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Small Business
Saturday today
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Basketball
Women undefeated in
San Juan Shootout
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WVU football
Brown wants his team focused
on Baylor Bears
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OBITUARIES

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WAR

Hamas frees 24 hostages in swap

Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Hamas on Friday released 24 hostages who had been held captive in Gaza for weeks, and Israel freed 39 Palestinians from prison in the first stage of a swap under a four-day cease-fire deal.

The freed hostages included 13 Israelis, 10 people from Thailand and one from the Philippines, according to Qatar.

The agreement opened the way for sorely needed aid to flow into Gaza for beleaguered residents. It was also a moment of hope for families in Israel and elsewhere worried about loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war.

With the truce's start Friday morning, Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians saw quiet for the first time after seven weeks of relentless Israeli bombardment, which has killed thousands, driven three-quarters of the population from their homes and flattened vast swaths of residential areas. Rocket fire from Gaza militants into Israel went silent as well.

The freed Israeli hostages included eight women — six of them in their 70s and 80s — and three children. Their release was followed in the evening by the freeing of the Palestinian prisoners — 24 women, including some convicted of attempted murder for attacks on Israeli forces, and 15 teenagers jailed for offenses like throwing stones.

But joy at the deal has been tempered — among Israelis by the fact that not all hostages will be freed and among Palestinians by the brevity of the pause. The short truce will leave Gaza mired

SEE HAMAS, A-2

MORGANTOWN

City purchases property in Richwood redevelopment area

BY BEN CONLEY

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Long before details of a 10-acre land deal and visions of redevelopment came to Richwood Avenue and the doorstep of downtown Morgantown, there was a glaring problem.

Looking down, as if a bird, on the scattershot tangle of streets and intersections along lower Richwood, you can't help but

wonder why, and how, this configuration came to be.

Why does East Prospect Street abruptly end and Richwood Avenue loop around an empty parking lot, creating a strange confluence of intersections with Weaver and Snider streets before terminating at a dangerous, angled intersection with Willey Street?

Before you get to any of that,

Richwood passes by Locust Avenue. The confluence of those two streets may be the most geometrically challenged of the lot.

And it's going to be addressed.

During its most recent regular meeting, Morgantown City Council approved, on first reading, the purchase of two parcels at the intersection of Locust and Richwood avenues.

The two properties, a total of .06 acres at 549 and 553 Locust Avenue, will be purchased from the Monongalia County Development Authority for \$216,600, which is the total appraised value of the properties.

Morgantown Area Partnership CEO Russ Rogerson previously said the city is looking to use some \$700,000 available

SEE CITY, A-2

BUSTLING BLACK FRIDAY



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Black Friday shoppers make their way through Menards, looking for deals.

Shoppers show up for those post-Thanksgiving deals

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

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On Friday, the Morgantown area was bustling with shoppers hoping to catch some of those Black Friday deals, but some stores were busier than others.

Menard's management said they had customers lined up outside the store in Westover for its 5 a.m. opening. Many of those early birds made off with a \$150 7.6-cubic-foot retro refrigerator, a \$300 heated and massaging recliner, or a \$50 luggage set. A 10-foot-by-10-foot blanket selling for \$15 was also one of the best-selling items of the day, they said.

Bass Pro Shop may have been one of the busier retailers in town with people lining up as early as 2 a.m. for its 5 a.m. opening. The first 250 people through the door received a gift card with a surprise amount off of their purchase. Aside from deals on rifles, bows and clothing, the retailer had food trucks serving up coffee and barbecue in the parking lot.

Throughout the season, Bass Pro Shop hosts "Santa's Wonderland," where children can meet Santa and receive a free 4x6 photo. Reservations can be made to visit Santa on the website, basspro.com.

At Target, customers flocked toward the toy department for a buy one, get one 50% off deal on select toys, games and puzzles.

Stand-alone stores weren't the only ones to see crowds on Friday. At the Morgantown Mall, shoppers were out in full force, many retailers said.

Employees at Victoria's Secret said this year seemed more like the Black Fridays from seasons past, with a constant flow of customers coming in

the door, many looking for outdoor gear and sweatsuits.

Amanda Morgan, manager of JC Penney, said the store has been running its Black Friday sales for about a week, but, surprisingly, still had around 100 people lined up for its 5 a.m. opening.

The hot ticket items were small appliances, she said, selling out of Crock-Pots within 10 minutes of opening. Another draw to the mall's lone department store were the giveaways throughout the day. Shoppers who arrived at opening had a chance to receive various gift cards, including one for \$100 off \$100.

Morgan said unlike previous years, Penney's continued the giveaways throughout the day with prizes given away at 5 a.m., 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

According to a study by WalletHub, JC Penney was the best place to shop on Black Friday with an average discount of 59.1%. Its sales included extreme discounts on some pricier items too — like a \$6,250 engagement ring marked down to \$1,666.

Macy's, Belk, Kohl's and Target rounded out the top five best places to shop on Black Friday this year, according to the study.

While area stores seemed to be seeing a higher number of in-store customers than last year, many customers came to pick up items already purchased online.

Totals for 2023 were not available in time for this report, but according to WalletHub, in 2022 Americans shopped from home on Black Friday more than they did in stores, with 122.7 million people getting their deals in person vs. 130.2 million making purchases online.

Many name brand or chain retailers will end or change their sales for the weekend.

Local businesses will be the focus today, as Small Business Saturday gets underway.

RATE-HIKE PLAN

Mon Power, Potomac Edison respond to criticisms

BY DAVID BEARD

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Mon Power and Potomac Edison offered some defenses against criticisms leveled against them in one of their rate-hike cases, in a recent filing with the Public Service Commission.

But they did agree to some of the suggestions offered.

In this case, they are asking for \$167,465,330, which they project would add \$9.19 to the average monthly residential bill, raising it from \$120.20 to \$129.39 — a 7.8% hike. It is an ENEC case — expended net energy cost — designed to allow utilities to cover their costs of producing power.

Earlier this month, Philip M. Hayet testified on behalf of West Virginia Energy Users Group, a group of large industrial customers of Mon Power and Potomac Edison. He said the proposed hike imposes significant increases in ratepayer bills.

WVEUG proposed that instead of approving two ENEC rate hikes in 2024 — on Jan. 1 and an adjustment on March 27 — the PSC approve a single 2024 ENEC hike coinciding with a separate base rate increase expected on March 27.

And instead of spreading ENEC hikes across two years, as the companies proposed in this case (asking this time for \$167.5 million of a total \$243,032,313 under-recovery), WVEUG recommends spreading it across three years. And that the companies be directed to forego filing a 2025 ENEC case, meaning they would not make an ENEC filing in August/September 2024 for new rates to be effective on January 1, 2025. They would then file their next ENEC case in

SEE CRITICISMS, A-2



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COMMUNITY

‘I gotcha, Boss’: Old-time music community celebrates the life of Travis Stimeling

BY JIM BISSETT

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Chris Stimeling was a study in four-string stoicism that Sunday afternoon back in 2019.

The middle-schooler was bearing down on his Epiphone bass guitar from one fixed spot on the stage.

He was rocking the root note for all it was worth, as he and buddies of that same vintage – they called themselves Chorus of Chaos – were tearing through “Come On, Feel the Noise,” by Quiet Riot, their forefathers of

distorted guitars and big hair, as it were.

The young outfit (not yet in their teens) was on the bill for an annual concert from PopShop, a School of Rock-type enterprise that puts people of all ages together, as a band.

While Stimeling, the bass player, didn’t necessarily share the same sonic proclivities of his father, Travis — a nationally known WVU musicologist who headed the bluegrass and old-time music divisions of the College of Creative Arts — it also needed noting that none of that

mattered on this day.

Nope, not one bit.

The elder Stimeling was head-banging with the best of them from a perch in the audience mid-way back from the stage.

And that’s because the professor was also a performer could never help enjoying and celebrating that wondrous act of making music in front of people, no matter the genre.

Double-coil humbuckers coexisting with the Delmore Brothers, as it were.

Stimeling, who preferred they/them pronouns for that

desire of inclusivity in the arts and society, died last week after battling an illness.

It didn’t take long for the tributes to cascade in, like a fiddle break in an old-time jam session.

“Travis was radically inclusive,” their best friend and fellow musician Mary Linscheid said Friday.

“They wanted to bring everybody into the circle.”

Fiddling, full circle

As a kid in Morgantown, Linscheid, who grew up playing

classical violin, found herself gravitating more and more to old-time music, as she got older.

She switched over to guitar and mandolin as she explored the music in earnest, and met Travis when she joined the WVU Bluegrass Band on her way to graduating with an English degree last spring.

Linscheid fully committed to her first instrument during that tenure. Like her professor’s inclusivity, her shift was just as radical.

SEE CELEBRATES, A-4

Small Business Saturday



Benjamin Powell/ The Dominion Post photos

A photo of Pathfinder’s unique outdoor essentials on Friday morning. The High Street store is ready for Small Business Saturday shoppers to descend today.

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Small Business Saturday kicks off the holiday shopping season today with downtown’s signature celebration of small and local.

Presented by First Energy Foundation, Small Business Saturday will run from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with the Holiday Hub by Brezeline offering a lounge in the Ward Building, 238 High St., where shoppers can take a break.

Shoppers can take photos with the Grinch by the holiday tree and enjoy a hot cocoa bar and cookie station. The first 50 visitors will receive a Shop Small reusable tote bag. Shoppers can also enter to win a smart TV, pick up a gift guide to plan the day and visit kids’ activity tables.

Across from the Ward Building, there will be a Holiday Vintage Pop-Up Market on the Monongalia County Courthouse Square with music and food trucks.

