Hidock**  
**Donna Hidock, Circuit Clerk**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28695 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000044-MONONGALIA COUNTY-WVTA LLC

To: JAMES WILLARD MORRIS SR, JAMES MORRIS JR, CLAY BATTELLE PSD, MONONGALIA COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL CO., C/O SPILMAN, THOMAS & BATTLE, PLLC, RUSSELL ADERNATHY, TAMMY TEMPLE, JAMES MORRIS, JAMES WILLARD MORRIS, JAMES MORRIS, JAMES WILLARD MORRIS SR, JAMES MORRIS JR, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY MAP 4 PARCEL 0002 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000044, located in CLAY District, .7 SUR DUNKARD CREEK which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MORRIS JAMES WILLARD SR & JAMES WIL, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 23, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 22, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 15417 .

\$714.50

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-16920.

\$592.84

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$1,055.26

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$2,573.90**

**You may redeem at any time before March 22, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 24, 2023

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

28705 NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

2022-C-000307-MONONGALIA COUNTY-WVTA LLC

To: GARY CARL WALDEN, TIFFANY WALDEN, TIFFANY WALDEN, CITY OF MORGANTOWN, PHILLIP M. MAGRO, TRUSTEE, AMANDA BOLIYARD, ANGOTTI & STRAFACE, PLLC, REAL MAC, LLC DBA CHICO APPRAISAL SERVICES C/O JASON WINGFIELD, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT WESTOVER CORP MAP 4 PARCEL 0164 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTA LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000307, located in WESTOVER CORP District, BL 34, PT LOTS 4,5 (MOD HOME) 27 MONON AVE (CONT:K which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WALDEN BRIAN CARL & TIFFANY MARIE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of MONONGALIA County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 25, 2023. WVTA LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after March 24, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before March 23, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 70255.

\$2,355.62

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

\$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022-77808.

\$2,099.81

Additional taxes with interest.

\$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.

\$211.30

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$1,053.48

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.

\$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.

**\$5,720.21**

**You may redeem at any time before March 23, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand October 25, 2023

/s/ **G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of MONONGALIA County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

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Apts.  
4



# Husband not excited when spouse gets job near him

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I'm facing a significant and unexpected challenge in my marriage, and I could use some guidance. My husband and I have been happily married for over a year, and I believed our connection was strong. Recently, I decided to surprise him by securing a job on the East Coast, where he's located, as I missed being near him. However, when I broke the news to him, I was met with a response I didn't anticipate: He was not excited. In fact, he was upset and suggested that I stay where I am. This reaction has raised a massive red flag for me since I don't know what this means for our marriage. I am excited about this new job because it's going to be at an accredited university. However, I am alarmed by my husband's reaction, and I don't want to face what lies ahead. What should I do? — LONG-DISTANCE MARRIAGE

**DEAR LONG-DISTANCE MARRIAGE:** Did you and your husband talk about what your life will look like over time? You are in a long-distance marriage, but how long did you expect it to stay

like that? Why do you live in different cities? Do you visit him where he lives? Could he possibly be living a double life? You should have a thousand questions, and you need to get them all answered.

It is also odd to surprise him with a move. That is a big deal and should be part of your conversation as a couple.

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I made a new friend at work, but after spending more time with her, I realized that she is very clingy and needy toward me. This is something I have never experienced before, and it's starting to become too much for me to handle. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I need to establish some boundaries. How can I be honest with her without making her feel bad or causing any unnecessary conflict? — NEEDY FRIEND

**DEAR NEEDY FRIEND:** Perhaps your gift to this woman should be honesty. While you like her and have enjoyed her friendship, you already see that she needs more than you have to give. Tell her you need to take a break from her for now.

# Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

The more you are willing to do, the more you'll get back. Live in the moment, embrace change and enjoy the ride. It's time to rely on your knowledge, experience and ingenuity to reach your objective. Take the steps necessary to ensure you fulfill your expectations and reach the pinnacle of your aspirations. Explore your options and exercise your rights.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — Talk to experts, get the lowdown and develop a strategy that promotes your vision.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Pay attention to cash flow. It's OK to help others, but don't leave yourself short. Think outside the box.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — A positive change is within reach. Consider what's important to you and how much you can achieve.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Focus on learning, self-improvement and opportunities that align with your dreams.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Plan to have fun. Socialize, take part in an event, attend a reunion or invest time and money in yourself.



EUGENIA LAST

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Handle others with care. You will not get what you want if you aren't sensitive to people's needs.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Seek out friends and family. Share your thoughts and feelings, and you'll get meaningful feedback.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Don't judge others, or you'll face similar circumstances. Say less and do more.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Let your imagination run wild today. Your insight will increase your profile.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Collect your thoughts and go over your plan. There is no room for error or sloppiness.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Don't be shy; call the shots and make things happen. Speak up and share your intentions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — Refuse to let anyone play with your emotions. Set high standards and make your position clear.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 That woman
  - 4 Like the Sahara
  - 8 Advanced degree
  - 11 Smoked salmon
  - 12 Alliance acronym
  - 13 Wander
  - 15 Elec. unit
  - 16 Dice
  - 17 Commedia dell'—
  - 18 Shipboard bed
  - 20 Genteel
  - 22 Statue in Piccadilly Circus
  - 24 "Mayday!"
  - 25 Leaves in the lurch
  - 28 Domain
  - 32 Vaulted church area
  - 33 Mimicked
  - 35 To a —
- DOWN**
- 36 Charge
  - 37 Needlecase
  - 38 Cook in wader
  - 39 Plush bear
  - 41 Bureau parts
  - 43 Curved path
  - 45 — Rachel Wood
  - 46 007 portrayer
  - 50 Sitting — of the world
  - 53 Actor — Baldwin
  - 54 Luxury car
  - 56 Groom's assertion
  - 57 Sommelier's suggestion
  - 58 Lost traction
  - 59 Big shot
  - 60 Poetic preposition
  - 61 Notices
  - 62 Opposite of WSW



