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## OBITUARIES

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**Dorinzi, Nicholas**

## STATE

# Delegates hear Corrections situation improving

**BY BRAD MCELHINNY**  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — The state Corrections commissioner told lawmakers Thursday that a staffing crisis has started to ease and that National Guard support has begun to be drawn down.

Corrections Commissioner William Marshall also fielded questions about eligibility for parole and conditions in facilities when he spoke before the House Jails and Prisons Committee.

Gov. Jim Justice declared an emergency over staffing in jails in August 2022. Last year, the Legislature approved financial incentives meant to help recruit and retain jail workers.

Marshall told delegates that the situation isn't fixed but that it is improving. He said officer vacancies are now under 600. And the total vacancy rate for the Division of Corrections is about 850, he said.

"We are very excited about the most recent things that have happened within our division," Marshall said. "We are really excited about the new hires that we have been able to bring on."

He said 279 workers have gone through training and another 50 or more are in training.

That has allowed the start of a drawdown of some National Guard personnel from support roles in the past week.

"I'm really excited to be able to start to see the drawdown on the National Guard presence in our facilities. They've done an amazing job. They've brought a sense of stability and professionalism to our facilities that we've really appreciated and, to be honest, very much needed."

West Virginia's jails system has been the subject of several additional areas of scrutiny.

Conditions in the jails system are at the center of a federal law-

**SEE IMPROVING, A-3**

## EDUCATION

# WVU announces leadership for newly named college

WVU Today

To better serve students while fulfilling its land-grant mission, West Virginia University is bringing together complementary programs within two restructured and renamed units, the WVU College of Creative Arts and Media and the WVU Division for Land-Grant Engagement.

Following months of gathering input, the university is taking the next steps to merge the College of Creative Arts and the Reed College of Media to create a new college focused on the future of arts and media education.

The Office of the Provost Thursday announced that current Creative Arts Dean Keith

Jackson will lead the new College of Creative Arts and Media.

Jackson will serve as dean of the new college for two years, after which there will be a national search for a new dean. Current Reed College of Media Dean Diana Martinelli will serve as the new college's vice dean and director of the new Reed

School of Media and Communications for one year. A new school director will be selected to serve following Martinelli's return to full-time faculty status in fall 2025.

In addition to the new School of Media and Communications, the new College of Creative Arts and Media will continue to include the schools of Art and Design, Music, Theatre and Dance, and the Art Museum of WVU. The School of Art and Design will also now be home to three design-related programs from the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and

**SEE NAMED, A-3**

# EMBRACING THE CHILL



Jim Murray, of Summers School Road, drives his 1925 Model T Ford 20 miles a day and didn't let the snow or cold keep him from his routine on Thursday.



Ron Rittenhouse /The Dominion Post photos

## UPDATE

# Car, video aid MPD in murder suspect arrest

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

The suspect of a murder that occurred on Milton Street in Morgantown on Tuesday was arraigned Thursday morning before Monongalia County Magistrate Ron Bane and additional details regarding the incident and subsequent arrest were made available.

According to court documents, Morgantown Police officers were dispatched to the 537 Milton St. location for a cardiac arrest at approximately 4:39 p.m.

However, on scene, they found a male with severe stab wounds to his back, neck and head.

The victim, identified as Jacob Patrick Lough,

26, of Morgantown, was found dead upon their arrival.

The Dominion Post asked MPD if it is known who reported the cardiac arrest or how long before police arrived the murder had occurred but had not received a response in time for this report.

Detectives with MPD processed the scene and were able to collect several items of evidence from the residence, which, according to the criminal complaint, included some bandage wrappers and bandages.

Detectives noted the victim's vehicle was not at the residence – it was eventually located later

**SEE MURDER, A-2**

## LEGISLATURE

# Senate Education approves PROMISE Plus and Holocaust education bills

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

The Senate Education Committee on Thursday made a second go at establishing a PROMISE Plus scholarship program — but not without opposition from some members.

A bill to require instruction on the Holocaust sailed through more smoothly. And a bill to require instruction on internet and social media safety proved bigger than expected and will see more work.

SB 259 creates the PROMISE Plus program. Last year, as SB 1, the bill passed out of committee but died in Senate Finance.

PROMISE Plus would supplement PROMISE to provide funding to meet total tuition expenses. Eligibility would be the same as for PROMISE, but Plus recipients would have to meet "additional objective standards ... more rigorous than standards established for receiving a PROMISE Scholarship award."

The current PROMISE scholarship is \$5,200. In-state tuition at WVU is \$9,648.

PROMISE Plus would be subject to available funding. A recipient would be required to repay it if they leave the state before the number of years equal to the years they received Plus — if they received it for four years, they would have to stay for four years. Repayment would be pro-rated if they stayed for part of the required time — if they received Plus for four years and subsequently stayed for two years, they'd have to repay two years' worth.

Sen. Mike Oliverio, R-Monongalia, said, "Personally I don't like the bill." He particularly opposed the "held-hostage provisions," meaning the repayment requirement.

The goal of PROMISE, he said, was to train and education our kids, who might leave; but the other option would be not to train and educate them. PROMISE scholars might find it valuable to

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WORLD

**ARussian border city cancels Orthodox Epiphany events due to threat of Ukrainian attacks**

Associated Press

A Russian city near the Ukrainian border canceled its traditional Orthodox Epiphany festivities on Friday due to the threat of attacks as Kyiv’s forces pursue a new strategy with the war approaching its two-year milestone.

The city of Belgorod has scrapped events in which the faithful plunge into ponds and pools through holes in the ice on the feast of Epiphany every Jan. 19, the state news agency Tass reported, citing the regional emergencies ministry. The annual celebrations are widespread in Russia.

Cross-border attacks have become increasingly frequent in recent weeks in Belgorod, the largest Russian city near the border with about 340,000 people, and can be reached by relatively simple and movable weapons such as multiple rocket launchers. It is about 60 miles north of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

On Dec. 30, shelling in the center of Belgorod killed 21

people and wounded 110, regional officials said, in what was one of the deadliest attacks on Russian soil since the start of Moscow’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

Border villages have been targeted sporadically during the war by Ukrainian artillery fire, rockets, mortar shells and drones launched from dense forests, where they are hard to detect. But until Thursday, no major public events were known to have been called off.

In Moscow, meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed a U.S. proposal to resume a dialogue on nuclear arms control, saying it’s impossible while Washington offers military support to Ukraine.

Speaking at an annual news conference, Lavrov accused the West of fueling global security risks by encouraging Ukraine to ramp up strikes on Russian territory and warned that Moscow will achieve its goals in the conflict despite Western assistance to Kyiv.



AP file photo

In this photo taken from video released by Russia Emergency Situations Ministry telegram channel on Dec. 30, 2023, firefighters extinguish burning cars after shelling in Belgorod, Russia.

IMPROVING

FROM PAGE A-1

suit demanding hundreds of millions of dollars be spent on deferred maintenance and to fill worker vacancies.

A crowd gathered at the Capitol earlier this month to draw attention to conditions in West Virginia’s jails system, particularly fatalities like the Dec. 22 death of a 24-year-old man who was found unresponsive in his cell at Southern Regional Jail.

And six former West Virginia corrections officers have been indicted in the beating death of Quantez Burks, a 37-year-old pre-trial defendant at Southern Regional Jail, in a “blind spot” not monitored by a surveillance system after he was restrained, handcuffed and in the custody of multiple officers.

Delegate Hollis Lewis, the minority chairman of the Jails committee, asked Marshall generally about conditions for incarcerated people. And he also asked about people who could be eligible for probation but who have trouble meeting the full set of requirements.

After the committee meeting, Lewis said he wanted insight and assurances on both areas of accountability.

“I had two primary areas of concern. Number one, obviously being the conditions at our various jails and prisons around the

state — what happened at Southern and various other jails. So I want to make sure the conditions are at a humane level,” said Lewis, D-Kanawha.

“The other was regarding parole. I know a lot of inmates have been held up previously, not eligible for parole because they weren’t in certain classes or they weren’t able to get into certain classes timely. So it’s important that when we have this influx of money into Corrections that not only is that money going to our officers but our support staff, those counselors, those teachers who can facilitate those classes.”

Marshall responded to the question about parole by agreeing that jail support staff like counselors and therapists are among the most needed positions. Corrections is trying to make those jobs more appealing, he said. “They have as much inmate contact as what an officer does,” he said.

And on jail conditions, Marshall described a desire for accountability.

“When you walk through that door, you better be aware of what you have to do that day. Every day,” he said. “And that’s being accountable to not only myself but all the leadership all the way through. I will never stand for or tolerate any type of conditions that aren’t satisfactory in my eyes.”

WARFARE

**U.S. forces strike Houthi sites in Yemen as Biden says allied action hasn’t yet stopped ship attacks**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces on Thursday conducted a fifth strike against Iranian-backed Houthi rebel military sites in Yemen as President Joe Biden acknowledged that the American and British bombardment had yet to stop the militants’ attacks on vessels in the Red Sea that have disrupted global shipping.

The latest strikes destroyed two Houthi anti-ship missiles that “were aimed into the southern Red Sea and prepared to launch,” U.S. Central Com-

mand said in a statement posted to X, formerly known as Twitter. They were conducted by Navy F/A-18 fighter aircraft, the Pentagon said.

Biden said the U.S. would continue the strikes, even though so far they have not stopped the Houthis from continuing to harass commercial and military vessels.

“When you say working, are they stopping the Houthis, no. Are they going to continue, yes,” Biden said in an exchange with reporters before departing the White House for a domestic policy

speech in North Carolina.

Hours after Biden spoke, Houthi Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a prerecorded statement that its forces had carried out another missile attack against the Marshall Islands-flagged, U.S.-owned cargo ship Chem Ranger. Saree said the attack took place in the Gulf of Aden, the waters just south of Yemen.

Earlier Thursday evening, the British military warned of a new attack on shipping some 100 miles off the coast of Yemen, also in the Gulf of Aden. The Pentagon was not immediately able to confirm the strikes but has

cautioned that it anticipates the Houthis will continue their attacks.

On Wednesday the U.S. military fired another wave of ship- and submarine-launch missile strikes against 14 Houthi-controlled sites. That same day, the administration put the Houthis back on its list of specially designated global terrorists. The sanctions that come with the formal designation are meant to sever violent extremist groups from their sources of financing, while also allowing vital humanitarian aid to continue flowing to impoverished Yemenis.

NAMED

FROM PAGE A-1

Design, including Design Studies; Fashion, Dress and Merchandising; and Interior Architecture.

“We are excited about the launch of this new college and the dynamic collaborations, innovative programs and potential growth opportunities that will arise from it,” Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Maryanne Reed said. “And we are fortunate to have two seasoned administrators who are willing to provide stability as they guide the college into a new era and plan for its future.”

The university also announced a realignment of three units to better

serve the people of West Virginia. The new Division for Land-Grant Engagement will be home to WVU Extension, the WVU Center for Community Engagement and the renamed Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Jorge Atilas, current dean and director of Extension and Engagement at WVU, will serve as the institution’s new associate vice president and dean for Land-Grant Engagement, overseeing all three units in the new division. He also will continue to serve as dean of WVU Extension and Engagement as well as serve as the new dean of the Davis College.

“I know that Dean Atilas, a proven leader and innovator, will bring

energy, purpose and creativity to this exciting next chapter in the rich history of WVU as the state’s flagship and a modern land-grant, R1 university,” President Gordon Gee said. “The Division for Land-Grant Engagement will strengthen our commitment to continually improve the lives and livelihoods of individuals, families and communities within West Virginia and beyond.”

Atilas will begin a five-year contract this summer and undergo a three-year dean’s review in his new role. Beginning July 1, current Davis College Dean Darrell Donahue will step down from his leadership role to serve as special assistant to the provost for one year, providing expertise

and support on a number of statewide projects and key strategic initiatives.

All personnel and unit changes will be effective July 1. The fall 2024 semester will begin the first academic term under the new units’ names and structures.

Students currently enrolled in academic programs of the College of Creative Arts, College of Media and the Davis College will not see any significant changes to their programs of study or course availability. All students will be able to complete their programs as enrolled. Students who graduate after July 1 will see the new college name on their transcripts and diplomas.

PLUS

FROM PAGE A-1

leave and gain experiences elsewhere. And many kids who would meet the additional Plus standards would be eligible for other scholarships anyway.

He sat on the committee back in 2008, he said, when it was decided to cap PROMISE at \$4,750 because of escalating college costs (it was created as a full ride). He offered a successful amendment then to allow the PROMISE board to provide scholarships above the cap if the money was there, and the board has been doing that in recent years.

Oliverio said it would be better to give more money to all PROMISE scholars rather than creating a new tier, with a held-hostage clause, for students who will qualify for other scholarships anyway.

Sen. Mike Azinger, R-Wood, also said he opposed the bill — but kept referring to the Hope Scholar-

ship in his discussion.

The voice vote was divided and chair Amy Grady, R-Mason, called it in favor of passage. It goes next to Finance, where it died last year.

Holocaust bill

Oliverio is lead sponsor of SB 448, which requires all public schools to offer age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust “in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.”

It passed unanimously without discussion and goes next to the full Senate.

Internet safety bill

SB 466 creates a Safety While Accessing Technol-

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EDITORIAL

The Good, the Bad and the Stupid 1

Welcome to the first “The Good, the Bad and the Stupid” of the 2024 regular legislative session. For those who are unfamiliar with this annual tradition: Every Friday while the West Virginia Legislature is in session, we do a roundup of bills, rank them as good, bad or stupid and tell you why. If there are bills you would like to see gain more traction or ones you’d like to see die, make sure to reach out to your area delegate and/or senator.

The Senate suspended regular reading rules during the session’s first week and immediately passed dozens of bills, moving them to the House for consideration, including the ones below.

**Good:** SB 144 — requiring each county board to ensure that its meetings are open to the public through in-person attendance and broadcast live on its website. This is a recycled bill that did not pass last year. We are all in favor of better transparency and more access to government meetings for those who wish to listen or attend. The people’s business should be conducted in front of the people.

**Good:** SB 157 — requiring one-year residency within a district or county to fill a vacancy in the Legislature. There is a similar bill with residency requirements for federal offices, too. We like this one because an official can’t represent the interests of his or her constituents if they know nothing about the people and places they are supposed to represent.