At 2 p.m., the Moonlight Market opens at Morgantown Market Place on Spruce Street with artisans and music.

There are many reasons to think Downtown Morgantown when deciding on a holiday shopping plan.

“Behind every small business is a family. Downtown’s specialty shops offer unique gift opportunities including handmade, artisan and locally made,” Amy Loomis, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, which is part of Morgantown Area Partnership, said previously. “For those who like experiences and food, consider a gift card from a favorite local coffee shop, brewery, or restaurant.”

According to Loomis, citing the 2022 American Express Small Business Consumer Insights Survey, 68 cents of every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S. stays in the local community and that every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 48 cents in local business activity as a result of employees and local businesses purchasing local goods and services.



Top, Co-owner of Coni and Franc Connie Merandi (left) assists Helena Jackson as she looks for new shoes on Friday morning. Above, Black Friday shoppers explore Hoot and Howl downtown on Friday morning. More shoppers will be in downtown for Small Business Saturday.

PRESTON

County clerk not happy with the mishandling of funds

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

DPNews@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — Preston County Clerk Linda Huggins said she is not happy about a \$500,000 miscalculation.

During an interview, Huggins said she was told the commission had more money than they ever had and it was accumulating a lot of extra money in carryover. She said she wondered what they were talking about when the they hadn’t increased the tax rate.

“We only know what we get from the sheriff’s office. We don’t see the money; we just see the receipts,” she said.

The money is from an excess levy that was put into the wrong county fund. It is now being corrected.

During the meeting, Huggins said the commissioners and the sheriff knew about the money. She said monthly reports were not being submitted so she reported it and the auditor told her that was not her duty.

Melissa Hardy, a CPA

working with the sheriff’s department, said both she and Sheriff Paul Pritt are aware of the urgency in correcting the problem.

“We are going back through information from prior years no one else has looked at,” she said.

Sheriff Moe Pritt said the \$500,000 is basically money from the fire excess levy that they were told to put in the general county fund. He said he later found out a percentage should go to the local fire departments.

“It was a misdirection of where the fees were to go to based on advice at conception,” he said. “We want to make this right. I don’t want to put my name to anything that’s not right. We have a CPA working on it and we sent out pages and pages of numbers. Some of the stuff was from 2006, 2011 and 2018. We’ve identified the problem and we’re trying to fix it,” Pritt said.

In other business, Preston County’s 89-year-old courthouse is about to be reconfigured inside. The

SEE FUNDS, A-4

STREAMING REVIEW

‘May December’ not an easy watch, but worth it

IN ONE OF MY FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOWS, “TED LASSO,” one character asks another if his partner makes him a better man. It is meant to shock him out of the toxic romance he’s a part of, but they’re still a couple at the end of the episode.

Something I have discovered is that when you’re in an unhealthy relationship, it can be hard to recognize it from the inside. Director Todd Haynes examines this in his latest film, “May December,” coming to Netflix on Friday.

Elizabeth (Natalie Portman) is an actor preparing for a new role in a film she is producing and starring in. To fully understand the woman that she is portraying, she spends a week with Gracie (Julianne Moore) and Joe Yoo (Charles Melton), a couple who rose to notoriety when their relationship was exposed decades earlier because she was 36, married with children, and he was 13. They now



ALISE CHAFFINS

have three children, two about to graduate high school, with Joe as an X-ray technician and Gracie running a small home-bakery business. As Elizabeth meets with people from Gracie’s past, she begins to better understand these two people, both from the time of the initial incident and now.

I found “May December” to be a profoundly upsetting movie, largely because Hayes, along with writers Samy Burch and Alex Mechanik, refuse to allow this to be a movie that is black and white. Obviously, it is abusive for a 30-something woman to initiate a relationship with

SEE MAY, A-4

NEWS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs accused of sexual abuse

NEW YORK — Two more women have come forward to accuse Sean “Diddy” Combs of sexually assaulting them in the early 1990s. In one of the suits, a woman said Combs sexually assaulted her after playing her with drugs, then filmed the abuse without her knowledge. In a second suit, an unnamed woman said the producer and a friend took turns raping her and a friend during an after party. The lawsuits were filed hours before the expiration of a New York law that gives victims of sexual abuse a one-year window to file civil action regardless of the statute of limitations. In an emailed statement, a spokesperson for Combs denied the allegations.

Trump plans to visit Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Former President Donald Trump has told Argentina’s President

elect Javier Milei that he plans to travel to the South American country so the two can meet. Milei’s office said Thursday that Trump called Milei to congratulate the right-wing populist on his election victory. The office didn’t give a date for when Trump intends to be in Buenos Aires. Milei’s inauguration is scheduled for Dec. 10. He has expressed admiration for Trump and been compared to him in the past. His conversation with Trump on Wednesday night took place a few hours after Milei spoke with President Joe Biden.

U.N. chief Guterres visits crucial Antarctica

KING GEORGE ISLAND, Antarctica — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is visiting Antarctica just before the COP28 climate talks begin. He called the continent’s warming devastating. He is on a three-day visit and was accompanied by Chile’s president. Warming air and

ocean temperatures are causing Antarctic ice to melt. The frozen continent plays a significant role in regulating Earth’s climate because it reflects sunlight away and drives major ocean currents.

Daryl Hall is suing music partner John Oates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Daryl Hall has sued his longtime music partner John Oates, arguing that his plan to sell off his share of a joint venture would violate a business agreement the duo had. The move quickly prompted a judge last week to temporarily block the sale during legal proceedings and arbitration. The lawsuit contends that in their roles as co-trustees, Oates and other defendants were moving to sell their part in Whole Oats Enterprises LLP to Primary Wave Music. The lawsuit says they were doing so without Hall’s consent and in violation of their business agreement while arbitration hadn’t been completed.

FUNDS

FROM PAGE A-3

construction is necessary to meet the Supreme Court’s requirements to accommodate a second circuit judge who will take office in 2025.

The Mills Group is working with the commission to do the work

According to its web site, the Mills Group of architects, designers, planners and historians collaborate with their clients to improve communities through the latest design techniques while reserving the architectural character of the past.

The current courthouse took the place of the one that was torn down in 1933. The sandstone for its facades was quarried locally, and the final cost of

the courthouse was \$113,500.19.

It was dedicated Aug. 25, 1934.

Magistrate Bo Ward, speaking as a citizen and not a magistrate, told commissioners he wanted to propose a new plan for the courthouse changes that would save taxpayers money.

He said even though the magistrate court is housed in the courthouse, members of that court have had no say in the reconfiguration plans.

“We had two people at the reconfiguration meeting but they were told they couldn’t be there,” Ward said. “We were not included in any of this.”

Commissioner Hunter Thomas said until an architect looked at Wards plans, no changes can be made.

“Our plan was approved by the Supreme Court, but some things can be tweaked,” Commission President Samantha Stone said.

Commissioner Don Smith said the plans had to be very explicit and the architects (the Mills Group) had to go to the Supreme Court to get the sizes and what was needed.

County Coordinator Nate Raybeck said the commission received a \$100,000 grant based on the current architectural design.

“Isn’t grant money taxpayer money?” Ward asked.

No further action was taken.

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

MAY

FROM PAGE A-3

a teenage boy, but we are looking at it some 20 years later when they have built a life together. However, even now, we see that there are numerous cracks in their relationship and that despite the years together, the abuse and power imbalance are never addressed.

The performances in this film are stunning. The actors playing the kids are all wonderful, managing to bring a genuine love for their dad with a disdain for their mom that is part teen angst and part anger from being an unwitting

part of a national scandal. Watching Moore in this reminded me of her role in “Magnolia” with the energy that she brought. Portman gives a beautifully nuanced portrayal of a woman trying to find a balance between professionalism and friendship. But the most impressive showing comes from Melton, who finds a way to portray naivete without ever succumbing to seeming ignorant.

Aside from the unsettling subject matter, my only frustration with this movie was the score. It is heavy-handed in a way that took me out of the moment more than once.

Beyond that, it is a masterful piece of filmmaking.

There is a tendency to treat abuse from older women to young boys with less gravity than we do when the situation is reversed, and this movie tackles that imbalance with a deft hand. This is not a film that is easy to watch, but nevertheless, it is a movie that is worth watching.

ALISE CHAFFINS is a Morgantown writer who loves movies and sharing her opinions, as well as a member of the International Film Society Critics Association. She reviews a movie from a streaming service every Saturday and one newly in theaters every Sunday. Find more at MacGuffin or Meaning on Substack.

NATION

Internet casinos thrive in 6 states. So why hasn’t it caught on more widely in the U.S.?

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — In the 10 years that it has been operating in New Jersey, internet casino gambling has generated nearly \$7 billion in revenue for casinos and their affiliates, sent over a billion dollars in tax revenue to the state’s coffers and helped keep Atlantic City’s nine casinos afloat while they were shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

So why hasn’t it caught on more widely across America?

Currently, only six states offer internet casino gambling: New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Michigan and West Virginia. (Nevada offers internet poker but not online casino games; Rhode Island has passed an online casino bill, but it is not expected to go into effect until March 2024.)

Casino operators, online gambling companies, analysts and elected officials offer a number of reasons why they think it has yet to expand more widely: among them, including fears (unfounded, analysts say) that internet gambling

will draw gamblers away from physical casinos, and a higher priority effort to approve sports betting — nearly 90% of which is done online in two-thirds of the states.

Proponents say they expect additional states to adopt online casino gambling soon, in part because a wave of federal pandemic stimulus funding from the federal government is ending, and states are once again looking for new sources of tax revenue.