Answer to Previous Puzzle

TIE	HOOP	SLAM
RAW	ANNE	TARO
AGE	USER	AMID
MORALE	SAMPLE	
WET	UMP	
STRAD	GAY	BIC
COOK	BUD	SOSO
OBOE	ALE	HALL
WED	ELF	DARED
	PAL	AIR
DEVOUR	PLEASE	
IRIS	OAHU	BAN
LINE	OBIT	CRO
LEER	MADE	SAW

- 3 Put into words
- 4 Fix firmly
- 5 Cheer from the bleachers
- 6 "Believe — not!"
- 7 Dummies
- 8 Laud
- 9 Unicorn feature
- 10 Sticky fruit
- 14 Club —
- 19 Family history diagram
- 21 Nixon successor
- 23 "On the double!"
- 25 Crazy
- 26 Fencing sword
- 27 Tater
- 29 Taking heed
- 30 Sidelong glance
- 31 British stables
- 34 Ireland
- 37 Bronte's "Jane —"
- 38 Cygnet
- 40 Ballerina
- 42 Steers clear of
- 44 Boorish
- 46 Crow's cry
- 47 Hedgepodge
- 48 Hawaiian goose
- 49 Christmas
- 51 Norse deity
- 52 Church head
- 55 Expire

## CURTIS



## PEANUTS



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## BEETLE BAILEY



## FRANK & ERNEST



## BORN LOSER



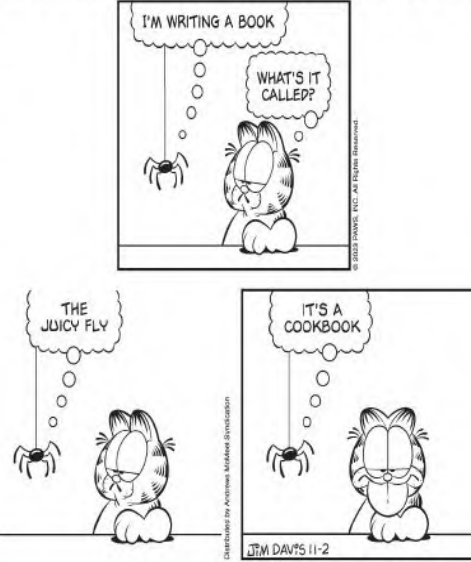
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## MARMADUKE



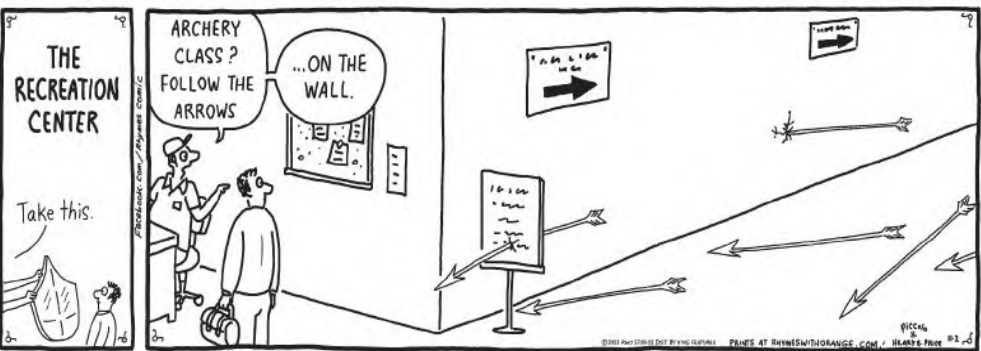
## GARFIELD



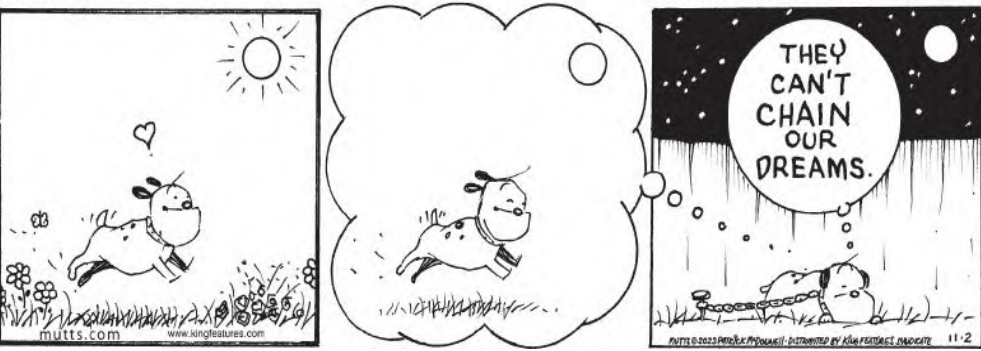
## BLONDIE



## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



## MUTTS



**SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.**

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Double Word Score

2nd Letter Double

FOUR RACK TOTAL

PAR SCORE 210-220

BEST SCORE 271

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.

Formore information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association at info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website at www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scngrams@gmail.com

Solutions — B-6