**Good:** SB 159 — prohibits people convicted of specified sexual crimes against minors from serving on state or county school boards. The certain crimes include preparing and distributing sexually explicit or obscene material to minors; sexually assaulting a minor; and filming sexually explicit conduct of minors. The only problem we foresee with this bill is that there are other introduced bills, such as SB 195, that are trying to deem any depiction or display — including anything nonsexual or non-explicit — of transgender people or drag as “obscene.”

**Bad:** SB 143 — the West Virginia Guardian Program, to allow county school boards to contract with an independent contractor who is an honorably discharged veteran, former state trooper, former deputy sheriff, or former federal law-enforcement officer to provide West Virginia Guardian services. This is another bill recycled from last year. One of biggest concerns is that it doesn’t say much about the vetting process for one to become a “Guardian.” There are some things listed that an applicant must be or do, and some things that would disqualify someone from being a “Guardian,” including certain crimes. But nowhere does it explicitly say that an applicant must pass a state and/or federal background check. And if something isn’t explicitly written into law, a good lawyer can get around it.

But the worst part of this bill is that it feeds into the myth that more guns in schools is the answer to school shootings. Just look at Uvalde: That school was surrounded by heavily armed, active-duty officers of all levels and they waited hours to engage the gunman. Or at Parkland, where the resource officer at the school ran away from the shooting. Experience has shown the fabled “good guy with a gun” is about as effective as “thoughts and prayers.”

**Stupid:** SB 162 — to establish the Summer Feeding for All initiative to encourage county school systems to look for innovative ways to provide assistance to students to access nutritious foods during summer break and other times when school is not in session. This one is stupid because it’s an unfunded mandate on school systems to conduct extensive surveys on student food insecurity. But even more stupid, instead of instructing county boards of education to make sure kids get fed, the boards are just supposed to hand students a packet on foodbanks or charities.

Seriously? Just feed the kids. Partnering with local charities and foodbanks can be part of it, but it’s just an insult to invade someone’s privacy to figure out if they are food insecure, then hand them a pamphlet so they can go ask someone *else* for food.

Solutions 2024 — fixing the border

SO THIS GUY WALKS INTO A BAR. HE SITS DOWN NEXT TO ME AND PRETTY SOON HE’S TELLING ME THE STORY OF HOW HE GOT HERE.

He came as a stowaway. He was just a kid. His dad decided the family could sneak across the border and into the United States — and build a grand new life. He hid in a bathroom with his mom, dad and five older sisters when the train stopped at the border. U.S. border checkers came down the aisle checking everyone’s documents. But they had none. So they hid and hoped. The officers walked right past their bathroom. Soon the train started rolling again.

Undocumented but undetected, the stowaway family crossed the border. And that boy became the famously proud, patriotic American who was telling me his story at the bar.

He was Abe Rosenthal, a legend at The New York Times. You won’t find that story in his official New York Times bio or obituary. But after we rode some presidential candidate’s campaign bus, Abe met me in that bar and told me his real story, long ago. He was born in Canada in 1922 to a Byelorussian farmer and his wife who’d immigrated in the 1890s.

Once in the United States, the Rosenthals settled in the Bronx. Abe was hired by The Times in 1943, won a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, became the Times’ executive editor, then was a columnist. Yet, perhaps Abe’s proudest moment came after eight years at the Times — when he became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

I found myself recalling Abe’s northern border story this past week while listening to Donald Trump and his Republican acolytes recycling their doomsday warnings that southern border surges by criminal and venal immigrants would be the ruination of our nation. But policy makers must never lose sight of the fact that, while smugglers prey, many desperate migrants may still represent the best hope for our country’s future.

Abe’s tale may appeal to Joe

Biden. When he was a freshman senator, Biden and I occasionally met to talk about fouls-ups at the White Houses I was covering. Biden was good at grasping how presidents and staffs mucked up their best chances for success. Today, I hope he’s finally grasped the fact that his White House, Homeland Security and State Departments apparently failed to act with urgency and perception to reverse the surge at our border that is fed by gangs of smugglers who prey upon desperate Central and South Americans.

In a couple of columns last year, I urged solutions that the Biden administration could have adopted to ease the repeated southern border surge crises. The administration indeed has announced programs that adopted the principles I suggested. But they were done without the urgency and intuitive message communication strategy needed to convince the migrants not to walk those hundreds of miles — thinking that if they are caught at the border they’ll be allowed to stay.

Most believe if they are caught entering illegally, this can be their best hope of being allowed to stay.

I have urged the establishment of regional visa and asylum processing centers far from the border — such as in Guatemala. And while the administration announced that plan, it hasn’t completed it, nor incentivized the desperate migrants with a convincing program.

So let’s boldly label these facilities: “EXPRESS VISA PROCESSING CENTERS.” Let’s vastly increase the U.S. government personnel who will rapidly process all visas that are applied for at these centers. Perhaps tent facilities can be arranged for those who must

wait weeks.

Let the U.S. announce repeatedly that processing time at the border will be much slower than at these “express” facilities. Let’s have them use a fleet of boldly colored, red-white-and-blue “STARS & STRIPES EXPRESS” buses that will transport thousands of those who are approved for asylum, or work or student visas across the U.S. border. Then let the immigrants be transferred to other similar buses that will take them to destination cities arranged by the government.

Also: Latin America and the world must see proof in the form of repeated video news showing that illegal entry no longer works. Videos of immigrants who entered illegally being rounded up and transported back — or sent to new Express Visa Processing centers away from the border so they can have a chance to finally do it right.

One year ago, on Jan. 5, 2023, a White House fact sheet announced a series of “new border enforcement actions.” In April, Homeland Security announced “Sweeping New Actions to Manage Regional Migration.”

But desperate migrants saw nothing happen. And as 2023 ended, we all saw new record border surges.

What we have here, Mr. President, is a failure to innovate, a failure to communicate — and nobody seems sure who’s in charge.

MARTIN SCHRAM, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Email: martin.schram@gmail.com.



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.

West Virginia Republican Party considers major rule change for Primary Election voters

THE WEST VIRGINIA REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW IN CHARLESTON, WHERE IT WILL CONSIDER A CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS, including the one in May, to only registered Republican voters.

The proposal emerged from a recent meeting of the party’s Resolutions Committee. That group voted four to three to bring the resolution before the full Executive Committee.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties opened their Primaries to Independent, or non-affiliated, voters years ago as a way to broaden their appeal. As a result, the number of individuals who belong to neither party has



HOPPY KERCHEVAL

surged from a handful to 287,000, which is 25% of all registered voters.

Supporters of closing the GOP Primary argue that only Republicans should get to vote in the Primary Election, and that argument has merit. Why should voters who are not affiliated with the party, or even necessarily share

the party views, have a voice in who is nominated?

There is also a belief circulating among party leaders that a couple of the most conservative candidates are pushing the change because they are concerned that more moderate Independent voters will hurt their chances.

State Republican Party Chair Elgin McArdle told me she is not opposed to closing off the Primary again, but the timing is wrong with the Primary Election so close.

“It would require that the information be disseminated. It would require education to the individuals who are unaffiliated, giving

them reasons why they should be converted to Republican,” McArdle said. “There should be debate. There should be discussion, and then make a decision.”

There could also be a legal problem with the resolution. Candidates have signed up to run in the Primary under a certain set of rules. It would be legally questionable to change the rules mid-stream.

Opponents of the immediate change have a plan to sidetrack the measure. One of the members of the Resolution Committee that voted against the change is expected to propose an amendment at tomorrow’s meeting that would delay the implementation

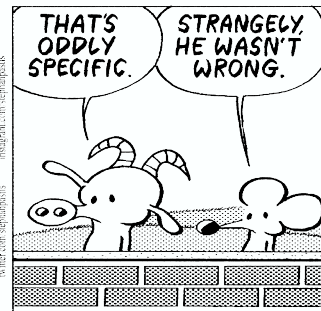
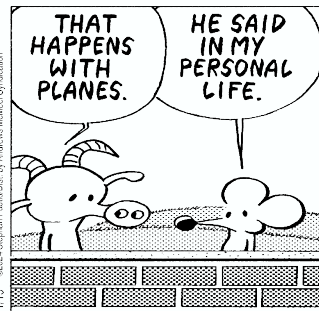
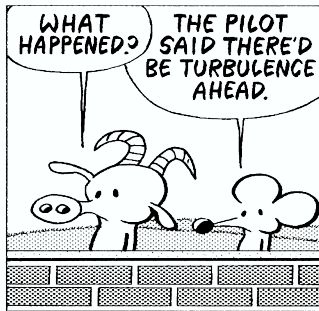
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO CHANGE NOW AND LIKELY DISENFRANCHISE THOUSANDS OF INDEPENDENT VOTERS

until the 2026 election. The state Executive Committee members will then vote.

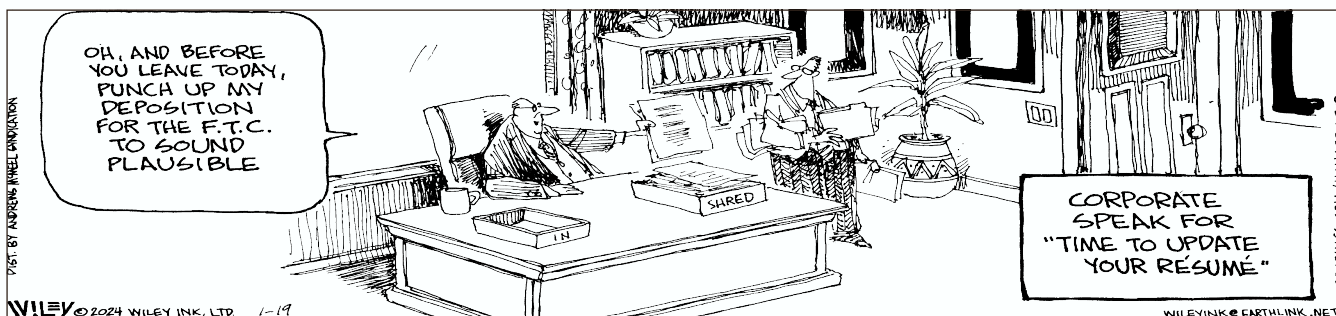
It is up to the political parties to decide how to run their nominating process. The current dominance of the GOP means it may be in a position to keep out all but registered Republicans. However, it makes no sense to change now and likely disenfranchise thousands of Independent voters who have been loyally voting Republican in Primary Elections for years.

HOPPY KERCHEVAL is a MetroNews anchor and the longtime host of “Talkline.” Contact him at hoppy.kercheval@wvradio.com.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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BY STEPHAN PASTIS

BY WILEY

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MON COUNTY

# ‘Make sure you have your Chromebooks’

CB Principal says school is ready for what winter gives

BY JIM BISSETT  
JBissett@DominionPost.com

A chicken tender can’t take up for itself — but Monongalia County Schools can.

Should any freezer unit in any kitchen of any school in the district begin an unplanned thaw, be it by power failure or compressor issue, nutrition director Brian Kiehl’s smartphone will immediately chirp with texts and emails of warning.

“We have a lot of high-tech systems like that in place now,” the district’s deputy superintendent Donna Talerico said Thursday.

“Most of it came from the bomb cyclone.”

She’s referring to the unprecedented storm in late December 2022 that brought a vortex of potentially lethal, Arctic-type winds with it, causing temperatures across the region to plummet as much as 30 degrees in 30 minutes.

More than half of Mon’s school buildings were damaged in the icy onslaught, with leaking roofs and flooding from burst pipes being the common factor.

That included those aforementioned kitchen freezers and the food therein that had to be tossed.

**“I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE ROADS. BUT MAINLY I WAS THINKING OF KIDS AT THE BUS STOP WITH THOSE WIND CHILLS. ESPECIALLY THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS.”**

Eddie Campbell Jr.  
Superintendent

In the meantime, Mon students went back to school Thursday after a mini-break of sorts, surprisingly planned by Mother Nature.

Students were off for Monday’s Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, and when the cold clamped down Tuesday and Wednesday — with the measure of snow and iced-up roads that came with it — the district called school for those days as well.

“I was thinking about the roads,” Superintendent Eddie Campbell Jr. said, “but mainly I was thinking of kids at the bus stop with those wind chills. Especially the elementary school kids.”

Wind chills, he knows.

Before returning to his native West Virginia, he once served a

stint as principal of a high school just below the Arctic Circle in Alaska, where, on one memorable evening, the mercury settled to 60 below.

“That’s beyond cold,” he said.

By the hit-or-miss whims of West Virginia weather, Mon’s students reported to class Thursday in 20-degree temperatures.

Buildings, the superintendent said, emerged generally unscathed, although some roads in the rural reaches were still unpassable to buses, causing the cancellation of several routes in the attendance areas of Morgantown and University high schools.

SEE WINTER, A-6

# Red sky at night



Submitted photo

Ann Mayle, of Morgantown, submitted this photo of Wednesday’s sunset. The concept of “Red sky at night, shepherd’s delight. Red sky in the morning, shepherd’s warning” first appears in the Bible in the book of Matthew. BBC Science Focus says, “A red sunset usually means that there’s an area of high pressure (which is associated with clear skies) approaching from the west. If, on the other hand, you observe a red sunrise (i.e., in the east), it suggests that a high pressure area has already passed .... Lower pressure air will soon take its place, bringing rain or even storms.” To submit a shot for Photo Friday, send a high-resolution digital image to DPNews@dominionpost.com. Include your name and information about the photo, including where and when it was taken.

COMMUNITY

# Gathering celebrates Rainbow House

BY KAITLYN EICHELBERGER  
KEichelberger@DominionPost.com

The moment 123 Pleasant Street’s doors opened Wednesday night, the venue was filled with a bustling crowd ready to enjoy the musical talents of local artists and celebrate the grand opening of West Virginia’s first LGBTQ+ emergency shelter, The Rainbow House.

The Rainbow House is a project of Monongalia County-based grassroots organization Project Rainbow, a group dedicated to providing compassionate support and resources to unhoused LGBTQ+ individuals across the state.

Board member Ash Orr opened the event with a speech about The Rainbow House’s mission and what sets the safe haven apart from other emergency shelters in the region, highlighting Project Rainbow’s dedication to acting as a safety net for the LGBTQ+ community during a time of political unrest centered around the rights of transgender individuals in the state.

The mood for the night was quickly set with a performance by the “backwoods Barbie of Morgantown,” local drag queen Amber Hudson, greeting attendees in a glittering green gown, with laser effects on stage.