Internet gambling “stands out as the most lucrative revenue source from any gaming launch in history, and New Jersey is ‘exhibit A’ for its success,” said Howard Glaser of the internet gambling technology company Light & Wonder. He predicted dozens of states will adopt it in the near future.

However, Chris Krafcik, managing director of the Eilers & Krejcik gambling analytics firm, said some states may be hesitant to forge ahead with internet casinos, which some lawmakers may view as a more serious, high-stakes form of gambling than online sports betting. Another fac-

tor is competition from online giants like DraftKings and FanDuel that control nearly half the online casino market in the U.S.

Krafcik predicted “only a very small number of states” will legalize online casinos by the end of 2027.

“Online casino has always been a tough sell,” Krafcik said.

One of those states may be Indiana, where an online casino bill died in February due in large part to fears that it would hurt the state’s existing physical casinos. A report from the state’s Legislative Services Agency warned of that, citing “loss of tax revenues from displacement of gaming activities at brick-and-mortar casinos and racinos” of \$134 million to \$268 million a year. Lawmakers plan to try again next year.

Elaine Vallaster of New Jersey has been playing internet slots for about three years on the BetRivers.com site, where she also likes the free bingo games and a chat function that has enabled her to make several friends with whom she socializes in real life.

CELEBRATES

FROM PAGE A-3

Goodbye, violinist. Hello, fiddler.

And yes, they are two different animals and instruments, Linscheid said, with a little laugh.

While the violin is about strict rehearsals and staid concert halls, the fiddle trends more organically to that circle Travis always talked about, the musician said.

“Everything’s different about it,” she said, of the contrast — from the way one bows the instrument to the way one simply approaches the music.

For her, old-time over the old masters is just more freeing, she said.

“When you’re playing old-time fiddle, you’re almost always sitting knee-to-knee with someone who’s probably actually teaching you the tune at the same time,” she continued.

“Travis was all about that. They’d always say, ‘People first, then the music.’ They always celebrated that connection.”

‘I gotcha, Boss’

This coming Thursday, people and music will be part of the celebration of Stimeling’s live and times

that will take place at 4 p.m. that day at The Encore music venue on Powell Avenue.

Chris Haddox, a fellow WVU professor and old-time music buddy, will be there.

Haddox, a songwriter who also plays several stringed instruments in that style, is in possession of a self-titled album currently making a solid run up the Americana music charts here in the U.S. and overseas.

The album was produced by Ron Sowell, the music director of public radio’s famed “Mountain Stage” show out of Charleston.

Stimeling profiled Sowell and Haddox in his 2018 book, “Songwriting in Contemporary West Virginia: Profiles and Reflections,” which gave a look at performers who sing songs and craft them, too.

“I wouldn’t have an album if it hadn’t been for Travis,” he said.

“That book got me on Ron’s radar.”

Haddox and Stimeling picked music together and collaborated on songs and academic works, also.

At WVU, Haddox teaches sustainable design practices in new building construction. Stimeling,

he said, reminded him that music — especially music of the Appalachian ilk — can build whole communities spanning generations across the Mountain State.

The last time they played was at The Encore in October, for an old-time honky-tonk show, where Haddox led a band that worked through tunes by Webb Pierce, Lefty Frizzell and other vanguards of a golden age of Nashville music that peaked in the 1950s.

Stimeling, an authority on that music, played bass in the band, and grooved on the walking, boogie-woogie lines just a couple of steps away from the jump blues.

He was looking forward to another such show on Dec. 16, which will be dedicated to Stimeling’s memory.

His final gig, Haddox said, was magic.

“Every time I looked back, Travis would be there with this giant grin,” he said.

“I might say, ‘Hey, Travis, it’s in A, buddy,’ and he’d say, ‘I gotcha, Boss.’ Now, he’s not gonna be there when I turn around. I’m getting emotional, just thinking about it.”

HEY KIDS!

Wrapping Paper Contest!

Contest RULES:

We're asking area kids ages 14 and under to design their own holiday gift wrap and send it to us at The Dominion Post.

Who Can Enter: Any child under the age of 14

Entry Format: Use an 8.5 by 11-inch piece of UNLINED paper. One entry per child. Entry should have the child's name, age, address, telephone number and school printed on the back.

Deadline: Entries must be received at The Dominion Post in Sabraton by 4pm Friday, December 8th.

Grand Prize: Each winner will receive \$25, and the Christmas design printed as wrapping paper, which will be inserted in The Dominion Post on Wednesday, December 20th; Thursday, December 21st; and Friday, December 22rd. The winners will be contacted no later than Friday, December 15th.

Judges: The Dominion Post staff will choose 3 winners, based on creativity and execution (one from each age group: 7 and under, 8-11 years old; 12-14 years old).

Mail or Drop Off Entries to: The Dominion Post Wrapping Paper Contest, 1251 Earl Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505. All entries must be received by Friday, December 8th. Specific **NOTE:** Entries will not be returned. For more information, call: 304-291-9420.

Just a Hint: It helps if the design can be a repeating pattern, as we'll be "tiling" your image several times on a page.

Good Luck!

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HEALTH

WVU Medicine Diabetes Education Center assists patients with disease management

WVU Health System

November is American Diabetes Month. According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) more than 37 million children and adults have diabetes in the United States. In West Virginia, they estimate more than 220,000 people, 15% of the adult population, have been diagnosed with diabetes and another 45,000 are unaware they have it. The WVU Medicine Diabetes Education Center (DEC) is ADA accredited and works diligently to positively affect the health of those living with the disease through inpatient and outpatient services, including blood glucose monitoring, insulin and

non-insulin injection training, hypoglycemia treatment, meal planning and carbohydrate counting, medication management, and physical activity counseling. Patients must be referred by their primary care, endocrinology, inpatient, or emergency medicine provider to receive services. For Dominick Barbetta, 66, from Clarksville, Pa., this referral would have been made sooner if he had sought diagnosis when his doctor first mentioned it to him. "He had been on me about it for a while," Barbetta said. His family history combined with complaints of persistent fatigue were enough for Barbetta's doctor

to suggest the screening. First-hand knowledge of the dangers of uncontrolled diabetes finally were enough to make Barbetta act and get help. "My grandmother lost her leg," he recalled and added that maintaining an active lifestyle is important to him. Now retired, he is an avid fisherman, works on his farm daily and enjoys spending time outdoors. Barbetta completed a two-day class at the DEC and said he learned a lot, including how to check his sugar, what to eat and how his food choices can affect his levels. He credits DEC staff with educating him on continuous glucose monitors and the process for requesting one from insurance. They even

helped him work through some initial issues he had setting up the device. "They are nice people," Barbetta said. "They told me if I need anything to stop in and see them." Now a couple months into actively managing the disease, he has lost 12 pounds, feels fuller and more satisfied after he eats, and has renewed energy. Emily Smaniotto, registered nurse and coordinator of the DEC, said Barbetta's experience is what she and her team want to see for all their patients. "All of our diabetes educators are passionate about the care they provide and the lives they influence," she said. "We love to see our patients succeed in managing

their diabetes, and if they are struggling or need support, that's what we are here for." Diabetes education is more than a profession for Smaniotto, as she, too, has diabetes. "I have been living with Type 1 Diabetes for 20 years," she said. "I enjoy helping others with diabetes, especially introducing them to the latest technology." DEC efforts extend to the community. They manage a support group for individuals affected by Type 1 Diabetes, a newsletter for those affected by Type 2, and supported the recent JDRF Community One Walk in Morgantown, which Smaniotto chaired and raised money for juvenile

diabetes research. This summer, representatives from WVU Medicine's Diabetes Education Center traveled to the 2023 Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (ADCES) Conference, held in Houston, where Smaniotto and Mary Treadway, inpatient diabetes educator at WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center, presented posters. "We wanted to point out all the great diabetes providers from the state and the educators that work for WVU Medicine," Treadway said. "They are the heartbeat of stopping the epidemic of pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes mellitus." Smaniotto and Treadway are also co-leading revitalization efforts for the ADCES West Virginia Coordinating Body/Local Networking Group, a hub for networking, education, and professional development for local diabetes care and education specialists.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Critical thinking is losing to TikTok

We’ve seen contagions induced by social media before. But the sudden popularity of TikTok videos in which confused young people muse on the merits of Osama bin Laden’s “Letter to America” reveal the depths of this particular app’s ability to corrupt young minds.

Yes, that would be the deranged and paranoid thoughts of the terrorist mastermind of the murderous Sept. 11 attacks. On TikTok, you can find folks wondering aloud if he might just have had a point. The stupidity and ignorance of history boggles the mind.

Voices on the left, such as National Public Radio, have tried to argue that the TikTok problem is overblown and white supremacists are the real problem when it comes to rising antisemitism.

And, indeed, there is a growing amount of that poison on the far-right fringes.

But the left also has to recognize that antisemitism has re-emerged in troubling ways within its core communities, taking parents, ill-prepared college campuses and even some media organizations by surprise.

Denying it exists is not the solution. Rather, it’s time for good people of all political stripes to admit that some Jewish young people are being very poorly protected, despite the colossal campus infrastructure created in recent years to attend to “inclusion” and students’ mental and physical health.

To say those bureaucracies have been slow to react to what even nonpolitical Jewish students have been feeling as their sense of personal security has been upended, and the pressures they’ve faced on America’s campuses in recent weeks, is to grossly understate.

No wonder many Jewish donors are incensed.

TikTok, in particular, has become such a cesspool of anti-semitism that some Jewish parents have taken to social media themselves to say that the app is traumatizing their teenagers, thanks to the current force-fed diet of lightning videos twisting Michael Jackson’s “They Don’t Care About Us,” offers of support for jihadism against the West, and even setting the thoughts of the Ayatollah Khamenei to sympathetic music.