Friends, families and couples took to the dance floor during performances of the event’s musical guests, first with a punk rock and country lineup by Haley and the



Kaitlyn Eichelberger/The Dominion Post

Local blues and alternative rock band Velvet Rutt perform at 123 Pleasant Street for Project Rainbow’s celebration of The Rainbow House’s grand opening.

Hard Way. Soul Pantry later brought the dance floor to life with its funky, soulful sound.

Project Rainbow Vice President Cassidy Thompson stepped up to the mic to express gratitude to attendees of the event and supporters of the organization. Thompson emphasized the importance of resources curated to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community, citing her experience in

housing services and the unique struggles faced by LGBTQ+ individuals navigating housing resources. By scrapping old concepts of impersonal homeless shelters, The Rainbow House instead aims to create a caring, community-centered home.

“We offer a compassionate and empathetic approach to an emergency shelter,” said Thompson.

SEE HOUSE, A-6

CRIME

# Man charged with arson for burning his own vehicle

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER  
ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

A Morgantown man is facing third-degree arson charges after West Virginia State Police investigated what began as a stolen-vehicle complaint nearly a month ago.

According to the criminal complaint, on Dec. 17, 2023, at approximately 2:56 a.m., troopers received a stolen-vehicle complaint from Thomas Lee McClurg, 57, of Morgantown.

McClurg reported that his vehicle, a silver BMW sedan registered to his wife, had been stolen while he was inside The Jar Restaurant and Hot Spot, 1387 Fairmont Road.

McClurg stated he had previously left the restaurant to take his wife home but returned to the bar because someone “owed him \$100 from playing pool,” the complaint said; however, he was unable to tell officers where he parked the vehicle upon his return. He eventually stated, “the side of the bar.”

After going inside to play more pool, McClurg told officers, he walked out of the bar around midnight or 12:30 a.m. and the vehicle had been stolen. McClurg was unable to say why he waited several hours before calling 911.

Troopers then began to patrol the area between the restaurant and McClurg’s address. Shortly after, they located McClurg’s vehicle “partially submerged in the Monongahela River, 1.8 miles from [McClurg’s] residence,” the complaint said.

Officers noted the location where the vehicle was found was about a 41-minute walk to McClurg’s address.

In the complaint, officers state they could see smoke coming from the driver’s side door of the partially submerged BMW but were unable to access it due to the water. They also found a BIC lighter approximately five feet from the vehicle.

After removing the vehicle from the water, officers

SEE ARSON, A-6

UNITED WAY

# Bid online to win, help area agencies

**A FOUR-NIGHT STAY IN AN OCEAN CITY, MD., CONDO.**

An exclusive WVU Rifle Team experience.

A \$500 Visa gift card.

What do they all have in common?

You could win them all — and many other prizes — in the United Way of Mon and Preston Counties’ online fundraiser starting Monday.

The Give to Win Auction and Raffle is back this year and better than ever. The fundraiser runs Jan. 22-Feb. 2 and features an online auction with more than 60 items available to bid on and an online raffle with 12 fantastic packages.

Visit [unitedwaympc.org/givetowin](https://unitedwaympc.org/givetowin) and click on the links for the auction and raffle to bid or purchase entries.

Proceeds from the annual fundraiser go toward the United Way Campaign, which funds programs in Mon and Preston counties to help those in need with health, finan-

cial stability, education and basic needs initiatives.

While Give to Win has grown in both popularity and items offered in the past, this year’s offerings were taken up a notch.

“This is the first time we’ve been able to offer a beach condo as part of our Give to Win auction, and we couldn’t be more excited to offer it,” said Amanda Posey, director of marketing and communications for the local United Way and organizer of the event. “There are so many items to choose one, and while it may seem cliché to say, there really is something that should appeal to everyone — sports stuff, trips, exclusive experiences, fun activities, items and more.”

Some of the items are:

- A four-night stay in a condo near Blackwater Falls with a \$100 restaurant gift card.
- Two-night stays at

SEE BID, A-6



ARSON

FROM PAGE A-5

said it became apparent the interior of the vehicle had been intentionally set on fire.

Approximately 5:35 a.m., officers went to McClurg’s home, where they said he continued to make inconsistent or false statements.

Two days later, on Dec. 19, 2023, officers obtained a warrant for security camera video from the restaurant.

According to the complaint, the video shows McClurg arriving in the parking lot around 11:42 p.m. and parking at the front of the restaurant and getting out of the vehicle.

The video allegedly shows McClurg leaving the restaurant wearing the same clothes and holding the same Bud Light can he had inside the restaurant. He then gets in his vehicle and leaves, traveling toward his residence.

On a later date, troopers worked with the West Virginia State Fire Marshall’s Office, who determined the fire was “intentionally set by an open-flame device” and “burnt paper was located inside the gas tank/lid as well.”

McClurg is being charged with third-degree arson and was arraigned in Monongalia County Magistrate Court on Jan. 13 before Magistrate Nabors.

He was released from custody after posting a \$100,000 cash or surety bond. He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Reyes on Jan. 23.

WINTER

FROM PAGE A-5

Buses serving three routes for Clay-Battelle Middle/High School in Blacksville on the western end of the county were grounded, too, for the morning.

“We’re pretty much used to that out here in the winter,” Clay-Battelle Principal David Cottrell said.

“We just adapt and plug along,” he said.

While waiting for the next storm to move in, he said.

That’s the case of a looming pattern that could bring another round of measurable snowfall to the region.

Totals from 3-5 inches of snow are expected from the weather-maker, forecasters say, with flakes set to start falling long before today’s sunrise.

North-central West Virginia, including Mon County, is under a winter weather advisory through 10 a.m. Saturday.

“We’re already telling our kids to make sure they have their Chromebooks with them,” Cottrell said, referring to the portable laptop computers issued to all county students in grades 3-12.

Traditional packs with textbooks and lessons on paper have also been assembled for those C-B students who might have spotty Wi-Fi or no Internet access at all.

“We learned that from COVID,” the principal said.

News tips

If you see breaking news or have a story suggestion, email **DPNews@DominionPost.com** or call **304-291-9425**

MOM’S CORNER

Let the little ones have their snow days

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER TO A KID THAN A SNOW DAY? I don’t think so! Speaking for myself, waking up to find out that there was no school because of snow was like waking up on Christmas morning.

I remember when I was young, going to sleep on winter nights praying we’d get snow and enough of it to get a snow day. Then waking up to find out it did indeed snow and we got to spend the day at home was the best feeling.

I spent the majority of snow days with my sisters outside sled-riding, building snowmen and having snowball fights. We could spend our snow days outside enjoying the snow because we didn’t have “Flexible Instructional Days” or Arctic Academy Days, where we had assignments to do.

Now, my kids have “snow day packets” and they are expected to complete a certain number of assignments.

To my understanding, Flexible Instructional



ANN BURNS

Days are to prevent snow days piling up and pushing school into the summer months. In theory it sounds like a good idea to me, but it does make me a little sad that my kids won’t have the same excitement over snow days as I did.

Now, my oldest is just in kindergarten. So, this is the first time I am dealing with snow days vs. Flexible Instructional Days, but I think what I’m about to say will hold true even in years to come. I think it’s just as beneficial to my children to spend time outside in the snow as it is for them to get their assignments in their snow packets done.

There is something to be said about kids being able to enjoy being little and not forced to grow up too fast. My kids will be in school for a minimum of the next 12 years. How many snow days will they have in those years? How many of those snow days will happen when they are still young enough to enjoy the magic of snow days and building snowmen and sled-riding?

I feel like it is my job to make sure that their childhood isn’t just me preparing them educationally for the future, but making sure I give them great memories of their childhood and experiences that they will take with them throughout life.

So, what did I do on my kindergartner’s first Flexible Instructional Day? Well, I let her be a kid and at the same time made sure we got her assignments done.

I’m not sure if every school is like this, but our school sends a mock

schedule for how students should be spending their snow days, breaking it down by the hour. Some parents may love this, but I didn’t want to take the magic out of the snow days. So, I let my little one sleep in and wake up on her own time.

Once she was awake, we shared excitement over getting to stay home together and seeing all the snow.

We had breakfast together and took the morning slow. I didn’t rush into doing her school work as soon as she woke up because I didn’t think it was necessary.

The first thing we did after breakfast was go outside to enjoy the snow. We built a snowman, we practiced our snow angels, we had a snowball fight and went sled-riding. All while sharing lots of laughs and giggles. Once we were about frozen solid and needed to warm up, we came inside and got warm with hot chocolate.

After the snow day fun and excitement was starting to wear off, we sat down to do the school assignments before lunch. She had eight assignments to do, so we did four before lunch and four after. Each assignment didn’t take long, maybe 10 minutes each, so I didn’t feel like I was overloading her. But the thing to note is that she had all her assignments done by the end of her normal school day and still had time to play outside.

The thing I’m trying to convey is that I hope when my kids are older, they don’t just remember what they learned in school, but that they also remember some of those magical moments of just being a kid. That’s the most important thing to this mama.

**ANN BURNS** is a Morgantown native, raising two young children with her husband, Drake. She writes weekly columns for The Dominion Post. Contact her at [Columns@DominionPost.com](mailto:Columns@DominionPost.com).

ARSON

Terra Alta woman charged in convenience store fire

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

[ECleavenger@DominionPost.com](mailto:ECleavenger@DominionPost.com)

A Preston County woman is facing second-degree arson charges after allegedly admitting to setting a fire inside the storage area of The End Zone ParMar Convenience Store, at 34001 Veteran’s Memorial Hwy., in Terra Alta in early December.

The Terra Alta Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call on Dec. 9 and found smoke coming from the garage/overstock storage

area of the building, the criminal complaint said.

Inside, firefighters found a large wooden bin used to store cardboard on fire in the middle of the garage.

After extinguishing the fire, Deputy Chief J.C. Cramer stated he was unable to find an accidental cause for the fire and believed it to be suspicious.

Assistant State Fire Marshal (ASFM) Ronald “Mackey” Ayersman was called in, along with ASFM James Owens and ASFM Rick Sovastion to conduct

an origin and cause examination on the scene.

According to Ayersman’s report, they determined the fire was “incendiary in nature.”

The investigators noted they believed there was an initial attempted arson at a refrigerator just before the cardboard was set on fire.

Ayersman stated it was determined that there were “no accidental causes for either fire.”

A review of the store’s security footage shows Rachel Lin Giffen, 23, of

Terra Alta going in and out of the garage/storage area just before the fire was discovered — no one else is seen entering the garage prior to the discovery, except Giffen, the complaint states.

During a recorded interview with Giffen, she allegedly admitted that she had used a lighter to set fire to a brown paper towel, then placed it down beside the refrigerator in the garage.

She also allegedly admitted to intentionally setting fire to the card-

board inside the large wooden bin.

Ayersman noted that the bin had been moved from its original location and placed directly under the garage door opener. He stated he believes that it was an attempt to make the fire look accidental.

Giffen is being charged with second-degree arson and was arraigned in Preston County Magistrate Court on Wednesday.

If convicted, she could face one to 10 years in prison.

LEGISLATURE

Look at some bills introduced this week in Charleston

BY DAVID BEARD

[DBeard@DominionPost.com](mailto:DBeard@DominionPost.com)

Here is a sampling of bills introduced Tuesday. Local sponsors and cosponsors are noted.

■ SB 456, to address and define public camping in public spaces, create a penalty, and address existing ordinances.

■ SB 459, to increase the senior citizens’ tax credit for property tax paid from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Governor’s bill.

■ SB 464, to establish residency requirements for candidates seeking nomination and election to United States Congress. Sen. Randy Smith, R-Tucker, lead sponsor; Sen.

Jay Taylor, R-Taylor, co-sponsor.

■ SB 465, to prohibit schools from starting an instructional day any earlier than 7:45 a.m. Sen. Mike Oliverio, R-Monongalia, lead sponsor; Sens. Mike Caputo, D-Marion, Charles Clements, R-Wetzel, Taylor, co-sponsors.

■ SB 468, to amend required courses of education to include human growth and development related to pregnancy and human development inside the womb; required methods of presenting this instruction and adding a human growth and development curriculum to be known as the Baby Olivia Act; and to authorize the

Attorney General to sue for any violation of the Baby Olivia Act. Smith, Taylor, co-sponsors.

■ HJR 13, proposed constitutional amendment requiring two-thirds majority for bills containing tax and fee increases.

■ HJR 14, proposed constitutional amendment to give registered voters the powers of initiative, referendum and recall at all levels of state government.

■ HJR 16, to set term limits for secretary of state; state auditor; state treasurer; attorney general; or commissioner of Agriculture.

■ HB 4761, to require the Division of Personnel to reduce the time of hiring

process to four weeks from the date an application for employment is closed.

■ HB 4763, to create the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative within the Higher Education Policy Commission. Delegate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia, co-sponsor.

■ HB 4767, to provide an across-the-board raise for teachers’ minimum salaries to bring about parity with teacher salaries in surrounding states. Statler, co-sponsor.

■ HB 4768, to increase the number of out-of-state medical students receiving in-state tuition rates who agree to practice for a specific time within West Virginia from two to four pro-

gram participants per medical school. Statler, co-sponsor.

■ HB 4770, to provide the Public Service Commission the authority to require electric utilities to develop and implement plans for the efficient use, conservation and reduction of electricity usage. Delegate Evan Hansen, D-Monongalia, lead sponsor.

■ HB 4784, to establish the requirement that in order to award a siting certificate for a wind energy system, the minimum distance from a wind turbine to the closest residence be two miles. Chiarelli, Delegate Buck Jennings, R-Preston, co-sponsors.

BID

FROM PAGE A-5

Coopers Rock State Forest campgrounds.

■ A \$200 Airbnb gift card.

■ A lottery bundle with more than \$70 worth of scratch-offs.

■ Tickets to Launch Pad Trampoline Park, Mylan Park’s Aquatic

Center, Pittsburgh Zoo and Carnegie Science Center.

■ Rounds of golf at several area courses.

■ A Wow! Factory certificate for a 10-person party package.

■ Personal swing instruction and evaluation with the WVU Golf coaches.

■ Tickets to WVU football and basketball games. All items were donated

to the United Way for use in the auction and raffle.

“A huge thank you to all the businesses and individuals — both board members and community supporters — for donating prizes for this fundraiser,” Posey said. “We can’t do it without your generous donations.”

The auction and raffle will close promptly at noon on Feb. 2, and the

system will notify winners about 15 minutes after the fundraiser closes.

Auction bids are done in a proxy style, which is like eBay, so folks can choose to place their max bid and have the system bid for them. This means bidders won’t have to constantly watch the system.

Raffle tickets can be purchased on the site with a variety of amount

options. The more money people spend on the individual items, the better the deal/more raffle tickets they will receive.

The auction and raffle open at 9 a.m. Monday. Find the links at [unitedwaympc.org/givetowin](http://unitedwaympc.org/givetowin).

**AMANDA POSEY** is the director of marketing and communications with the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties. She can be reached at [amanda@unitedwaympc.org](mailto:amanda@unitedwaympc.org).

HOUSE

FROM PAGE A-5

“[The Rainbow House] looks like a home because people deserve a home.”

The Rainbow House has been accepting guests of urgent need since November and now celebrates its official grand opening. Six people are currently staying in the shelter and three more will arrive this week. The ability to spend time with The Rainbow House’s clients and meet so many wonderful people has been a great experience, Project Rainbow president Erin Shelton said.

“Everything we dreamed of in the beginning is coming true,” said

Shelton. “It’s surreal. We had this idea a little over a year ago and now it’s come to fruition, and we feel lucky that we’re able to have this space.”

Shelton hopes attendees of the celebration and supporters of the organization can feel inspired by the accomplishments of Project Rainbow, from the project’s roots as a desire to support individuals like Ember Blackwater — the transgender woman whose experiences prompted the group’s mission — to just over a year later celebrating the grand opening of a community home already serving other individuals in need.

“We have been able to take this idea and make it a

reality thanks to the support of the community,” said Shelton. “We want people to feel empowered and know that what they do can make a difference.”

The night closed with performances by blues and alternative rock band Velvet Rutt and speeches from Blackwater and city councilor and Project Rainbow board member Brian Butcher.

Blackwater shared her experiences as an unhoused transgender woman, emphasizing the barriers and discrimination she faced due to her gender identity, and the life-changing assistance she received from Project Rainbow.

“My story is unheard

but not unique. In the eyes of the hateful, in essence, you’re not even human,” said Blackwater. “I am the result and proof of the potential of Project Rainbow.”

Butcher detailed the technical side of Project Rainbow’s operations, explaining the organization’s strategy of identifying the region’s need for LGBTQ+ housing resources, then centering those with experience in housing instability and ensuring those affected by housing resources have a say in how they are operated.

“What this project represents is different than anything you’ve ever

seen,” said Butcher.

In the coming year, Project Rainbow aims to expand its partnerships with other social service agencies and seek grant funding to better provide support and resources to its clients. Project Rainbow will host a volunteer training day from noon-4 p.m. Feb. 4 to provide potential volunteers with the information and tools they need to be a part of Project Rainbow’s and The Rainbow House’s efforts. Visit [ProjectRainbowWV.com/volunteers](http://ProjectRainbowWV.com/volunteers) to sign up.

Visit [ProjectRainbowWV.com](http://ProjectRainbowWV.com) for more information about the organization.



WEATHER

Icy blast gripping U.S. blamed for deaths in Tenn., Oregon braces for next round of cold

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A new layer of ice formed over parts of Tennessee on Thursday after a deadly storm system blanketed the state in snow and sent temperatures plummeting earlier this week — part of a broader bout of bitter cold that has kept an icy grip on a swath of the U.S. stretching from Oregon to the Northeast.

Tennessee officials updated the state's death toll to 14 at midweek after the storm dumped more than 9 inches of snow since Sunday in parts of Nashville, where only about half that amount falls in a given year. Even after the snow tapered off, temperatures plunged below zero in parts of the state, creating the largest power demand ever across the seven states served by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Thursday's freezing rain began compounding the problems, adding a thin ice coating in some areas ahead of another plunge in temperatures over the weekend. Many schools and government offices have closed, including at



AP photo

Snow is cleared from the bike lane and sidewalk along Third Avenue near the Linn County Courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Wednesday.

the state Legislature, which canceled in-person meetings all week.

Near Portland, Ore., ice slowly began to melt in areas south of the city as warmer temperatures and rain arrived Thursday. But a National Weather Service advisory through Friday warned of freezing rain and gusting winds of up to 40 mph for parts of

the state. Most Portland-area school districts canceled classes for a third straight day due to slick roads and water damage from burst frozen pipes.

On Wednesday, a power line fell on a parked car in northeastern Portland, killing three people and injuring a baby during an ice storm that made driving in parts of the Pacific

Northwest treacherous.

At least 30 deaths around the country have been attributed to the storms, with more in Tennessee than any other state. Storm-related deaths there included a box truck driver who slid into a tractor-trailer on the interstate, a man who fell through a skylight while cleaning his business' roof,

and a woman who died of hypothermia after being found unresponsive in her home.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol said it also had investigated three fatal car wrecks caused by the storm, more than 200 wrecks involving injuries and more than 600 others in which no one was hurt.

Shelby County, which includes Memphis and is the state's largest county, has had the most deaths, five. But state and local officials have declined to release many details about the deaths, citing privacy concerns for the families involved. Tennessee's Department of Health also refused to confirm accounts provided by local authorities of deaths likely tied to the 14-death total.

Cory Mueller, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Nashville, said that another cold spell is expected this weekend, making Monday the first chance for significant melting.

Freezing temperatures spread as far south as North Florida on Wednesday morning, the National Weather Service said.

ENVIRONMENT

Wastewater tests can find mpox, study finds

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wastewater testing does a good job at detecting mpox infections, U.S. health officials said in a report Thursday that bolsters a push to use sewage to track more diseases.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers found that over the course of a week, there was a 32% likelihood the tests would detect the presence of at least one person infected with mpox in a population ranging from thousands to millions.

Amy Kirby, who oversees the CDC's wastewater surveillance work, said initially they didn't know if the tests would work for a rare infection like mpox.

"It turns out it worked really very well," she said. The chance that the tests

could detect infections rose as more people were infected. When there were 15 or more people infected in a community, there was a 76% chance wastewater testing could find mpox.

The water that goes down a sink, shower drain or toilet can carry bits of viruses or bacteria that come off the skin or are excreted in urine or poop. Studies have shown wastewater testing can be an early warning system, signaling a bug has hit a community even before doctors start reporting cases.

Whole cities can be watched from a single sample, said Joshua Levy, a researcher at the Scripps Research Institute in California who has studied wastewater monitoring and develops related technology.

"Almost every kind of virus that we've gone looking for is detectable," Levy said.

The U.S. monitoring system is growing but still a patchwork. Currently, 863 of the nation's 3,143 counties — roughly a quarter — are reporting wastewater data to the CDC. Those are larger counties that are home to most of the U.S. population, but it misses a lot of rural homes that aren't hooked up to municipal sewage systems.

This approach to disease tracking rose to prominence in 2020, when health officials began testing wastewater for genetic evidence of the coronavirus. It has grown into a mainstay of the CDC's COVID-19 tracking as fewer nasal swab test

results are reported.

In 2022, the CDC began working with a small group of cities to also look for polio in wastewater. That same year also saw a new effort to look for mpox, previously known as monkeypox, which erupted in outbreaks in the U.S. and other countries.

In the new study, the CDC looked at wastewater samples from 89 sites in 16 states, taken from August 2022 through May 2023. When mpox DNA was detected, the researchers checked cases reported by doctors "to basically see if we were seeing the same thing," said the CDC's Carly Adams, the lead author of the report.

It not only worked, the approach appears to be more sensitive for detect-

ing mpox than COVID-19, CDC officials said. CDC officials, however, cautioned it is difficult to do head-to-head-comparisons, because of differences among germs and how well doctors are diagnosing and reporting cases of various diseases.

The CDC has also begun collecting data for flu and RSV — about 40 states have been testing for those viruses and reporting that data. The agency isn't posting it publicly as officials work through the best ways to display it, though Kirby said it should go live by next fall.

The agency also plans to start tracking germs that are resistant to antibiotics. And Kirby said by early next year the agency would start monitoring some food poisoning bugs.

OBITUARY

Nicholas Dorinzi

Nicholas Anthony Dorinzi, age 36, of Morgantown, died Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



Nicholas Dorinzi

Friends and family will be received at The WVU Erickson Alumni Center,

1 Alumni Drive, Morgantown, from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28. A Celebration of Life will begin at 2:30 p.m. with light refreshments to follow.

Hastings Funeral Home has been entrusted with cremation arrangements.

Condolences: [hastingsfuneralhome.com](http://hastingsfuneralhome.com)



BOOKS

Illustrated edition of 'Hunger Games' novel coming Oct. 1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A new edition of "The Hunger Games," the first novel in Suzanne Collins' dystopian series set in the North American land of Panem, will include words and pictures.

"The Hunger Games Illustrated Edition" will be published Oct. 1, Scholastic announced Thursday.

The book will feature more than 30 black and white drawings from Nico Delort, a visual artist based in Paris.

Collins' four "Hunger Games" books, which also include "Catching Fire," "Mockingjay" and the prequel "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide.

The series is the basis for a blockbuster movie franchise starring Jennifer Lawrence.

Published obituaries can now be viewed for free at [dominionpost.com](http://dominionpost.com).

ROYAL FAMILY

Health announcements about King Charles III, Kate mark departure for tight-lipped UK royals

Associated Press

LONDON — The double health announcements from the United Kingdom's royal family — on Kate, the Princess of Wales' abdominal surgery and King Charles III's prostate treatment — have put a spotlight on the private lives of senior royals.

Details of royal health are always a tricky issue in the U.K., because members of the monarchy are private individuals but also, in a sense, public property. Charles, 75, is head of state, and Kate, 42, is destined to be queen when her husband

Prince William succeeds his father on the throne.

The brief media statements on the health scares were so unusual that they dominated Thursday's newspaper front pages, with headlines calling them "royal health bombshells."

The disclosure of Charles' and Kate's health details was seen by some royal observers as a sign that the monarchy is adapting to modern communications after centuries of staying tight-lipped about health matters.

Royal officials announced Wednesday that

Kate had undergone planned abdominal surgery and was expected to remain in The London Clinic, a private hospital, for 10 to 14 days. She isn't expected to resume public duties until April.

The princess' office at Kensington Palace didn't offer further details, but said that her condition wasn't cancerous. Though she has generally experienced good health and is seen as fit and sporty, Kate was hospitalized during her pregnancies because of severe morning sickness.

William also has postponed some official duties

so that he can devote time to his wife and their three children. He visited his wife on Thursday, and British media reported that the Princess of Wales was "doing well."

Soon after the announcement of Kate's hospitalization, Buckingham Palace said that Charles will undergo a "corrective procedure" for an enlarged prostate next week. The palace said the king's condition is benign. Queen Camilla said Thursday that Charles was "fine" and "looking forward to getting back to work."

NATION

Some states, NYC get 2020 census numbers increased

Associated Press

Illinois is adding tens of thousands of people to its population total, and California is getting misplaced sailors on an aircraft carrier put in the right location.

That's because the states asked for a review of their 2020 census figures.

New York City also appears to have gotten an additional 1,090 people added to its population total after asking the Census Bureau to

double-check the city's numbers from the head count of every U.S. resident.

The changes will be applied to future annual population estimates and not to how many congressional seats each state was allotted,

nor for the data used for redrawing political districts.

The once-a-decade census produces population figures that help determine political power and the annual distribution of \$2.8 trillion in federal funding.

*Hilda Ralston*  
1927-2024

**Gathering**  
Today, 4pm-8pm  
Saturday, 10am-11am

**Funeral**  
Saturday, 11am

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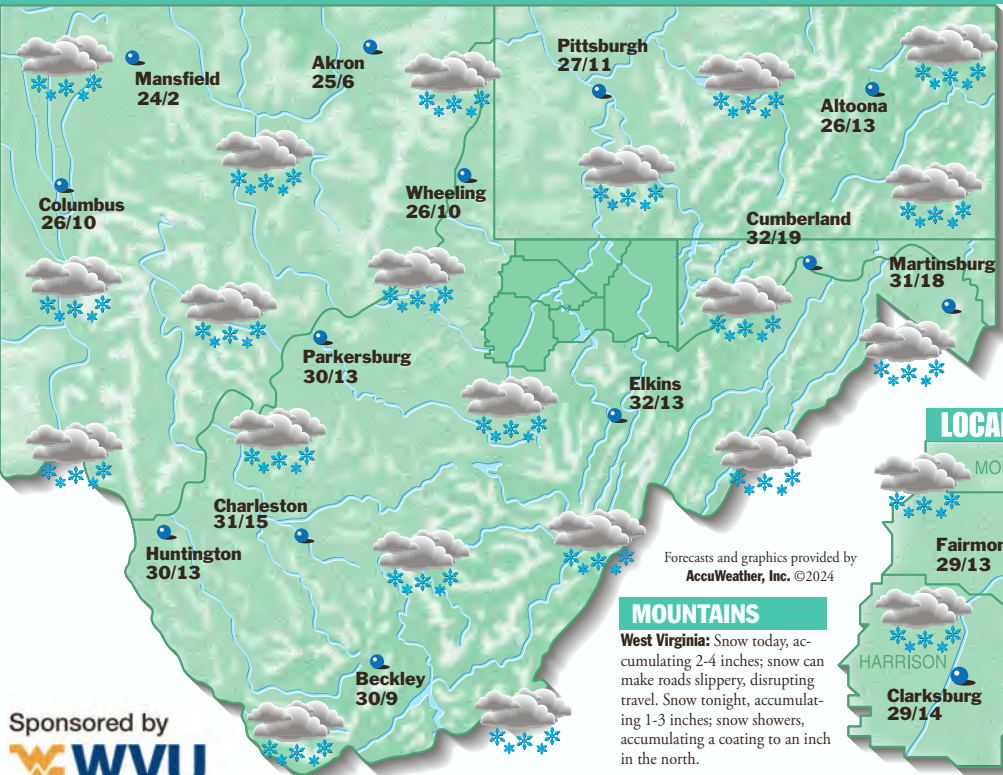
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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Thursday

Temperature	32°/20°
High/low	38°/20°
Normal high/low	69° in 1929
Record high	-13° in 1994
Record low	0.00°
Precipitation	0.00"
24 hrs ending 4 p.m., Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	2.65"
Year to date	2.65"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:37 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:24 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:19 p.m.
Moonset today	2:07 a.m.