“TikTok risks turning a whole generation into anti-semites,” wrote British columnist Jake Wallis Simons, adding that the app is “torturing” his Jewish daughter. “This is moral and intellectual vacuity,” Simons wrote, “an internet brain-rot arising from a propaganda mechanism the like of which the world has never seen.”

How much of what TikTok serves us has to do with Chinese interests and how much follows from the dangers of its effective and amoral algorithm is a contested matter.

But this we know to be true.

When we see the scrawled word “Nazis” defacing the fence of former Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s longtime summer home in Michigan, there is reason to worry. As our former colleague turned political influencer David Axelrod noted on X, formerly Twitter, on Monday morning: “It’s despicable. It’s disgusting. It’s just one more flashing red light.”

Like Axelrod, we see those same lights flashing everywhere. It behooves the adults in the room, those who understand the lessons of history, to intervene.

THIS EDITORIAL first appeared in the Chicago Tribune. This commentary should be considered another point of view and not necessarily the opinion or editorial policy of The Dominion Post.

I oversaw border protection. NYC and Chicago are doing what they can

AS AMERICA’S IMMIGRATION CRISIS EXPANDS AND EVOLVES, MIGRANTS ARE BEING BUSED TO URBAN CENTERS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE U.S., PUTTING AN UNPRECEDENTED STRAIN on cities that have never had to grapple to this extent with challenges deeply familiar to American border communities.

New York and Chicago have experienced the brunt of these relocations, with more than 12,000 migrants arriving on buses since spring 2022 from Texas, Florida and even Denver after the Mile High City decided to cap the number of migrants it would take on itself.

These migrants, an increasing number of whom are escaping tough conditions in Venezuela, have been living in police stations, repurposed commercial buildings and even O’Hare International Airport as many seek formal asylum. Many have even been forced to live on the streets in subfreezing temperatures. The status quo is untenable.

With their cities the new epicenters of the migrant crisis, New York Mayor Eric Adams and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson have called on Washington and the White House to do more to provide critically needed federal assistance. Adams and Johnson have also taken decisive action at home.

Johnson, for example, just months into his role, has moved quickly to advance the city’s efforts to expand temporary housing, case management and medical support infrastructure for the 20,000 migrants who now call Chicago home in advance of the frigid Midwestern winter.

The city has opened two dozen emergency shelters in unused buildings across the city and is repurposing several vacant lots to accommodate the thousands still without shelter — and those still to come — in winterized encampments staffed by profes-

sionals, with climate control, meal and shower facilities and security.

This is a daunting task — in governing and execution. Chicago will likely have spent \$360 million on the migrant surge by the end of this year, with local leaders and residents demanding more answers and solutions than what city leaders, navigating what is clearly uncharted territory, have developed.

Johnson is doing the best he can with what he has.

Chicagoans, understandably frustrated by the city’s efforts to balance resources for feeding and sheltering migrants with the needs of the city’s own citizens, are generating immense political pressure for the mayor. That kind of pressure had, until last summer, been reserved for border communities and the federal government. And, as they learned long ago, it’s the kind of decisions that must ultimately be balanced against the harrowing human reality of the migrant crisis. As so many communities are learning for the first time, it is a nearly impossible situation, with no easy answers.

In New York, Adams also has worked to honor the city’s role as a migrant destination by matching local resources with federal support. He has called on President Joe Biden to launch a “decompression strategy” for newly affected cities and recently made headlines for a more immediate decompression

by offering migrants one-way plane tickets to leave the Big Apple. It was a move that followed months of strained social services, the closure of several shelters for asylum-seekers due to safety concerns and relocation of some to other cities in New York, including Buffalo.

There are no easy solutions to America’s growing immigration challenges. Migrants have a right to seek asylum when they encounter a U.S. border official, a mechanism established by international law following the atrocities of the Holocaust and World War II and later adopted by Congress in 1980.

Under U.S. law, a person can seek asylum if they feel they face persecution at home due to their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Once their claim is made, they have the right to remain in the United States as they begin a complex process involving the Departments of Justice, State, Health and Human Services, and the court system.

If status is granted, asylum-seekers qualify to work and may apply to become a permanent resident and eventually an American citizen if they meet the criteria of U.S. citizenship.

While vital today, temporary housing and services are, by definition, not a long-term solution. Any significant, durable relief from our immigration challenges will come only through changes to our immigration

laws in Congress, a body that has kicked this can down the road for decades without meaningful progress.

And, until those changes come, the new mayors of two of America’s largest and most welcoming cities should be recognized for continuing to meet this incredibly challenging moment.



GIL KERLIKOWSK was commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection from 2014 to 2017.

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.

Costs of climate change are falling on states that can’t afford them

BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022 MANY OF THE STATES WITH HIGH RATES OF POVERTY — Oklahoma, New York — were also the states that suffered the most damage from extreme weather. A new climate study indicates things are going to get worse for those places and for poor people.

The federal government’s Fifth National Climate Assessment was published last week and concludes that we are literally running out of places to hide.

Right now, according to the report, more than half of all Americans live somewhere that’s projected to have more extreme weather more often. No matter how much humans might try to put a red-blue spin on climate issues, the weather doesn’t care: The climate damage price tags for Texas and California were roughly the same during the span the report assessed.

In 2021, future presidential candidate Ron DeSantis referred to aggressive climate change policy as “left-wing stuff.” But



LZ GRANDERSON

wouldn’t you know it, Florida — the state where DeSantis is in charge — spent the most in those years.

So far this year the country has experienced 25 weather disasters that cost at least \$1 billion — a record number. “Left-wing stuff” is a political stance, not a practical one. Here’s a practical concern: To deal with climate damage, Louisiana is spending like Texas, but it’s in no position to do so. Louisiana has a poverty rate of 18.6%, the second highest in the country. Neighboring Mississippi, which has the country’s highest child poverty rate at nearly 28%, will be forced to

devote more and more cash toward disasters, an expense it can ill afford.

Even before the climate price tag has ballooned further, the nation is already struggling to come to terms on financial priorities. As Republicans in the House are forever pushing for spending cuts, and reminding us of our \$33-trillion debt, it’s easy to forget that people are attached to those cuts in programs such as Medicare and Medicaid: people on fixed incomes, including seniors — 23% of whom live in poverty already; people without a lot in the bank, like much of America. The Motley Fool reported the average American has \$1,200 in savings, not a lot of wiggle room.

The new report on the climate is a cry for help, and yet Republicans in some of our poorest states continue to make it political. We are way past the point of politicking. Recently, about 125,000 homes and busi-

nesses in Florida lost power because of heavy rainfall. That’s not “left-wing stuff,” Gov. DeSantis. It’s a major reason insurance companies are abandoning the state.

This is why it is simply not possible to have substantive policy conversations about spending cuts with politicians who rely on climate change denial to get elected. They’re in no position to talk about budgets, because they’re committed to denying one of the biggest elephants in the room.

And it’s not just the denial that is of concern, but the people most likely to suffer because of it: the poor. The trend of moving to so-called climate havens — cities least likely to have major storms in the future — is monetizing the despair of the wealthy while highlighting the vulnerability of the poor. This means there will be more climate migrants within the U.S., aggravating the competition for

homes in some areas and driving up housing costs. That’s not an issue that can be solved by austerity.

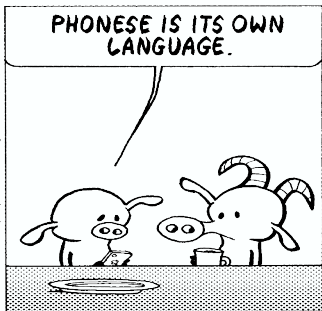
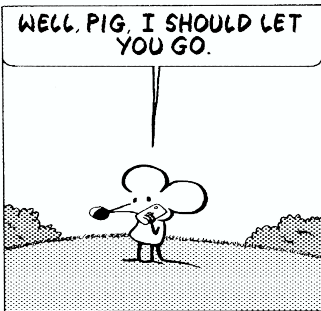
Nor can it be helped by non-sensical ramblings about offshore wind farms making whales “crazy.” That was among the most recent comments on climate change from the GOP’s presidential front-runner, Donald Trump. Some states that backed him in 2016 are on the list of biggest spenders on climate damage, even if they are also very poor. You’d think they would be ready for real talk on climate policy — which is not, in fact, just “left-wing stuff.”

I don’t know what all the strategies against climate change should be or where the money will come from. I do know it’s impossible to find answers with leaders who benefit from avoiding the problem.

LZ GRANDERSON is an op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

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OBITUARIES

James Franklin Crytser, a beloved husband, father,



James Crytser

grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully after a four-month battle with cancer in his hometown of Morgantown, on Nov. 22, 2023. He was born Oct. 17, 1936, in Morgantown, leaving a lasting legacy for his family and community.

Jim was a dedicated family man who was deeply loved by his family. He is survived by his devoted wife, Patricia Laurie Crytser; his children Jimmy Crytser and wife Kelley, Laurie Barbe and husband Steve, Tim Crytser and wife Leslie, and his daughter-in-law Becky Crytser. He was a proud grandfather to Rachel, Alli, Derek, Drew, David and Dillon, and a dotting great-grandfather to

Cecilia, Tommy, Cole and one on the way. He is also survived by his brother Bud Crytser and wife Marge, and his sister Sharon Crytser Petite.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, James Edward and Rena Pearl Baker Crytser; grandson, Derek Crytser; brother-in-law, Jasper Petite; and his father- and mother-in-law, Louis and Sophie Laurie.