REGIONAL CITIES

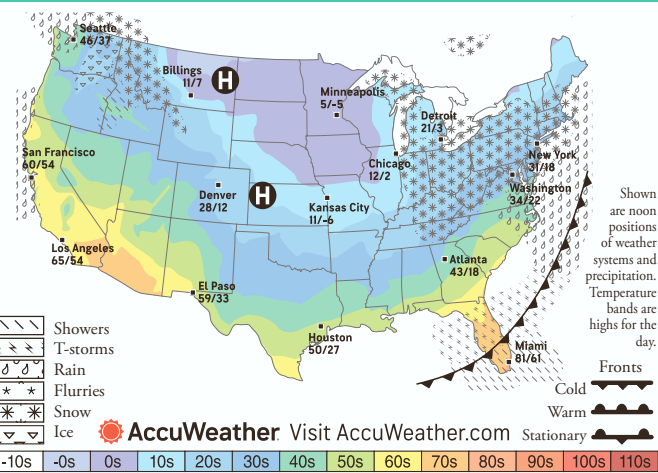
Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	0	40-64	16
Seven Springs, PA	0	18-18	35
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	0	48-48	48
Timberline Four Seasons	0	30-70	20
Wisp, MD	0	20-22	27

LOCAL WEATHER



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

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	0	40-64	16
Seven Springs, PA	0	18-18	35
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	0	48-48	48
Timberline Four Seasons	0	30-70	20
Wisp, MD	0	20-22	27

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	30/9/sn	14/7/sn
Charleston, WV	31/15/sn	18/10/c
Columbus, OH	26/10/sn	19/13/c
Cumberland, MD	32/19/sn	22/16/sf
Fairmont, WV	29/13/sn	18/13/sf
Grafton, WV	29/13/sn	18/13/sf
Huntington, WV	30/13/sn	21/9/pc
Kingwood, WV	27/11/sn	14/11/sf
Pittsburgh, PA	27/11/sn	16/13/sf
Wheeling, WV	26/10/sn	15/12/c

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

SOLUNAR TABLES

Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Fri.: 6:14 a.m.	12:04 a.m.	6:40 p.m.	12:27 p.m.
Sat.: 7:02 a.m.	12:49 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	1:15 p.m.
Sun.: 7:50 a.m.	1:36 a.m.	8:17 p.m.	2:03 p.m.
Mon.: 8:39 a.m.	2:25 a.m.	9:06 p.m.	2:52 p.m.
Tue.: 9:28 a.m.	3:14 a.m.	9:55 p.m.	3:41 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	864.28	-1.95
Deep Creek, MD	2457.38	-0.13
Jennings Randolph	1442.46	+0.10
Stonewall Jackson	1068.63	-0.37
Tygart	1047.90	-4.42
Youghiogheny	1418.55	+0.18

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2024. There are 347 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1953, CBS-TV aired the widely watched episode of "I Love Lucy" in which Lucy Ricardo, played by Lucille Ball, gave birth to Little Ricky. (By coincidence, Ball gave birth the same day to her son, Desi Arnaz Jr.)

On this date:

In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.

In 1915, Germany carried out its first air raid on Britain during World War I as a pair of Zeppelins dropped bombs onto Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in England.

In 1987, Guy Hunt became Alabama's first Republican governor since 1874 as he was sworn into office, succeeding George C. Wallace.

In 2023, the Supreme Court said an eight-month investigation failed to reveal who leaked a draft of the court's opinion overturning abortion rights.

Today's birthdays:

Actor Tippi Hedren is 94. Former PBS newsmen Robert MacNeil is 93. Movie director Richard Lester is 92. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 82. Actor Shelley Fabares (fab-RAY) is 80. Country singer Dolly Parton is 78. Former ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 77. TV chef Paula Deen is 77. Rock singer Martha Davis is 73. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 72. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 71. Actor Katey Sagal is 70.

Absent father wonders about the fate of mother and child

DEAR ABBY: Almost 50 years ago, I got a girl pregnant. She left the state and two years later sent me a letter and a picture of the cutest baby — mine. Her letter ripped me apart. I admit I was a terrible person and deserved everything she wrote.

Now that I'm up in years, I would like to know about her and the child. I have been thinking about hiring a private investigator to find her whereabouts. Your thoughts on this? — DEFERRED DAD IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR DAD: After the private investigator lets you know where your old girlfriend is (providing she's still on this side of the sod), refrain from showing up in person. Clearly, the "girl" has gone on with her life, and the "baby" is well into middle age. Write your old flame a letter, or have your lawyer do it, explaining you have thought about her and the child, and ask if either of them is willing to meet with you. Then cross your fingers.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a different state than my parents with my husband and two children. When we FaceTime



JEANNE PHILLIPS

with them (mainly my mom) or they come to visit, Mom only talks about my niece and nephew. I love my niece and nephew, but it feels like they are all I hear about.

They often compare my children to their cousins as well. If I mention something one of my kids did, Mom instantly says my niece or nephew did the same thing.

Other people have commented that they have noticed her doing this, so I know I'm not being overly sensitive. What can I say to her without upsetting the rest of the family? — MY KIDS COUNT, TOO

DEAR MY KIDS: If your mother is oblivious to what she has been doing, make clear to her that her favoritism is blatant.

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

1/19/24	► 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	KDKA-TV News at Six (N)	KDKA-TV News at 6:30pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	KDKA-TV News at 7:30pm (N)	S.W.A.T. SWAT teams up with the DEA to conduct a massive gang sweep.	Fire Country "Watch Your Step" The crew fights a blaze at a wellness retreat.	Blue Bloods Eddie lands in hot water after she defies a direct order.	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)	Shark Tank A damage-free wall light; an umbrella with two handles. (N)	20/20 (N)		Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)			
5 WDTV	First News	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	S.W.A.T.	Fire Country	Blue Bloods	5 News	Colbert			
7 WTRF	7News at Six (L) (N)	CBS News	ET (N)	Inside Ed.	S.W.A.T.	Fire Country	Blue Bloods	7News at Six (L) (N)	Colbert			
9 WTOV	News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Transplant A software glitch takes down the emergency department. (N)	Dateline NBC (N)		News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	Tonight Show (N)			
11 WPXI	Channel 11 News (N)	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Transplant (N)	Dateline NBC (N)		News (N)	J. Fallon			
12 WBVO	News (N)	NBC News	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	Transplant (N)	Dateline NBC (N)		News (N)	J. Fallon			
13 WQED	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	Washington Wk (N)	Firing-Hoover (N)	Benjamin Franklin "Join or Die (1706-1774)" Benjamin Franklin earns worldwide fame from electricity experiments and then turns to politics.	News (N)	Amanpour (N)			
22 WCVB	Two and a Half Men "Ergo, the Phil Call"	Two and a Half Men "Phil on Wire"	Modern Family "Phil on Wire"	Boy's High School Basketball at Penn Hills Action from boys high school basketball. (L) (N)	Penn & Teller: Fool Us Jo De Rijck, Adrian Vega, Nao Murata and Jonathan Steigman. (N)	Masters of Illusion (N)	Funny Animals "Episode 403" (N)	The National Desk				
24 WNPB	Legis. News (N)	America Investig.	PBS NewsHour (N)	Week (N)	Hoover (N)	Benjamin Franklin "Join or Die (1706-1774)"	Legis. News (N)	Energy				
46 WVFH	The Big Bang Theory	Channel 11 News on Fox 53 at 6:30 (N)	The Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	WWE Friday Night SmackDown The biggest and baddest wrestling superstars. (L) (N)	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	Seinfeld "The Gymnast"	Seinfeld "The Nap"				
53 WPGH												
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48
AMC	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II	*** Rambo: First Blood Part II
AT&T	Football	Sports (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)	College Hockey RIT at Robert Morris (N)
BET	As. Living	Payne	Payne	Payne	Prince	Prince	Prince	Prince	Prince	Ms. Pat	Ms. Pat	Ms. Pat
CNN	Situation Room (L) (N)	E. B. OutFront (L) (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	Cooper 360 (N)	The Source With (N)	CNN NewsNight (N)	CNN NewsNight (N)	CNN NewsNight (N)	CNN NewsNight (N)	Laura Coates Live (N)	Laura Coates Live (N)	Laura Coates Live (N)
DISC	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush (N)	Gold Rush (N)	Hustlers Gamblers (N)	Outback (N)	Outback (N)	Gold Rush-Res.	Gold Rush-Res.	Gold Rush-Res.	Gold Rush-Res.	Gold Rush-Res.
DISN	Kiff	Kiff	Big City	Big City	*** Moana Dwayne Johnson.	Hailey's on It!	Hailey	Hailey	Hailey	Hailey	Hailey	Hailey
ESPN	SportsCenter	NBA (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Boston Celtics (N)
ESPN2	ESPN BET Live	College Basketball Saint Louis at VCU (L) (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)	2024 Australian Open Tennis Third Round (N)
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners (N)	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)	Ingraham (N)	Jesse Watters (L) (N)	Hannity (L) (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)	Gutfeld! (N)
FREE	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
HIST	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens
LIFE	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	A Podcast to Die For ('23) Kate Lang Johnson.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.	Catfish Killer ('22) Alicia Leigh Willis.
NEWSN	Vargas Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams Live (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)	Benfield (N)
NICK	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.	*** Sing ('16) Matthew McConaughey.
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	*** The Italian Job ('03) Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.
TNT	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One	*** Ready Player One
TVLAND	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.	*** Batman Begins ('05) Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Christian Bale.
WE	S.W.A.T.	S.W.A.T.	Crews	Crews	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup
WTBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.	*** Thor: Ragnarok ('17) Chris Hemsworth.
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** The A-Team Liam Neeson.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.	*** Mad Max: Fury Road ('15) Tom Hardy.
MAX	Movie	*** Scary Movie Shawn Wayans.	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service	*** Kingsman: The Secret Service
SHOW	*** Michael Clayton ('07) George Clooney.	Thriller 40	Thriller 40	Thriller 40	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'	*** Get Rich or Die Tryin'
TMC	*** Snag	Mercy ('23) Leah Gibson.	*** Into the Wild ('07) Marcia Gay Harden, Emile Hirsch.	*** Into the Wild ('07) Marcia Gay Harden, Emile Hirsch.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.	*** Infinite Storm Naomi Watts.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

# Disconnected Mountaineers will need to find their spark against No. 3 Kansas

**BY JUSTIN JACKSON**  
JJackson@DominionPost.com

West Virginia’s connection problems has nothing to do with the internet.

Rather it’s a lack of offense that has seen the Mountaineers (6-11, 1-3 Big 12) reach 70 points in just one of its first four Big 12 games.

That was the case again Wednesday, as Oklahoma dominated in the second half on its way to a 77-63 victory.

For WVU, nothing comes easy.

“This league is just too hard defensively to not score easy points,” WVU head coach Josh Eilert said. “You’ve got to find a

way to score easy points, whether that’s second-chance points or fast-break points.”

West Virginia’s easiest bucket of the game nearly turned into disaster when Noah Farrakhan came up with a steal under the basket and laid it in, only to injure his right knee after landing on it awkwardly.

Other than that, forward Pat Suemnick was the only WVU player to grab an offensive rebound, so the Mountaineers were limited to just six second-chance points.

“I felt like our guys’ minds and bodies just weren’t into it today,”

Eilert said. “It’s a fast-twitched game. If your legs aren’t there, you can tell when you’re a step slow to the ball. We were certainly a step slow to the ball it seemed

SEE KANSAS, B-2

.....

**(3) Kansas at WVU**

**WHEN:** 4 p.m. Saturday  
**WHERE:** WVU Coliseum  
**TV:** ESPN+ (Online subscription needed)  
**RADIO:** 100.9 JACK-FM  
**WEB:** dominionpost.com



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia guard Noah Farrakhan (1) protects the ball from Texas guard Max Abmas (3) earlier in the season.

# THE LONG HAUL



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers guard Jayla Hemingway (0) protects the ball from a Houston Cougars player on Wednesday.

## Hemingway reaches 100th career game for WVU despite late start, coaching changes

**BY CODY NESPOR**  
CNespor@DominionPost.com

Coming off the court following her 100th game in a WVU uniform, fifth-year senior Jayla Hemingway had one thing to say.

“I would just say my knees hurt,” she joked after WVU defeated Houston 80-39 Wednesday evening.

Reaching 100 games in the Old Gold and Blue is quite the feat for Hemingway. The Tennessee native played her freshman season at Mississippi before coming to Morgantown and her career would already be over if it wasn’t for the COVID waiver given out in 2020.

Not to mention she’s now on her third head coach in four years with the Moun-

taineers. What’s kept Hemingway a Mountaineer, according to her, is the women she has played with.

“My teammates have been a big part of it, I’ve enjoyed being around them,” Hemingway said. “It’s just a family environment here and being far away from home, it’s good I’m able to have somewhere I still feel like I’m home.”

Hemingway played two seasons for Mike Carey from 2020-2022, one year for Dawn Plitzuweit in 2022-23 and is now playing under first-year head coach Mark Kellogg.

“This school means a lot to me, so I was just glad I was able to stay,” Hemingway said, “go through several coaching staffs and still finish out my career here.”

She hasn’t just been along for the ride either. Hemingway has averaged over 20 minutes per game in all four of her seasons in Morgantown and started all 60 games during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons.

“She means a ton (to the program) and we’ve told her that,” Kellogg said.

Hemingway has transitioned into the Mountaineers’ sixth-man this season but still plays nearly 22 minutes per game. She’s the team’s top bench scorer, averaging 6.8 points.

“We’ve talked about her role changing a little bit this year coming off the bench,” Kellogg said, “but she’s still going to play starter minutes and we need her to have a big impact.”

Hemingway had been in a bit of a slump, shooting just 2-18 since the new year, but made three baskets and finished with eight points against the Cougars.

“She’s struggled here a little bit lately, so it was good to see her get back to it,” Kellogg said. “Get to the free throw line, get to the rim, that’s still where she’s at her best.”

Hemingway’s biggest contribution to the team, however, might be the things that don’t show up in a box score.

“A lot of our toughness is wrapped up into Jayla and I’ve told her that,” Kellogg said. “We want that part of our identity to be here.”

If Hemingway plays in all of WVU’s remaining 12 regular season games, she will be just outside of the top 25 of games played in program history. Runs in either the Big 12 or NCAA tournament could be enough to boost her onto the list and into WVU’s record book.

## NFL

### Mike Tomlin remains ‘on go’ for the Steelers through 2024, and likely beyond

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Mike Tomlin remains “on go” in Pittsburgh.

Both in 2024 and likely beyond.

The NFL’s longest-tenured head coach said Thursday he plans on returning to the Steelers for an 18th season, brushing aside speculation that he was on the cusp of burning out and considering taking a step back.

Tomlin shook his head and chuckled “no” when asked if he told anyone he needed a break, saying his passion for his job has only intensified the deeper he gets into a career that includes a Super Bowl ring, but also a play-off-win drought that sits at seven years and counting following a 31-17 loss to Buffalo in the opening round on Monday.

The Steelers finished 10-8 in Tomlin’s 17 seasons and have never finished below .500 since he took over for Bill Cowher in January 2007.

Yet Pittsburgh has also been stuck on a treadmill of sorts since reaching the AFC title game in 2016, a stretch that includes five seasons of somewhere between 8 to 10 wins and four quick playoff exits.

While Tomlin believes the Steelers have closed the gap on the teams playing in the divisional round this weekend, he also allowed it doesn’t matter.

“It all sucks, it does,” Tomlin said. “It’s not degrees of suck. It all sucks. I’d rather be working.”

Instead, Tomlin will spend the coming weeks interviewing for an offensive coordinator — a candidate he said will come from outside the organization — and start prepping for the NFL draft and free agency.

Tomlin is entering the final year of a contract extension he signed in 2021. He stormed off rather than answer when asked about it moments after the Steelers fell to the Bills. Three days removed, Tomlin admitted “I could have handled the situation better than I did” but added he felt that wasn’t the time or the place to discuss his future.

A future that will be in Pittsburgh. He declined to get into

SEE TOMLIN, B-2

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Preston at Fairmont Senior, 7:30 p.m.  
Doddridge County at Clay-Battelle  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
University at Morgantown, 7:30 p.m.  
Clay-Battelle at Doddridge County  
**HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING**  
Ron Muack OVAC Tournament at WesBanco Arena, 8 a.m.

ON TV

**AUTO RACING**  
**8 p.m.: PEACOCK** — NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony  
**CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**7 p.m.: NHLN** — Saginaw at Ottawa  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
**5 p.m.:** CBSSN — Fairleigh Dickinson at Stonehill  
**6:30 p.m.:** FS1 — Georgetown at Xavier  
**7 p.m.:** CBSSN — Toledo at Cent. Michigan  
ESPN2 — Saint Louis at VCU  
ESPNU — Akron at Kent St.  
**8:30 p.m.:** FS1 — Indiana at Wisconsin  
**10:30 p.m.**  
FS1 — UNLV at Colorado St.  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
**8 p.m.:** PAC-12N — UCLA at Colorado  
**10 p.m.:** PAC-12N — Oregon at Stanford  
**COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S)**  
**6 p.m.:** SECN — Florida at Auburn  
**7:30 p.m.:** SECN — Arkansas at Alabama  
**9 p.m.:** SECN — Kentucky at LSU  
**COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)**  
**9 p.m.:** CBSSN — Miami (Ohio) at Colorado College  
**COLLEGE WRESTLING**  
**6 p.m.:** BTN — Penn St. at Michigan  
**8 p.m.:** BTN — Purdue at Iowa  
**FIELD HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)**  
**9 a.m.:** CBSSN — Olympic Qualifier: U.S. vs. Germany, Gold-Medal Match, Ranchi, India  
**GOLF**  
**1 p.m.:** GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament Of Champions, Second Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.  
**2 p.m.:** ESPN2 — Latin America Amateur Championship: Second Round, Santa Maria Golf Club, Panama City  
**4 p.m.:** GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, Second Round, Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.  
**7 p.m.:** GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Second Round, Hualalai GC, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii  
**2 a.m. (Saturday):** GOLF — DP World Tour: The Hero Dubai Desert Classic, Third Round, The Majlis Course, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**  
**9 p.m.:** NFLN — The Polynesian Bowl: Team Mauka vs. Team Makai, Honolulu  
**HORSE RACING**  
**2:30 p.m.:** FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races  
**NBA**  
**7:40 p.m.:** ESPN — Denver at Boston  
**10:30 p.m.:** ESPN — Brooklyn at LA Lakers  
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**  
**10 p.m.:** FS2 — Liga MX: Cruz Azul at Juárez  
**TENNIS**  
**3 a.m.:** ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia  
**11 a.m.:** ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)  
**9 p.m.:** ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia  
**3 a.m. (Saturday):** ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia

PRO TENNIS

**Australian Open Results**  
**Thursday**  
At Melbourne Park  
Melbourne, Australia  
Purse: AUD\$38,923,200  
**Surface: Hardcourt outdoor**  
**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AP) — Results**  
**Thursday from Australian Open of Melbourne Park** (seedings in parentheses):  
**Men's Singles**  
**Second Round**  
Alex Michelsen, United States, def. Jiri Lehecka (32), Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.  
Casper Ruud (11), Norway, def. Max Purcell, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7).  
Alexander Zverev (6), Germany, def. Lukas Klein, Slovakia, 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (7).  
Cameron Norrie (19), Britain, def. Giulio Zepieri, Italy, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.  
Tommy Paul (14), United States, def. Jack Draper, Britain, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.  
Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (23), Spain, 7-6 (7), 6-3, 6-3.  
Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, def. Jan-Lennard Struff (24), Germany, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (9).  
Carlos Alcaraz (2), Spain, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (3).  
Juncheng Shang, China, def. Sumit Nagal, India, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.  
Tallon Griekspoor (28), Netherlands, def. Arthur Fils, France, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4.  
Ugo Humbert (21), France, def. Zhang Zhizhen, China, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (3).  
Grigor Dimitrov (13), Bulgaria, def. Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.  
Arthur Cazaux, France, def. Holger Rune (8), Denmark, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.  
Felix Auger-Aliassime (27), Canada, def. Hugo Grenier, France, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.  
Hubert Hurkacz (9), Poland, def. Jakub Mensik, Czech Republic, 6-7 (9), 6-1, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.  
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 3-6, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-0.  
**Women's Singles**  
**Second Round**  
Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-1, 7-5.  
Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, def. McCartney Kessler, United States, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.  
Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, def. Danielle Collins, United States, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.  
Oceane Dodin, France, def. Martina Trevisan, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.  
Jasmine Paolini (26), Italy, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 6-2, 6-3.  
Clara Burel, France, def. Jessica Pegula (5), United States, 6-4, 6-2.  
Sloane Stephens, United States, def. Daria Kasatkina (14), Russia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.  
Zheng Qinwen (12), China, def. Katie Boulter, Britain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Elina Svitolina (19), Ukraine, def. Viktoriya Tomova, Bulgaria, 6-1, 6-3.  
Emma Navarro (27), United States, def. Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.  
Wang Yafan, China, def. Emma Raducanu, Britain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.  
Viktoria Golubic, Switzerland, def. Katerina Siniokova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.  
Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.  
Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Elena Rybakina (3), Kazakhstan, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (2).  
Jelena Ostapenko (11), Latvia, def. Aija Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4.  
Victoria Azarenka (18), Belarus, def. Clara Tausen, Denmark, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.  
**Men's Doubles**  
**First Round**  
John Millman and Edward Winter, Australia,

def. Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil, and Marcus Daniell, New Zealand, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 7-6 (12).  
Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Wesley Koolhof (14), Netherlands, def. Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia, France, 7-6 (4), 7-6, 6-3.  
Francisco Cabral, Portugal, and Henry Patten, Britain, def. Adam Walton and Tristan Schoolkate, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (4).  
Sebastian Ofner, Austria, and Alexandre Muller, France, def. Thiago Seyboth Wild, Brazil, and Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.  
Marton Fucsovics and Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, def. N. Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Anirudh Chandrasekar, India, 6-3, 6-4.  
Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (10), El Salvador, def. Hendrik Jebens and Constantin Frantzen, Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-3.  
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matthew Ebden (2), Australia, def. James Duckworth and Marc Polmans, Australia, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (2).  
Albano Olivetti, France, and Andre Goransson, Sweden, def. Andrew Harris and Blake Ellis, Australia, 6-1, 7-5.  
Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and John Peers, Australia, def. Luke Saville and Alex Bolt, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (4).  
Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Nikola Cacic, Serbia, def. Yoshihito Nishioka and Ben McLachlan, Japan, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.  
Yannick Hanfmann and Peyton Stearns, United States, def. Andre Danilina, Kazakhstan, and Viktoriya Hrucnukova, Slovakia, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4.  
Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, and Giuliana Olmos (10), Mexico, def. Asia Muhammad and Sofia Kenin, United States, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5.  
Makoto Ninomiya and Eri Hozumi (16), Japan, def. Sophie Chang and Alycia Parks, United States, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5).  
Desirae Krawczyk, United States, and Ena Shibahara (6), Japan, def. Irina Khromacheva, Russia, and Miriam Kolodziejova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-4.  
Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Luisa Stefani (9), Brazil, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, and Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-2, 7-5.  
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Elise Mertens (2), Belgium, def. Yanina Wickmayer and Greet Minnen, Belgium, 6-2, 6-1.  
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Erin Routliffe (4), New Zealand, def. Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, and Ashlyn Krueger, United States, 6-1, 7-5.  
Iryna Shymanovich, Belarus, and Elina Avanesyan, Russia, def. Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, and Danielle Collins, United States, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.  
Laura Siegemund, Germany, and Barbara Kreickova (5), Czech Republic, def. Petra Marlic, Croatia, and Katie Boulter, Britain, 6-2, 6-1.  
Elixane Lechemia, France, and Tamara Korpatsch, Germany, def. Clara Burel and Diane Parry, France, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

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COLLEGE SPORTS

The 3-point shot has added volatility, variety at the top of the AP Top 25 college basketball poll

Associated Press

North Carolina's Roy Williams and Gonzaga's Mark Few were a day from meeting for the 2017 national championship with teams relying heavily on imposing front lines. And the coaching buddies couldn't overlook one oddity.

"He said, 'You know, this is strange — it's the first time all year long that we've had to defend a team with two big guys, it's been go chase the 3-point shot,'" Williams recalled Few saying.

"I said, 'But Mark, look around. ... We're the only two left standing,'" Williams said.

It's a moment the now-retired Hall of Fame coach said the two have chuckled about since. It illustrates how much college basketball has changed since the arrival of the 3-point shot for the 1986-87 season. It has certainly been a factor in The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll as it turns 75 years old.

There have been more upsets and more turnover at the top as the shot became a rankings-altering fixture.

"It's the equalizer," said Williams, who won three NCAA titles at UNC before stepping aside in 2021. "In the old days, three or four teams would rotate 1-2-3 in the country, and those were the most talented teams, and a lot of years those were the teams that had the best big men or best people the attacked the rim."

It's certainly made things more interesting, and volatile considering how the shot itself has made even the best of teams vulnerable to a hot-shooting upstart.

In the poll's first 38 seasons before the 3-point shot,

TOMLIN

FROM PAGE B-1

specifics on whether he will seek a multi-year deal from team president Art Rooney II, but also isn't concerned about the length (or lack thereof) of a new contract being any sort of sticking point.

"I imagine it is going to get done in a timely manner at the appropriate time," Tomlin said. "But my mind-set is to coach this football team, certainly."

Tomlin's presence may be one of the few constants during an offseason for a team that has plenty of questions to answer in the coming months.

The biggest one is at quarterback, where Kenny Pickett sputtered as much as he shined during an uneven first full season as the starter. Pickett threw just six touchdowns in 12 games before needing surgery to repair his right ankle in early December. The 2022 first-round pick recovered but spent the final weeks watching former third-stringer Mason



AP file photo

Northwestern forward Luke Hunger celebrates after making 3-point basket against Purdue during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Evanston, Ill., Dec. 1, 2023. Northwestern won 92-88 in overtime.

there were an average of 2.61 teams to hold the No. 1 ranking each year. That average has increased to 3.95 in the 37 seasons that followed with the 3.

Before the 3, there were 10 seasons in which one team went wire-to-wire at the top all season. There have been only four since, most recently Few's Zags in 2020-21.

There were only three seasons with at least five different teams holding the No. 1 ranking before the 3-pointer. In the years since, that number has swelled to 16.

And it's been easy to see that impact so far in this season's upsets. Look no further than current No. 2 Purdue, led by 7-foot-4 Zach Edey as the returning AP national player of the year, seeing Northwestern and Nebraska shoot a combined 24 of 43 (56%) from behind

Rudolph lead a late push that propelled the Steelers into the playoffs.

Tomlin remains "extremely confident in Pickett" and praised the intangibles Pickett brings to the table. Still, entering his third season, Pickett needs to start providing tangible evidence of progress too.

"We acknowledge that it is a huge year for him," Tomlin said, drawing out "huge" as he spoke. "But I'm also excited about just watching him wear that component of it, because I just I know how he's wired and built. I'm excited about watching him attack it."

Rudolph went 3-1 as a starter while passing for five touchdowns against just one interception. He is also scheduled to become a free agent in March, though Tomlin indicated the team is interested in bringing Rudolph back to compete with Pickett next summer.

"We're less speculative about (Rudolph's) capabilities because there is evidence of it and evidence of it under (tough) circum-

stances," Tomlin said. when the Boilermakers were ranked No. 1.

ACC Network analyst Luke Hancock, the most outstanding player of the 2013 Final Four in Louisville's later-vacated title run, said the 3 has long offered smaller teams a way to compete by offsetting a size or talent disadvantage.

"It's spacing, it's creating driving lanes," Hancock said. "Everybody's talking about paint touches and then kicking to open shooters. ... It's how you have to counter if you're not as big and athletic as Zach Edey or (Kentucky's) Oscar Tshiebewe."

Everyone is chasing it in recruiting, too.

"Man, it's the most important thing," Duke associate head coach Chris Carrawell said. "In today's game, you have to

and dynamic," Tomlin said.

"Obviously, we got to score more points. I want to be able to keep defenses off balance. I want to utilize all the talent that we have at our disposal."

Tomlin's goal remains to help the Steelers figure out a way to win another championship, an emotionally and physically draining task he believes he's still up for nearly two decades after Pittsburgh plucked him out of relative obscurity and handed him the keys to one of the NFL's marquee franchises.

There have been a few downs through the years, but not as many ups as he'd like. And the older he gets, the deeper the disappointment when the season doesn't end under a blizzard of confetti at the Super Bowl.

"Sometimes I don't want to move past (the disappointment)," he said. "Sometimes I just want to be here for a minute, in an effort to improve. And so that's probably where I'm at, honestly, as I stand here today."