He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force. Jim was a man of many talents and interests, known for his ability to fix anything and his knack for creative solutions. He was a natural handyman, even building his own home. He spent his professional life as a quality control engineer for Consolidation Coal Co., where he was respected for his intelligence and attention to detail. Jim was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and Elks Lodge, contributing his time and skills to these organizations.

James Crytser

Outside of work, Jim had a zest for life that was infectious. He was an avid golfer and had a passion for classic cars, which he shared with his brother Bud and son-in-law Steve. He was particularly proud of his 57 Buick, which he purchased after high school. In his younger years, he drove race cars, a testament to his adventurous spirit. In his later years, he found enjoyment at the shooting range and, alongside his daughter, watching Fox News for hours at a time. He also enjoyed two simple pleasures in life — Yuengling and Fritos.

Jim’s family would like to recognize the excellent care he received while at Morgantown Healthcare Center (formerly Stonerise) and the guidance and passionate care he received from Amedisys Hospice. His family will be forever grateful.

Family and friends are invited to gather at Fred L. Jenkins Funeral Home from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 27, and again on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, from 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Junius Lewis officiating. Following the service, Jim will be laid to rest at Pleasant Hill Cemetery with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jim’s memory to The Derek Crytser Memorial Education Fund, P.O. Box 1297, Ashland, VA 23005. Donations can also be made by calling The Hanover Education Foundation: 804-365-4560 or 804-365-4565 or online at http://hcps.us/staff/hanover_education_foundation/donate. Click on the blue “donate online” button. Enter “Derek Crytser Memorial Scholarship” in the details box below Hanover Education Foundation (HEF) Donation.

Condolences: www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com

Charles Wolfe

Charles “Buzzy” Franklin Wolfe, 87, of Barrackville,



Charles Wolfe

passed away on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at WVU Fairmont Medical Center. He was born in Pine Grove Oct. 31, 1936, a son of the late Kenneth Kelsie Wolfe and Mabel Ruby Opal Cale Wolfe.

Charles is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Martha Jane Shaffer Wolfe; daughters, Deborah Wolfe Irvine (Roger) of Marlinton, and Crystal Lea Crossland Offutt of Fairmont; grandson, Keifer Crossland (Katlin) of Fairmont; great-grandchildren, Kyndal and Kamrynn Crossland; brother, Donald Wolfe (Carol) of Moody’s Run; sister, Barbara Mullenax (Raymond) of Pine Grove; sisters-in-law, Charlotte Wolfe of Monumental and Beverly Wolfe of Idamay; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Charles was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Louise Wolfe; three brothers, Kenneth “Sonny” Wolfe (Maggie), Jerry Wolfe and Edward Wolfe.

Charles worked for 23 years as a miner and mine foreman at Bethlehem Mines Corp., Barrackville No. 41, until his retirement on Nov. 30, 1982, when the mine closed. He then

worked as a bus driver and carpenter for the Marion County Board of Education. He helped building the Sturgiss United Methodist Church in Masontown. Also, he used his carpentry skills helping family, neighbors and friends. Charles was a member of Barrackville United Methodist Church, Fairmont Masonic Lodge #9 A.F. & A.M., and the Morgantown Scottish Rite. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, feeding his deer, spending time and working at the farm, going to Canada with his wife, watching the Steelers and WVU and spending time with his family.

The family will receive friends at Ford Funeral Home, 201 Columbia St., Fairmont, from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, and Monday, Nov. 27, from 2-8 p.m. The casket will lie in repose at Sturgiss United Methodist Church, 1861 Snake Hill Road, Masontown, Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 10-11 a.m. The funeral service will be held in the church at 11 a.m. Tuesday with the Rev. David Myers officiating. A committal service will follow at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Masontown, where masonic ritualistic services will be provided by Fairmont Masonic Lodge #9 A.F. & A.M. A dinner will be provided at the church following the committal service.

Condolences: www.fordfuneralhomes.com

HEALTHCARE

Ohio voters just passed abortion protections. When and how they take effect is before the courts

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio’s new constitutional protections for abortion access and other reproductive rights take effect Dec. 7, a month after voters resoundingly passed them. How and when their impacts are felt remains unclear.

Existing abortion-related lawsuits are moving again through the courts now that voters have decided the issue, raising questions about implementation.

The amendment declared an individual’s right to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions” and passed with a strong 57% majority. It was the seventh straight victory in statewide votes for supporters of abortion access nationally since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned constitutional protections.

But the amendment voters approved Nov. 7 did not repeal any existing Ohio laws, prompting some anti-abortion activists to step up pressure on Republican elected officials to extend their efforts to halt, delay



AP file photo

People gather in the parking lot of the Hamilton County Board of Elections as people arrive for early in-person voting in Cincinnati, Nov. 2.

or significantly water it down.

“A lot of that hard work of figuring out what state laws are inconsistent with the amendment and what state laws can remain, does tend to devolve to the courts,” said Laura Hermer, a professor of law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, who studies access to health coverage and care in the U.S. “It’s difficult to imagine that the Legislature will say, ‘All

right, you win. We’re going to repeal the heartbeat ban’ and so forth.”

The state Legislature is controlled by Republicans whose leaders opposed the November ballot amendment, which was known as Issue 1. The Ohio Supreme Court also is controlled by Republicans, who have a 4-3 majority, and will be the final judge of constitutional questions. Several of the Republican justices have taken actions or made statements over the years

that have caused abortion rights organizations and ethics attorneys to question their objectivity on the subject.

Minority Democrats in the Ohio House announced legislation two days after the election aimed at avoiding a piecemeal approach to implementing the amendment. Among other steps, they called for repealing the state’s ban on most abortions after fetal cardiac activity is detected, which is around six weeks, and a 24-hour waiting period.

“There are over 30 different restrictions in place,” said state Rep. Beth Liston, a physician and co-author of the Reproductive Care Act. “And I think that it is important that we don’t require citizens to go to court for every restriction, and, quite frankly, that we don’t let harm occur in the interim.”

House Minority Leader Allison Russo was careful not to criticize the high court, which holds sway over the fate of those laws.

“My hope is they will uphold the rule of law and the constitution,” she said.

NATION

Officials begin clearing debris while 3 remain missing in Alaska landslide that left 3 dead

Associated Press

WRANGELL, Alaska — Searchers looking for three people who remain missing after a massive landslide that killed three others and injured a fourth have changed their strategy from holding an active search to a reactive search that will involve methodically clearing the highway, officials said Thursday.

“During active search periods we have searchers in the field meticulously looking for missing persons,” Austin McDaniel, a spokesperson with the Alaska Department of Public Safety, told the Associated Press. “During reactive searches, search teams are not actively in the field but will react to new information and then actively search that area supported by the new information.”

Since Monday night’s slide, officials have inspected the site by air with drones, helicopters and planes while teams using detection dogs and sonar covered the ground



Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management via AP

This photo provided by Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shows a helicopter arriving near mile 11 of the Zimovia Highway where ground teams, including search and rescue dogs, are actively working to search areas that state geologists have determined safe for entry Wednesday, Nov. 22, in Wrangell, Alaska, following a massive landslide earlier in the week.

and water, but the three people — one adult and two juveniles — remain missing, McDaniel said.

The slide churned up the earth from near the top of the mountain down to the ocean, tearing down a wide swath of evergreen trees and burying a high-

way in the island community of Wrangell, about 155 miles south of Juneau. Rescue crews found the body of a girl in an initial search Monday night and the bodies of two adults late Tuesday.

Around 54 homes are cut off from town by the

landslide, and roughly 35 to 45 people have chosen to stay in that area, interim borough manager Mason Villarma said. Boats are being used to provide supplies, including food, fuel and water, and prescription medications to those residents. Given the geography of the island — with the town at the northern point and houses along a 13-mile stretch of paved road — currently “the ocean is our only access to those residences,” he said.

Wrangell usually celebrates Thanksgiving with a tree lighting and downtown shopping events but could replace that with a vigil, he said.

In that way, the town “can come together physically and recognize the tragedy and the loss of life ... but also the triumph of a small community that’s really come together and been able to pull off some remarkable successes, even in the face of all this adversity,” Villarma said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

DEATH NOTICE

Larry Roberts Sr., 77, of Morgantown, passed away Nov. 21, 2023, at his home. Cremation arrangements, which are incomplete, have been entrusted to Hastings Funeral Home.

Published obituaries can now be viewed for free at dominionpost.com.

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The Dominion Post

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ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers defensive lineman Mike Lockhart (93) tackles Cincinnati Bearcats quarterback Emory Jones (5) last week.

Mountaineers want to close regular season strong with a win at Baylor

BY CODY NESPOR
CNespor@DominionPost.com

West Virginia football coach Neal Brown believes there is a season for everything.

“There’s a season where people are going to worry about NIL, and there’s a season when they’re going to worry about transferring and there’s a season when they’re going to worry about bowls,” said Brown, whose 7-4 Mountaineers are bowl-bound this season. “We’re in the season of there’s one game a week, we’re in the regular season and we need to have a singular focus on this week.”

Without classes this week due to Thanksgiving break, Brown wants West Virginia (7-4, 5-3 Big 12) to be singularly focused on their regular-season finale against Baylor (7 p.m./FS1).

The Bears (3-8, 2-6) haven’t had the season they’ve wanted and will be without starting quarterback Blake Shapen, who suffered a

head injury at their end of their game last week.

“I’m not sure we need to be overlooking anybody,” Brown said. “To me, it’s just about finishing. We’ve got a singular focus this week, it’s the only game where there’s not any school stuff to worry about.”