William Wotring/The Dominion Post

West Virginia Mountaineers forward Patrick Suemnick (24) protects the ball from Kansas State Wildcats forward David N'Guessan (1) on Tuesday.

one is scoring as much as Kansas. WVU is averaging just 65.3 points.

West Virginia is the worst shooting team in the conference. Kansas is the

only team still shooting above 50% as a team.

If it takes the perfect game to beat the Jayhawks, do the Mountaineers have it in them?

be able to shoot the ball with range, and range is the 3-point line. It's hard to be a great player in today's game without having the ability to shoot the ball. It just is."

Williams long preferred a two-post lineup, partly to attack the glass and fuel transition chances but also to get to the line and put other teams in foul trouble. Yet he also embraced the 3 to further elevate some of his top teams.

The 2005 team that won Williams' first NCAA title ranked seventh nationally in 3-point percentage (.403) to aid Sean May inside. The 2009 title winner — which spent nine weeks at No. 1 in the AP Top 25 — ranked 20th (.387) in an offense built around Atlantic Coast Conference all-time leading scorer Tyler Hansbrough inside.



GOLF

Ayaka Furue gets off to a hot start in LPGA season opener with a 65 to lead by two shots



AP photo

Ayaka Furue hits a fairway shot on the 18th hole during the first round of the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions LPGA golf tournament Thursday.

Associated Press

Ayaka Furue of Japan did not see any signs of a fast start coming until she opened her 2024 LPGA season on Thursday with a red-hot performance.

Furue made seven birdies in a round 7-under 65, giving her a two-shot lead in the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions at Lake Nona.

Furue, 23, who captured the Ladies Scottish Open in 2022 for her first LPGA title, is making her second start at the LPGA's season opener for winners each of the last two years. She broke from a pack late in her round with birdies on the closing two holes at Lake Nona, the Tom Fazio design that hosted the first Solheim Cup in 1990.

An eight-time winner on the Japan LPGA and that circuit's 2021 Player of the Year, Furue was steady throughout to start her third LPGA season, finishing without a bogey on her card.

She finished two shots clear of Sweden's Maja Stark, who tied for second at this tournament last year; and Mexico's Gaby Lopez, a past champion of the TOC.

Lopez started off on the back nine and birdied six of her first eight holes. Her December was not spent practicing, but instead on a three-week honeymoon that took her around the globe, including experiences on safari in South Africa and up close to the pyramids of Egypt.

She had few expectations other than to start slowly, but when she stuffed a 7-iron close at her fourth hole, the par-3 13th, and converted the short putt, she was 4 under through four holes. That, she said, shook out all the "spider-webs."

Californian Danielle Kang, another past champion of the event, opened with 68, as did Ally Ewing, a three-time winner on the LPGA who is seeking her first victory since 2022.

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TENNIS

Blinkova upsets 2023 finalist Rybakina in a wild, record-long tiebreaker at the Australian Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Her hand and her legs were shaking, she'd missed nine match points but also saved six, and Anna Blinkova was 41 points into a wild tiebreaker that was the longest ever in a women's Grand Slam event.

Elena Rybakina, last year's Australian Open runner-up, was just as anxious on the other side of the net.

When Blinkova lunged to retrieve a backhand, aiming just to keep the rally alive, and Rybakina's next backhand sailed wide, it finished off a 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (20) second-round victory Thursday that she'll never, ever forget.

"It took me courage," she said. "It took me some certain calmness to stay in the present moment and to play point by point no matter what happens."

Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion who was runner-up here last year to Aryna Sabalenka, saved two match points in a third set that contained six service breaks.

Blinkova twice served for the match but couldn't finish off, and a double-fault in the 12th game sent it to a 10-point tiebreaker. Once there, 13 minutes after her first match points, Blinkova had two more points at 9-7 but again Rybakina saved them, and so it went on.

Blinkova, smiling, later described it as the "endless tiebreaker." It went on for 32 minutes until Rybakina's backhand error ended it.

In terms of points — 42 — it was the longest tiebreaker ever in a women's major.

"It was super tough. I had so many match points," said Blinkova, who is ranked 57th and had 13 first-round exits in her



AP photo

Anna Blinkova, left, of Russia is congratulated by Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan following their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, Thursday.

previous 20 majors. "I tried to be aggressive but my hand was shaking. And my legs, too!"

"I tried to be calm, as much as I could."

It was one that Rybakina will dwell on, too. She knew she wasted chances.

But "I'm really proud that I could fight till the end," Rybakina said. "I mean, you can't always play perfect. And of course I could have lost it even earlier."

It was a long, tough night for the tournament's No. 3 seeds on Melbourne Park's main court.

Daniil Medvedev had to rally from two sets down to beat Emil Ruusuvuori 3-6, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-0 in a 4-hour, 23-minute match that ended at 3:39 a.m. local time.

Day 5 started with top-ranked Iga Swiatek had a narrow escape when she rallied from 4-1 down in the third set to beat 2022 runner-up Danielle Collins 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Swiatek was down two service breaks in the deciding set before she went on a five-game winning roll to finish off a match that featured wild momentum shifts and a 25-minute rain delay in 3 hours, 14 minutes.

"You can actually relax a little bit more because you know that, 'OK, probably I'm going to lose, so I don't care anymore,'" Swiatek said. "Then it's easier."

In her on-court interview, she joked: "Honestly, I was on the airport already."

"But I wanted to fight to the end, she said. 'I'm really proud of myself.'"

Collins announced soon after that 2024 would be her last season on tour.

"Yeah, I lost 6-4 in the third to one of the best players in the world," Collins said. "And she played some great tennis. (I) left it all on the court."

Swiatek, a four-time major winner, next faces No. 50-ranked Linda Noskova, who beat U.S. qualifier McCartney Kessler 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

Fifth-ranked Jessica Pegula's run of three consecutive quarterfinals in Australia was ended in a 6-4, 6-2 loss to Clara Burel. Her fellow American, 2017 U.S. Open winner Sloane Stephens, took out No. 14 seed Daria Kasatkina 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 and advanced along with No. 11 Jelena Ostapenko, No. 12 Zheng Qinwen, No. 19

Elina Svitolina and No. 27 Emma Navarro.

The 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu's comeback major ended in a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 loss to Wang Yafan.

Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz dropped a set for the first time in the tournament before recovering to beat Lorenzo Sonego 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (3).

With a strong breeze to contend with, Alcaraz was tested by Lorenzo Sonego before coming through in four sets and will next face 18-year-old Chinese wildcard entry Shang Juncheng, who ousted India's Sumit Nagal 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

It'll be the first time on tour Alcaraz has faced a younger player.

"He beat some big guys," Alcaraz said of Shang's run to the semi-finals in Hong Kong earlier this month. "So I know he has the level. He's already there."

Arthur Cazaux upset No. 8 Holger Rune 7-6 (4), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 but No. 13 Grigor Dimitrov, No. 14 Tommy Paul, No. 19 Cameron Norrie, No. 21 Ugo Humbert and No. 27 Felix Auger-Aliassime all advanced.

Two earlier matches went the distance before being decided in 10-point tiebreakers: Olympic champion Alexander Zverev fended off Lukas Klein 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (7) in 4 1/2 hours and No. 11 Casper Ruud edged Max Purcell 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7).

"He played incredible. He was hitting every single ball as hard as he could from both sides," Zverev said of Klein, a No. 163-ranked qualifier from Slovakia. "I didn't really know what to do most of the times. To be honest, he probably deserved to win the match more than me today."

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AUTO RACING

# Johnson and Knaus fittingly head into NASCAR Hall of Fame together following record-smashing careers

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — There were many times following Jimmie Johnson’s 83 career NASCAR wins when, trophy in hand and post-race obligations complete, his pending celebration would be instantly soured by the man who guided him to victory lane. Chad Knaus wanted to extract the most out of Johnson all the time, and even after a win, the crew chief could still find areas of improvement. “There were many times when we were in the media center, collecting the trophy, and we leave there and as soon as the door was shut, Chad is like ‘Hey man, that second stint? What happened on that restart? What about this? We gotta tighten it up!’” Johnson told The Associated Press. “And I’d be like ‘Give me until tomorrow, OK? We’re leaving with the trophy. Tomorrow you can give me (crap), right now? Don’t.’” The push and pull between driver and crew chief worked for a record-tying seven Cup championships including an unprecedented five consecutive titles. Johnson drove the Knaus-built No. 48 Chevrolet to two Daytona 500 victories, four wins at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, six at Johnson’s home track in California, seven at Texas, eight at Charlotte, nine at Martinsville and 11 at Dover. They were an unstoppable duo and will fittingly be inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame together on Friday night.

Both are first ballot inductees and will be celebrated with Donnie Allison, an original member of the “Alabama Gang,” who is joining his brother, Bobby, in the Hall. Allison, winner of 10 career Cup races, was voted in on the Pioneer ballot. Janet Guthrie, the first woman to race in both the Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500, is being inducted as the Landmark Award winner for contributions to NASCAR. Allison and Knaus last October spent time at Charlotte Motor Speedway reminiscing about their careers. Knaus is now the vice president of competition for Hendrick Motorsports, where he and Johnson teamed for 81 of Johnson’s 83 victories; Knaus was suspended for two of Johnson’s wins, including a Daytona 500 victory. Although Knaus has mellowed in his new role — married with two young children — he denied himself much of a personal life at the height of the 48 team’s success. One of the memories he shared sitting alongside Allison was a 2009 weekend of total domination by Johnson at Charlotte. “One of the things that we always strove for was to be fastest in all the practice sessions, fastest in qualifying, and then to go win the race. That would be a perfect weekend,” Knaus said. “And we did it. I kept all those time sheets from that weekend, which was really cool. Just had the No. 48 on top of every



AP file photo

Chandra Johnson takes photos of her husband, Jimmie Johnson, center, and his crew chief, Chad Knaus, after Jimmie won his sixth NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship in Homestead, Fla., Nov. 17, 2013. single NASCAR print off sheet, which was really special.” That’s how Knaus was wired and it worked with Johnson, a laid-back Californian from a blue-collar family who scrapped his way to North Carolina and eventually a seat driving for Rick Hendrick in the Cup Series. Johnson landed the job by sitting down next to Jeff Gordon at a driver meeting and selling himself to the four-time champion, who convinced Hendrick to hire Johnson ahead of the 2002 season. Hendrick paired him with Knaus, an original member of Gordon’s “Rainbow Warrior” pit crew who had left the organization to pursue a crew chief job. When he returned, Hendrick tasked him with building a team around Johnson. Knaus badly wanted to win and got Johnson to his first victory lane in their 13th race together. “I know for sure there is no one who brought more out of me than Chad. The accountability. How he would push me. Of course we butted heads at times, but he believed in me and knew how to bring the best out of me,” Johnson said. “When I was close to getting something right and a lot of scenarios I was in, I’d be like, ‘OK, that works.’ And Chad would say ‘No. You can do better. I can see it. We’ve got to be perfect everywhere.’” “He spent a lot of time making sure you could go from good to great, and I think a lot of other experiences I had, I felt that good works and I could move on,” Johnson said. “Chad was really good at finding those final percentage points in all areas.” The relationship was sometimes strained and Hendrick once sat them

down over a plate of cookies and milk, scolding them for behaving like children while threatening to split the duo. It wasn’t until 2019, after their first winless season together, that Hendrick made a change. Johnson worked with two more crew chiefs in his final two seasons of full-time NASCAR competition and semi-retired at the end of 2020 after three winless seasons. Johnson then tried IndyCar for two years and even lived out his childhood dream in racing in the Indianapolis 500. He’s now the co-owner of Legacy Motor Club, where he joined his drivers last year in three NASCAR races while also starring in the Knaus-led “Garage 56” project that took a Cup car to the 24 Hours of Le Mans. This week, Johnson announced he’ll race in the season-opening Daytona 500, as well as the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis and the season-finale at Phoenix. He anticipates running about nine races for Legacy, but has left June open on his calendar in hopes of a return to Le Mans. Johnson, his wife and two daughters are currently living in London and fulfilling a longtime desire to give their children the experience of living abroad. The move came at a critical time for the family as they relocated shortly after Johnson’s in-laws and nephew died in a double murder-suicide just weeks after his celebratory time at Le Mans. The change of scenery

has been cathartic for the entire family, and they spend a good deal of time with racers Dario Franchitti and Scott Dixon when all are in England. “We’re as good as we can be. The holidays were tough and it’s just an ongoing process of getting stronger. Good days, bad days, good weeks, bad weeks. Just still deeply grieving,” Johnson said. His family was not with him when he was announced as a Hall of Fame inductee in August, and Johnson didn’t indicate if they would be at Friday night’s ceremony. He spent the last few weeks reflecting on his career and the people who helped him tie Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt with seven Cup titles. His 83 career wins are tied with Hall of Famer Cale Yarborough for sixth all-time. Johnson said he doesn’t have the words to express his gratitude toward Hendrick, who gave him his big shot in NASCAR, and how fitting it is that he and Knaus will be inducted in the same class. “We did this all together, so I am so happy we get to go in together,” Johnson said. “I think for he and I, it’s really special. Maybe others think we should have been staggered. But for us and our Hendrick family, we get a chance to celebrate and have closure to my experience within the Hendrick family. We really see this as a very special opportunity.”