The Mountaineers are coming off of one of their most impressive performances of Brown’s five-year tenure, a 42-21 win over Cincinnati in which they rushed for 424 yards and five touchdowns. Baylor has the second-worst rushing defense in the Big 12, allowing 179 yards per game, and last in scoring defense, allowing 33.3 points per game.

“For me, it starts with their d-line,” Brown said. “They’re extremely well-coach, they’ve got great size and length, they rotate a lot of guys in there, they can rush the passer and they can play you in a lot of different fronts.”

The Bears are led by senior linebacker Matt Jones, who leads the team with 74 tackles and 10 tackles for loss with three sacks. Lineman TJ Franklins leads the team with 3.5 sacks and has eight tackles for loss. True freshman cornerback Caden Jenkins has a trio of interceptions this season.

On offense, Baylor ranked second-last in

the Big 12 in scoring (22.4) and fourth-worst in yards (381.8).

“You can see the team, on both sides of the ball, has real strong identities,” Baylor coach Dave Aranda said of WVU. “On offense, running the ball and on defense a 3-4 structure with single high (safety). You know what you’re going to get, the problem is you’ve got to deal with it.”

Without Shapen, Baylor will start either Sawyer Robinson or RJ Martinez at quarterback. Robinson started games earlier in the year in place of Shapen and has thrown for 349 yards with one touchdown and four interceptions.

Running backs Dominic Richardson (494 yards) and Dawson Pendergrass (322, five touchdown) lead the rushing attack while Monaray Baldwin leads the team with 623 receiving yards and four touchdowns. Drake Dabney has set a new Baylor single-season high for receiving yards by a tight end with 529 to go with five touchdowns.

WVU is 1-4 all-time in Waco, with the lone win coming in 2017.

“It’s a tough place to play. We haven’t had a lot of success there as a program,” Brown

SEE BAYLOR, B-2

MEN’S HOOPS

RaeQuan Battle’s eligibility situation with WVU is not dead

BY JUSTIN JACKSON
JJackson@DominionPost.com

The afternoon gathering came at Suburban Lanes in Morgantown, and what was a day of giving thanks also turned into a much needed day of rest and getting away from reality for a while for the WVU men’s basketball team.

Players slept in after returning from Fort Myers, Fla., early Thanksgiving Day morning, and then it was time to eat and bowl.

“It certainly wasn’t me,” WVU head coach Josh Eilert replied when asked who won the bowling match. “I was experimenting with some different spins. I took a (loss) to my son, I know that. I had to pay him some cash on the side. When you get to the point where they’re old enough to beat you, that’s a hit on your old ego.”

WVU, too, took a hit of sorts at the Fort Myers Tip-Off, losing two games to SMU and Virginia. Bouncing back from those setbacks will be the reality the Mountaineers (2-3) will have to face again when they hit the practice floor Friday.

Their situation remains the same. Guards Kerr Kriisa (suspended) and RaeQuan Battle (eligibility denied) and forward Akok Akok (medical issue) can only give support from the sidelines and not on the court, meaning WVU will continue to play with a shortened rotation for the time being.

That could change over time and Eilert remains optimistic about the impact Kriisa will bring once he returns from his suspension on Dec. 16, as well as possibly getting Battle and Akok back.

“I haven’t lost all hope for RaeQuan,” Eilert said. “I still think

SEE BATTLE, B-2

Bellarmine at WVU

WHEN: 5 p.m. Sunday
WHERE: WVU Coliseum
TV: ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)
RADIO: 100.9 JACK-FM
WEB: dominionpost.com

PREP SPORTS

Audrey Buck and Paige Brink named 1st team All-State for champion Morgantown

BY JAY W. BENNETT
Parkersburg News and Sentinel

CHARLESTON — Greenbrier East senior libero Dia Sauvage and her team didn’t qualify for the state volleyball tournament this fall.

Nonetheless, the Spartan earned her third nod on the Class AAA all-state first team and was honored as captain by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

Sauvage, who was named third team All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, finished with 123 aces and

served at 94.6%. Along with registering 104 assists, the Spartan made 711 digs at 97.5% and also had 1,047 serve-receptions which she handled at 94.8%.

“The awesome thing about Dia is that she never worried or worries about individual awards,” admitted father and Greenbrier East head coach Matt Sauvage. “She gets so excited for her teammates, whether it be her team winning or her teammates accomplishing goals or her teammates getting awards. She wants the best for the whole team, but in that process she succeeded individually beyond expectations.

“She will never take credit for her accomplishments, but she put in the time and effort for many years to get to where she is. As a player on the court she can pass, use her hands and serve well, but the three things that set her completely apart are her ability to read the game, her ability to make those around her better and Dia is very humble.”

The only repeat honoree on the first team was Woodrow Wilson junior Abby Dillon, who had 1,340 assists. The Flying Eagle added 55 aces, 480 digs and served at 99.3%.

SEE ALL-STATE, B-2



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

Morgantown’s Audrey Buck (7) was named first team All-State in Class AAA.

CONNECT

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PREP SPORTS

Philip Barbour’s MacKenna Halfin wins volleyball Player of the Year

BY TYLER KENNETT
WV NEWS

PHILIPPI — Philip Barbour’s two-time state champion and three-time all-state member MacKenna Halfin was once cut from a volleyball team, if you can believe it.

By her mom, Philip Barbour coach Heather Halfin, in fact.

“Mom cut me when I was in fifth grade trying out for a seventh-grade volleyball team,” MacKenna said. “I was mad at her for a while.”

Coach Halfin, all these years later, has a defense.

“She was two years younger and had never played organized volleyball,” Heather remembered. “She had picked up a volleyball a million times, but she was among some pretty talented girls.”

Heather told MacKenna the words that most parents say when their kid reels from being cut:

“Michael Jordan got cut too,” she said.

MacKenna got to work.

“She did let me practice with them,” MacKenna said of that team. “Growing up in the Philip Barbour volleyball family, I always felt like I had a bunch of older sisters. The girls would always pass with me or teach me how to do different things.”

“She didn’t stop,” Heather said. “She let me know every day that she was not a part of the team and that it was my fault.”

Lifting two state championships and a state runner-up, recording 1,444 kills and being named captain of the Class AA all-state first team for 2023, MacKenna’s list of accomplishments is often unbelievable.

“That was my first loss ever in the Civic Center,” the junior said in reflection of her third state title match.

To add to her list, Halfin

was named the 2023 West Virginia High School Volleyball Player of the Year, chosen by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

“I cannot even describe what this means to me,” MacKenna said. “I have loved volleyball my whole life, and to win something this big is a dream come true.”

She is the second Colt, joining 2018 winner McKenzie Carpenter, to win the award.

Halfin will be recognized at the 77th annual Victory Awards Dinner on May 5, 2024 at River City in Wheeling.

Coach Halfin shed her title when she learned her daughter won the award. It was time to be a mom.

“I cried like a baby,” Heather said. “As a mom, I cried for my kid. This is one of those things that you kind of dream about for your kids. It’s unreal.”

She made MacKenna a tray of brownies, “Player of the Year” written in icing on top, and flowers to surprise her with the news.

“When she looked at it, she was like, ‘I got it?’ She was just — wow,” Heather said.

MacKenna remembers riding in ball carts and learning fundamentals from older Philip Barbour players.

“MacKenna DeLancey from Ritchie County babysat me at tournaments,” MacKenna said.

DeLancey was the volleyball player of the year winner in 2015.

“We joked that maybe having the same name would make me just as good as her one day,” MacKenna said.

She saw much of the Colts’ success, five state championships since 2015.

“I remember being in Charleston watching Mom and her teams play at states and win,” MacKenna said.



Tyler Kennett/WV News

Philip Barbour’s MacKenna Halfin was named the 2023 volleyball Player of the Year.

“I remember being so excited to play on that court, thinking one day that it would be me down there winning it all.”

MacKenna’s numbers are robust. Halfin recorded 605 kills in 135 sets. It’s good for over four kills per set. Over 35% of her attacks end in a kill.

It’s easy to wonder how she does it.

“I do a lot of vertical training, conditioning and weightlifting in the offseason,” Halfin said of what it takes. “I met a phenomenal coach at a camp named Ray (Gray). He’s given me workout programs to help me prepare physically.”

Mentally, Halfin’s ability to forget any missed chances and immediately

go for another swing is what makes her elite. There is no lost power.

“He taught me that training my brain and being right mentally is just as important as being prepared on the outside,” MacKenna said of Gray.

All the while, she has had coaches pushing her to be successful — including Mom.

“Being the coach’s daughter is not always fun,” MacKenna said. “She’s always harder on me than anyone else — at least it seems that way. As I’ve gotten older, I know that she is only hard on me because she wants me to be the best. If she wasn’t, I know that I would not be half the player I am today.”

Heather finds limitless potential.

“I’ve been around volleyball for a long time, and she’s one of the best that I have ever seen,” coach Halfin said. “Cameron Yoho from Tyler Consolidated went on to play for Marshall. She was phenomenal. As soon as MacKenna started playing, I was like, ‘Gosh, that’s who she is.’ She reminds me so much of the way that she played.”

MacKenna also led her team in digs in 2023 with 491.

It’s common for her to defend the attack, jump out to the line and then make the kill. She rarely leaves the court.

“One thing a lot of people don’t know about me is that I love playing back row,” MacKenna said. “Everyone sees the hit, but my mom has always preached to us that it starts in the back.”

“She’s very defense-oriented,” coach Halfin said. “I like that about her as a player. Sometimes you have solid front-row players and good back-row players. You don’t see a lot of players that are good at both.”

MacKenna joined teammate Katie Kennedy, assist leader, on the all-state first team.

“My setters over the last few years have been great,” MacKenna said. “Without them, I truly would not be as successful as I am. They put a lot of faith in me to do a job, and I do my best to try and not let them down. I appreciate them so much.”

Others considered for the award include Greenbrier East’s Dia Sauvage, Wayne’s Gabby Elliott, Musselman’s Ada McCoy, Williamstown’s Claire Strobl, Oak Glen’s Ashlyn Six and Bridgeport’s Myleigh Smell.

“Over the last three years, I have played with and against so many great players from across the state, so

to be named the best is the biggest honor a player can receive,” MacKenna said. “I feel like all those very worthy players helped drive me to become the best player I can be.”

Halfin still has a senior season to play, eyeing a third state title.

“This is a lot of pressure to win this award as a junior,” she said. “That just means that I need to work even harder next year to be even better.”

In the meantime, she is focusing on swim season and club volleyball. Collegiate volleyball is the goal, but she is also open to swimming at the next level.

“I’m playing for RISE volleyball this year on their 17’s national team,” MacKenna said. “I’m also swimming this year. Last year, I placed third in the state in the 50 free. This year, I want to win it.”

Looking back, MacKenna remembers her freshman-season teammates as influences to her present success. Most of them were on that seventh-grade team that she practiced with.

“When I was a freshman, I had some awesome older girls who took me under their wing and were like older sisters to me — huge role models,” MacKenna said.

She looks now to be the same — an inspiration to a younger generation.

“Now, I am the upper-classman, and I want to do all I can to lead my younger teammates and be a role model to them. I love my PBVB family,” she said. “I want to be the best for both myself and my team.”

In many ways, though, she already has.

Perhaps the wide-eyed kids from Kasson, Belington and Philippi who miss an early cut for volleyball can hear something like this:

MacKenna Halfin got cut, too.

PRO FOOTBALL

Hill’s special TD catch and Holland’s 99-yard INT return lead Dolphins past Jets 34-13

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Tyreek Hill celebrated a touchdown catch by giving the ball to his new wife in the stands, Jevon Holland returned an intercepted first-half Hail Mary attempt 99 yards for a score, and the Miami Dolphins cruised past the New York Jets 34-13 in the NFL’s first game played on Black Friday.

Raheem Mostert also ran for two touchdowns for the Dolphins (8-3), who cushioned their lead atop the AFC East by sending the Jets (4-7) to their fourth straight loss.

Tua Tagovailoa was intercepted twice, including one returned for a score by Brandin Echols, but Miami was in control for most of the game. Tagovailoa finished 21 of 30 for 243 yards with the TD to Hill and the two INTs.

Tim Boyle started at quarterback for the Jets in place of the benched Zach Wilson, but New York’s stagnant offense failed to get much going other than Boyle’s 1-yard TD pass to Garrett Wilson with 4:37 remaining.

The Dolphins took a 10-0 lead when Tagovailoa connected with Hill, who avoided a tackle attempt by Jordan Whitehead and zipped into the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown with 8:21 left in the second quarter.

Hill took off his helmet and looked into the MetLife Stadium stands, found wife Keeta Vaccaro and blew her a kiss before tossing her the football. The two were married during the Dolphins’ bye two weeks ago.

Hill’s touchdown catch was his 10th of the season, making him the first Dolphins player since Mike Wallace in 2014 to have double-digit TD receptions.

With the Jets’ offense struggling — as usual — the defense stepped up to get the Jets into the game.

On first-and-10 from the Dolphins 27, Tagovailoa threw a pass intended for Braxton Berrios, but Echols jumped the route, intercepted the toss and took it 30 yards to the end zone.

The usually reliable Greg Zuerlein was wide right on the extra-point attempt, and Miami’s lead was 10-6 with 58 seconds left in the opening half.

D.J. Reed intercepted Tagovailoa on the Dolphins’ next possession, giving the Jets the ball at their 49 with 2 seconds left.

Instead of taking a knee and going into halftime down by 4, New York tried a Hail Mary — and it went embarrassingly wrong.

Boyle’s throw to the end zone was picked off by Holland, who took off down the field, weaved his way past some would-be Jets tack-

lers — including Boyle — and took it in untouched for a 99-yard interception return.

The Dolphins went wild on their sideline. The Jets stood stunned on theirs.

And many fans headed for the concourses to find some relief after another brutal half of football for their team.

Mostert’s 13-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter gave the Dolphins a 27-6 lead — and tempers flared after that.

There was some pushing and shoving between several players and the Jets’ C.J. Mosley and Micheal Clemons were flagged for personal fouls — including Clemons appearing to inadvertently make contact with an official. Clemons was ejected. Dolphins right tackle Austin Jackson was also kicked out of the game.

Mostert added a 34-yard TD run with 3:35 left.

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NHL

Alex DeBrincat leads Detroit Red Wings past Boston Bruins 5-2



AP photo

Detroit Red Wings' Alex DeBrincat (93) celebrates his goal against Boston Bruins' Jeremy Swayman (1) on a breakaway during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Friday, in Boston.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Alex DeBrincat and J.T. Compher each had a goal and an assist, and the Detroit Red Wings beat Boston 5-2 on Friday for their second victory over the NHL-leading Bruins this season.

Robby Fabbri, Dylan Larkin and David Perron also scored for the Red Wings, who are the only team to beat Boston (14-2-3) in regulation. Shayne Gostisbehere had two assists and Ville Husso stopped 25 shots.

In their third meeting in a month — the Bruins won the first game on Oct. 28 — Detroit took advantage of six Boston penalties to improve to 10-0-2 when scoring four or more goals.

Jake DeBrusk and Danton Heinen scored for the Bruins, who had been 5-0-2 since losing at Detroit on Nov. 4. Jeremy Swayman made 24 saves on his 25th birthday.

PREDATORS 8, BLUES 3

ST. LOUIS — Ryan O'Reilly scored for Nashville in his return to St. Louis, and the Predators earned their fourth consecutive victory.

Filip Forsberg and Luke Evangelista each had two goals and an assist for Nashville, which dropped six of seven right before its win streak. Kiefer Sherwood had a goal and two assists, and Yakov Ternin and rookie Spencer Stastney also scored.

It was O'Reilly's first game back at Enterprise Center since his trade from the Blues to Toronto in February. The forward signed with the Predators in free agency this summer.

O'Reilly was the 2019 Conn Smythe winner as the MVP of the Blues' Stanley Cup Championship playoff run. The team recognized its former captain with a tribute on the videoboard during a first-period break.

Pavel Buchnevich, Robert Thomas and Jake Neighbours scored for the Blues.

OILERS 5, CAPITALS 0

WASHINGTON — Leon Draisaitl scored twice, Connor McDavid had four assists and Edmonton stopped a three-game skid.

Draisaitl also had an assist, and Stuart Skinner stopped 25 shots for his first shutout of the season.

Evander Kane and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins each had a goal as the Oilers for one afternoon looked like the Stanley Cup contenders they were supposed to be. The victory ended Edmonton's trying road trip on a positive note.

The Capitals' five-game win streak came to an end just before they embark on a lengthy Western Conference trip. They also lost

winger T.J. Oshie to an apparent head injury from a hit from Mattias Ekholm early in the second period.

KINGS 5, DUCKS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Kevin Fiala scored two goals and captain Anze Kopitar had a goal and an assist in the Kings' victory in the first Freeway Faceoff of the season.

Fiala and Arthur Kaliyev each scored a power-play goal in the first period for the Kings, who won their fourth straight overall and their ninth consecutive road game to begin the season. That's the second-longest such streak in NHL history.

Cam Talbot made 29 saves and Quinton Byfield also scored in this blowout before a bipartisan crowd in a sold-out Honda Center watching the Ducks' traditional Black Friday matinee game.

Alex Killorn scored his first goal for Anaheim, which has lost five straight after winning eight of its previous 10. Radko Gudas also scored and John Gibson stopped 27 shots.

RANGERS 3, FLYERS 1

PHILADELPHIA — Mika Zibanejad scored two goals, leading the Rangers to the victory.

Chris Kreider had a goal and an assist for the Metropolitan Division-leading Rangers, who improved to 12-1-1 in their last 14 games. Blake Wheeler had two assists, and Igor Shesterkin made 36 saves.

Sean Couturier scored for Philadelphia, which dropped its second straight after winning five in a row.

New York jumped on the Flyers early, scoring twice in the opening 1 minute, 53 seconds. Carter Hart made 16 stops.

BLACKHAWKS 4 MAPLE LEAFS 3, OT

CHICAGO — Rookie defenseman Kevin Korchinski scored 4:30 into overtime, and the Blackhawks stopped a five-game slide.

Jason Dickinson scored three times for Chicago, completing his first career hat trick 15 seconds into the third period. Arvid Soderblom finished with 34 saves.

The last-place Blackhawks improved to 4-10-0 in their last 14 games.

Calle Jarnkrok, Ryan Reaves and Nicholas Robertson scored for Toronto, which had won four in a row. Max Domi had two assists and Ilya Samsonov made 30 stops.

Korchinski backhanded a rebound past Samsonov from the left corner of the crease after Connor Bedard's shot caromed off the backboard and the top of the net. It was Korchinski's second career goal.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Gabriel passes for 400 yards as No. 13 Oklahoma beats TCU, 69-45, to help Big 12 title hopes

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Dillon Gabriel passed for 400 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 13 Oklahoma defeat TCU 69-45 on Friday and improve its chances of reaching the Big 12 championship game.

Oklahoma (10-2, 7-2 Big 12, No. 13 CFP) entered the day in a three-way tie with Kansas State and Oklahoma State for second place in the conference. Those teams have games on Saturday, so the Sooners will have to wait to learn whether they will play for a 15th Big 12 title the following weekend.

TCU made it tough in the second half before the Sooners pulled away. The Horned Frogs needed a win to become bowl eligible and fell short a year after playing for the national championship.

"We knew that the fight

wasn't going to stop," Gabriel said. "You know, they're fighting for bowl eligibility and we're fighting for a 10th win. So I think everything was on the line for both teams. And we just focused on finding a way to win."

Drake Stoops caught 12 passes for 125 yards and a touchdown for the Sooners. Stoops and Gabriel were honored on Senior Day before the game, and both got loud ovations as they came off the field in the final minutes.

Gavin Sawchuk ran for 130 yards and three touchdowns for the Sooners, who won their final regular-season Big 12 game. They will join the Southeastern Conference next season.

Josh Hoover passed for 344 yards and four touchdowns and Emani Bailey ran for 150 yards, caught a touchdown pass and ran for a score for TCU (5-7, 3-

6).

Gabriel, who left the previous game with an upper-body injury, started and completed a 50-yard pass to Nic Anderson on his first throw. Two plays later, he ran up the middle for an 8-yard touchdown.

Later in the quarter, Gabriel found Jayden Gibson deep down the field. He caught the ball and held up a finger while crossing the goal line as a TCU defender pulled helplessly on the back of his jersey. The touchdown gave the Sooners a 14-6 lead.

Oklahoma continued to pour it on during a first half in which Gabriel moved up from 10th to seventh in FBS history in yards passing. He passed Luke Falk, former Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield and Kellen Moore. He passed for 278 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score before the break to help the Soon-

ers take a 42-16 lead. Gabriel also surpassed former Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones and moved up from ninth to eighth in career touchdown passes in the first half. He now has 125.

TCU made a push in the second half. Hoover's 3-yard touchdown pass to Jared Wiley and a 2-point conversion to Wiley cut Oklahoma's lead to 45-31.

Oklahoma went for it on fourth-and-1 from its 33, and Gabriel broke off a 40-yard run. A tough sideline catch by Stoops held up after review, then Stoops caught a 9-yard touchdown pass from Gabriel on the next play to help Oklahoma regain control.

ma's Billy Bowman returned an interception for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, prompting fans to chant "S-E-C! S-E-C!" The extra point gave the Sooners a 69-38 lead.

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At the Westfield Garden State Mall in Paramus, N.J., on Friday, "the traffic was good but it wasn't the kick the doors opening, of years gone by," said Michael Brown, America's retail leader at global strategy and management consulting firm Kearney who visited the shopping center.

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Reader stressed out by strict family dynamics

DEAR HARRIETTE: With the holiday season approaching, I am struggling with how to deal with my family. I come from a strict household that allows little freedom. Many of the adults are blatantly disrespectful toward me, my siblings, my cousins and each other. It is hard for me not to speak up, but I do not want to come off as disrespectful. I have tried to bring it up to my parents before, but they often find a way to shift the blame or dismiss the issue entirely.

Ever since I started noticing these comments, I have not enjoyed the holidays or spending long stretches of time with my extended family. I am an adult now, so technically I do not have to go, but I do not want to cut off contact from my family. I do not know how to combat their hurtful words without raising my voice, but I cannot be silent any longer. How do you suggest I confront a family member without coming off as disrespectful? — **FAMILY DRAMA**

DEAR FAMILY DRAMA: Plan out your time before you head to

be with your family. As an adult, you can go for part of the visit but not the whole time. If you can afford it, you can rent a hotel room rather than stay in the family home. Or stay somewhere other than the main residence so that you have a built-in getaway.

In advance of your visit, reach out to the relative who bothers you the most. Assume the positive. Say that you will be joining the family for the holidays and you look forward to a positive experience. Ask your relative to be kind. Explain that when they speak harshly to you and other family members, it is hurtful and makes you not want to be there. Yes, this is risky, but somebody has to stand up and demand respect. Do so calmly and without judgment. You can say that you worry that the family will grow apart if the negativity does not die down. Ask your relative to help to make the gathering a wonderful experience for all. Your positivity may ignite some softness in their approach.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023

You can be charming and entertaining while still sticking to the truth. Someone will correct you this year if you exaggerate, so keep your facts straight. Changing how you handle your professional responsibilities will help you maintain your position. High energy and discipline will help attract opportunities if you diligently finish what you start.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Promote what you do best and fine-tune your image to create a buzz among your peers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Open your doors to family and friends and use your space to create opportunities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Be wary of anyone trying to push you in a direction that's not suitable.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Stick to your original plan. Don't be tempted by something that doesn't fit your schedule or budget.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Motivation, charm, enthusiasm and physical action will lead to stellar results if you do what's necessary and go through the proper channels.



EUGENIA LAST

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A receptive attitude will bring positive feedback and get others to see things your way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Analyze your relationships and something will stand out that can help you improve how people treat you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Get serious and do your best to achieve your goal. Start the learning process, sign up for a seminar or contact someone in the know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take control, do your thing and refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A change is overdue. Put your feelings aside before entering potentially nasty conversations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — There is plenty to learn if you listen and read between the lines.

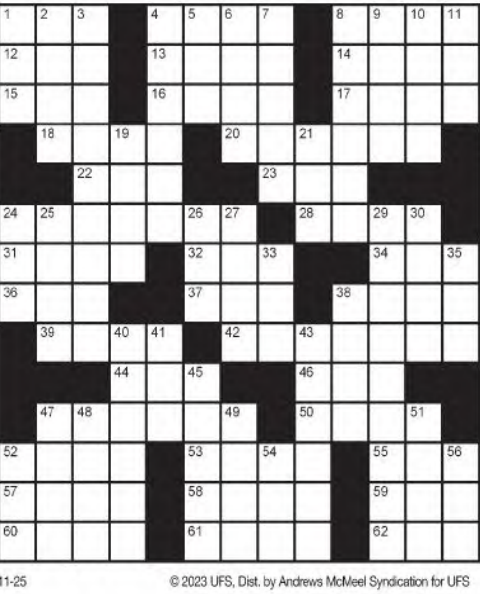
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Your determination will draw support and make your pursuit enjoyable.

CROSSWORD

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 - 4 Grow dim
 - 8 "What a Difference — — Makes"
 - 12 Small guitar
 - 13 " — — See Clearly Now"
 - 14 Poet — Teasdale
 - 15 Gun rights grp.
 - 16 Island goose
 - 17 Ailing a little
 - 18 — Romeo
 - 20 Surprise attack
 - 22 Unwell
 - 23 — Kippur
 - 24 Thinks highly of
 - 28 School event
 - 31 Spanish painter
 - 32 Borrower's promise
 - 34 Take into custody
 - 36 Repeatedly

- 37 Body art, for short
- 38 Old Italian money
- 39 Admit
- 42 Bird with a pouch
- 44 Agt.
- 46 Deciduous tree
- 47 Angler's gear
- 50 Utah town
- 52 "Arsenic and Old —"
- 53 Musical work
- 55 Kid
- 57 Taj Mahal site
- 58 — qua non
- 59 Notable time
- 60 Fruit skin
- 61 School jacket
- 62 Papa

- DOWN
- 1 Enjoyment
 - 2 Pod vegetable
 - 3 "The Kardashians," for example (2 wds.)



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Answer to Previous Puzzle



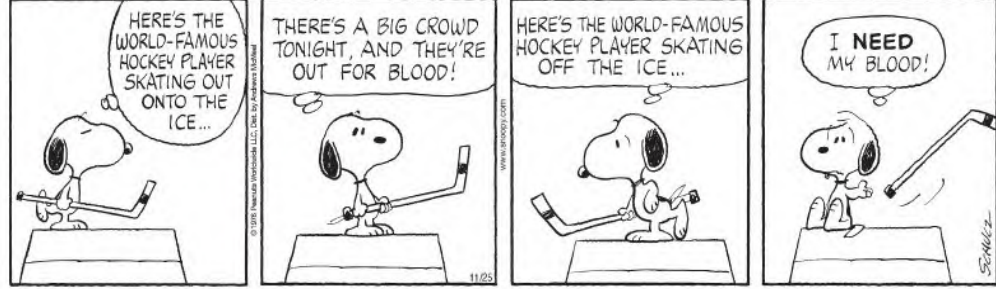
- 10 Chief
- 11 Wild ox of Tibet
- 19 Jumping bug
- 21 Cousin to a droid
- 24 The "I"
- 25 Couch
- 26 Cambridge sch.
- 27 Daytime drama
- 29 Laughed
- 30 Skater — Lipinski
- 33 Sporty truck
- 35 Actor — Affleck
- 38 Perjurer
- 40 Trial by fire
- 41 Tiny
- 43 Untie
- 45 Ordinary writing
- 47 Hourly pay
- 48 "God's Little —"
- 49 Rod for roasting
- 51 Actress — Sorvino
- 52 Once around a track
- 54 Numero — Naughty

CURTIS



BY RAY BILLINGSLEY

PEANUTS



BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

THE GRIZZWELLS



BY BILL SCHORR

BEETLE BAILEY



BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER

FRANK & ERNEST



BY BOB THAVES

BORN LOSER



BY ART & CHIP SANSON

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BY DIK BROWNE

MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



"Do you need another pillow?"

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1 I1 A1 R1 S1 F4 F4 2nd Letter Double RACK 1

E1 A1 A1 L1 C3 P3 T1 RACK 2

E1 U1 O1 L1 D2 T1 B3 Triple Word Score RACK 3

A1 E1 I1 I1 I1 G2 N1 M3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 200-210 BEST SCORE 268 FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

11-25

Solutions — B-7

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FAMILY CIRCUS

BY BIL KEANE



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