MLB

## Right-hander Jordan Hicks and San Francisco Giants finalize \$44 million, 4-year contract

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Right-hander Jordan Hicks and the San Francisco Giants finalized a \$44 million, four-year contract on Thursday, a deal that includes performance bonuses for innings that could increase the total to \$52 million. The 27-year-old, who is slotted for a rotation spot, gets a \$2 million signing bonus, a \$6 million salary this year and \$12 million in

each of the following three seasons. He would earn \$83,333 each for 100, 110, 120, and 130 innings, \$166,667 apiece for 140, 150, 160 and 170, \$333,333 each for 180 and 190, and \$333,334 for 200. As part of the agreement, Hicks will donate \$220,000 to the Giants Community Fund: \$40,000 this year and \$60,000 in each of the following three years. Hicks averaged 100.3 mph with his four-seam

fastball last season, according to MLB Statcast. He has spent most of his time in the bullpen during five major league seasons, saving 32 games in 44 chances. He was 0-4 with a 5.47 ERA in eight starts for St. Louis in 2022. Hicks was 3-9 with a 3.29 ERA and 12 saves in 15 chances over 65 outings spanning 65 2/3 innings last year with St. Louis and Toronto. San Francisco has

missed the playoffs the past two seasons after winning a franchise-record 107 games and the NL West in 2021. Hicks spent his first 4 1/2 big league seasons with the Cardinals, then was traded to the Blue Jays last July 30. He has a 3.85 career ERA. A roster spot opened for San Francisco when right-hander Devin Sweet was been claimed off waivers by Detroit.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Miami TE Cam McCormick says he’s coming back for 9th year of college

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Miami tight end Cam McCormick said Thursday that he is coming back for a ninth season of college football. He is believed to be the first with a ninth season granted by the NCAA. McCormick’s career was derailed multiple times by season-ending injuries, some of which earned him a medical redshirt from the NCAA, and all players who participated in college athletics in 2020 got another

year of eligibility because of the pandemic. McCormick spent the first seven of his college seasons at Oregon, transferred to Miami for the 2023 season and will keep playing in 2024. East Tennessee State said former linebacker Jared Folks was the NCAA’s first eighth-year player when he played for the Bucs in 2021. There have been multiple athletes with seven years of college eligibility, including Isis Young — a women’s basketball player who appeared for Florida, Fordham, Syracuse and Siena over her seven seasons and decided against getting an eighth year. But McCormick — who has undergone at least six surgeries because of football injuries — seems to be the first with nine, and certainly the first at the major college football level. He missed most of his senior season of high school in 2015 because of an injury, then redshirted after enrolling at Oregon in 2016 and appeared in all 13 of Oregon’s games in 2017. Over the next four years, he played in exactly three games. McCormick played in one game before a season-ending injury in 2018, missed all of the 2019 season with injury, missed the 2020 season because of injury and the pandemic, and then played in two games in 2021 before another season-ending injury. But he made it through the 2022 season at Oregon, the 2023 season at Miami and now will try for one more year. He has played for five different head coaches and caught passes from six different quarterbacks in college; the first one he caught a pass from was Justin Herbert, who has already been in the NFL for four seasons.



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INDICTMENT

Nevada Supreme Court panel won't reconsider 'Dances With Wolves' actor Nathan Chasing Horse case

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A panel of Nevada Supreme Court justices won't reconsider former "Dances With Wolves" actor Nathan Chasing Horse's request to dismiss a sprawling indictment that accuses him of leading a cult, taking underage wives and sexually abusing Indigenous women and girls.

"Rehearing denied," two of three justices who heard

oral arguments last November said in a terse order dated Tuesday. Justice Douglas Herndon dissented. Chasing Horse still can seek a hearing before the full seven-member court.

The state high court decision means prosecutors in Las Vegas can proceed with their 18-count criminal case after months of Chasing Horse legal challenges. The 47-year-old has been in custody since his arrest in January 2023 near

the North Las Vegas home he is said to have shared with five wives.

Chasing Horse has pleaded not guilty to charges including sexual assault of a minor, kidnapping and child abuse. A hearing is scheduled next Wednesday in Clark County District Court.

His lawyers argued the case should be dismissed because, the former actor said, the sexual encounters were consensual. One of his

accusers was younger than 16, the age of consent in Nevada, when the alleged abuse began, authorities said.

Kristy Holston, a deputy public defender representing Chasing Horse, also argued the indictment was an overreach by the Clark County district attorney's office and that some evidence presented to the grand jury, including a definition of grooming, had tainted the state's case.

Holston declined Thursday to comment about the state Supreme Court decision.

Chasing Horse is known for his portrayal of Smiles a Lot in the 1990 film "Dances with Wolves."

Law enforcement authorities say in the decades since starring in the Oscar-winning movie, Chasing Horse became a self-proclaimed medicine man among tribes and traveled around North America

to perform healing ceremonies. They say he used his position to gain access to vulnerable girls and women starting in the early 2000s.

The abuse allegations cross multiple U.S. states, including Nevada, where he was living when he was arrested, as well as Montana and South Dakota, according to the indictment.

One of the victims identified in the Nevada case was 14 when Chasing Horse told her the spirits of their ancestors had instructed him to have sex with her, according to court documents and prosecutors.

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I <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	60
C <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	65
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DISTRICT GRANT MAP 17 PARCEL 0078 0002 0000

You will take notice that PAUL D & F LAURA HIMES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000120, located in GRANT District, .89 AC SUR & R/W which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LOUGHRY ERICA MARIE SHISLER & STEVE, 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. PAUL D & F LAURA HIMES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 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 - 32516.	\$795.79
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 2022-39515.	\$655.50
Additional taxes with interest.	\$0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$212.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$1,234.07
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$2,898.31

You may redeem at any time before June 30, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand January 12, 2024

/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

CRIME

Police in Brazil arrest a suspect in the brutal slaying of a Manhattan art dealer

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — A suspect was arrested in the brutal killing in Brazil of an American art dealer who was the co-owner of a prominent gallery in Manhattan, police said Thursday.

Brent Sikkema, 75, was found dead on Monday with 18 stab wounds in his Rio de Janeiro apartment.

Rio state police arrested a man who they identified as Alejandro Triana Trevez near the city of Uberaba, in the neighboring state of Minas Gerais. The man, who local media say is Cuban, was on the run and was found resting in a gas station.

Police said that Trevez allegedly took \$3,000 from Sikkema’s home. Detective Felipe Curi, who leads the state police homicide unit,

told CBN Rio that the main line of investigation is theft leading to homicide.

“Initial findings of our investigation indicate that Alejandro (Trevez) came from Sao Paulo specifically to commit this crime,” Curi said. He then returned to Sao Paulo, leading investigators to believe he had “some kind of privileged information.”

Law enforcement obtained a 30-day prison warrant against Trevez, which Curi said would allow them to explore other leads and answer questions such as whether the two men knew each other.

Originally founded in 1991, Sikkema Jenkins & Co. shows works by Jeffrey Gibson, Arturo Herrera, Sheila Hicks, Vik Muniz, Kara Walker and other artists on 22nd Street in New York near the Chelsea Piers.

Sikkema began his career in 1971 at the Visual Studios Workshop in Rochester, New York, where he worked as director of exhibitions. He

opened his first gallery in 1976 in Boston.

In 2021, during a trip to the Swiss city of Zurich, Sikkema described himself on Instagram as a “chaos kind of guy” and said Brazil and Cuba were his preferred type of destination.

Brazilian artist Vik Muniz, whose work has been showcased in Sikkema’s gallery, paid tribute to his friend’s great “humanity.”

“I have spent more than thirty years of my life trying to pointlessly emulate his juggling of fearlessness, kindness and sophistication,” Muniz wrote under a photo of his mother and Sikkema he posted this week on Instagram. “Brent coated his flaws with humor with the same grace he hid his immense talent behind humbleness.”

“I owe a lot of who I am as an artist to him, and with him, part of that seems to have disappeared forever,” Muniz wrote.

BRENT SIKKEMA, 75, WAS FOUND DEAD ON MONDAY WITH 18 STAB WOUNDS

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30149

JANUARY 12, 19, 26

2022-C-000284-MONONGALIA COUNTY-SPINSADDLE, LLC

To: SANAZ LLC, SANAZ LLC, SANAZ, LLC, MONT CHATEAU HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. C/O ROBERT BABIARZ, MONT CHATEAU HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. C/O PAUL CASSAK, MONT CHATEAU ESTATES, SANAZ LLC, SANAZ, LLC, SANAZ, LLC C/O MAJID JARAIEDI, SANAZ, LLC C/O JAVID JARAIEDI, SANAZ, LLC C/O HAMID JARAIEDI, SANAZ, LLC, 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 UNION MAP 19V PARCEL 0004 0000 0000

You will take notice that SPINSADDLE, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000284, located in UNION District, LOT 14 OR .3488 AC THE VIEWS AT CHEAT LAKE which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of SANAZ LLC, 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. SPINSADDLE, LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 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 - 65208.	\$497.60
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 2022-72648.	\$786.77
Additional taxes with interest.	\$0.00
Auditor’s Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$190.32
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$1,066.02
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$2,540.71

You may redeem at any time before June 30, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand January 8, 2024

/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

30145

JANUARY 12, 19

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

**CAITLIN ELIZABETH BENCIC,**  
Plaintiff,

VS. Civil Action: **24-D-7**

**WILLIAM CALVIN JAMES BENCIC,**  
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 **WILLIAM CALVIN JAMES BENCIC** has been unable to be located by **CAITLIN ELIZABETH BENCIC** and that she has used due diligence to determine the address. Therefore, **WILLIAM CALVIN JAMES BENCIC** shall serve upon **CAITLIN ELIZABETH BENCIC, plaintiff, 59 Craig Run Road, Rivesville, WV 26588**, an answer, including any related counterclaim or defense he may have to the Petition filed in this action on or before **February 9th, 2024**. 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: **January 10th, 2024.**

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

THE ADS YOU CAN'T SKIP

Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center

Adopt-A-Pet

presented by The Dominion Post

These furry friends are awaiting their forever homes at the Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center on River Road in Morgantown.

for information about any of them, call: **304-291-7267**

5-Month-Old Female  
28 Pounds

George R. Seller, DVM  
Melinda Thomas-Dietrich, DVM  
Shannon L. Wilfong, DVM  
Jackie Jones, BVSc  
Meghan Villers, DVM  
Jessica DelGatto, DVM  
Rebecca Robinson, DVM  
Mon-Fri 8:00am-7:00pm; Sat 8:30am-2:00pm; Sun Closed  
5900 Nancy D. Drive • Westover, WV 304-296-7387  
After-Hours Emergency Care 304-363-2227

Please Spay/Neuter Your Pets!

Kelley J. Owen, DVM • Aaron T. Pollock, DVM  
Jessica P. Anderson, DVM • Molly Allen, DVM • Mikell Adair, DVM  
3083 Point Marion Rd., Morgantown, WV 26505  
ph 304.292.6933 fax 304.292.8009  
hillcrestveterinaryclinic.com

5-Month-Old Male  
46 Pounds

5-Month-Old Male  
43 Pounds

11-Month-Old Male  
57 Pounds

10-Week-Old Female  
6 Pounds

1-Year-Old Male  
9 Pounds

If you are unable to become a forever owner but would still like to see pets get adopted, please consider becoming a volunteer or making a donation.

For more information, please call the Classified Department at **(304) 291-9420** or email: [classads@dominionpost.com](mailto:classads@dominionpost.com)

Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-4:30pm | Tue & Thur: 10am-6:00pm

Fee for Adoption: \$125/Dogs \$85/Cats Cash Only

Includes: Spay/Neuter, One Combo Vaccine & One Dose of Wormer

There are no guarantees and no refunds.



# Social engagement can help with sleep

**DEAR DOCTORS:** I had been spending a lot of time alone, so I made a point of joining friends at a museum, going on a group hike and volunteering at a book sale. I had been struggling with poor sleep but on each of those nights I slept really well. Could socializing have made a difference?

Dear Reader: A growing body of research links having a robust social life with improved physical and mental health. It turns out that, as you have found in your own efforts to get out and about, it may help you sleep better, too. Where someone goes or what they do when they get there doesn't appear to matter. What counts are the many mental, physical and emotional tasks they wind up performing over the course of the outing. That includes the planning involved in conceiving and arranging the outing, getting dressed and otherwise preparing to leave the house, making the physical journey from home to the destination, and navigating the many rhythms and currents of the event itself.

It is interesting to note that novelty also appears to



DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER

play a role. A typical work-week, which often involves familiar actions repeated in the same place and under the same conditions, can be mentally and physically taxing. And yet high-quality sleep may still be elusive. But participating in something that is unfamiliar, unexpected or unpredictable appears to engage and even tire us out not only mentally but physically, as well.

A number of studies have looked into the potential link between social engagement and improved sleep. One followed 3,200 adults over the age of 60. Those who frequently participated in group hobbies, community-based organizations and team sports were found to have a better quality of sleep than those who did not.

## Friday, Jan. 19, 2024

A positive change is heading in your direction. Trust your instincts and make moves that will position you to achieve something meaningful. You can secure your domestic and personal situations if you follow your plans. Don't let anyone get in your way; take the plunge and do things your way.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Follow your instincts. Make domestic changes that add to your comfort and decrease stress. Stay on top of institutional matters.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Think before committing time, skills or money. Understand the implications and be aware of hidden costs.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Put your best foot forward and make your dream a reality. Don't let anyone deter you from reaching your goal.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone talk you into something that isn't feasible.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Set high standards. You can beat the odds and score big. The sky is the limit, so get moving.



EUGENIA LAST

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Take nothing for granted and share only what's necessary. Be a good listener.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Give a shout-out to someone you appreciate and respect. What you get in return will change how you move forward.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Spend time honing your skills or making plans with a loved one. Keep a budget in mind.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Take the lead and do what makes sense. Attend networking functions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — Don't give up when you need to give your all. Anger won't be the answer; use your brainpower.

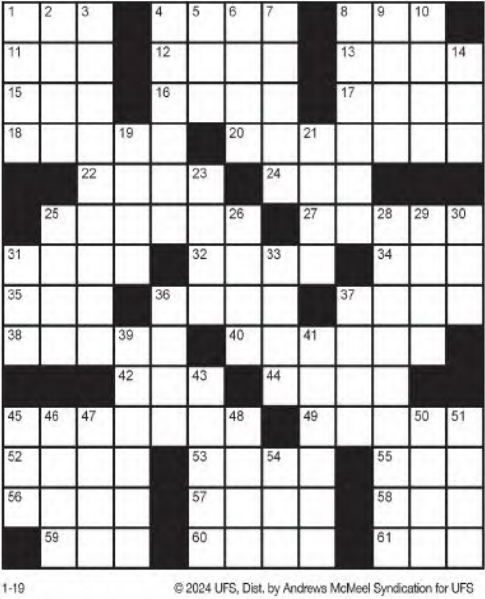
**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — If you don't like something, initiate a change. Research your options and put a plan in place.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Keep close tabs on your money. Someone will be happy to cause problems for you if you give them the chance.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chatter
  - 4 Tibetan priest
  - 8 "That's all — wrote"
  - 11 Cut gems
  - 12 "— — corny as Kansas ..."
  - 13 Fossil fuel
  - 15 Tell a tale
  - 16 — of the earth
  - 17 Stockings
  - 18 Improvise (2 wds.)
  - 20 Singer — Lynn
  - 22 Lens type
  - 24 Zodiac animal
  - 25 Flavoring plant
  - 27 Activist Chavez
  - 31 Keep — on
  - 32 Child's play
  - 34 AFL —
  - 35 Earthbound bird
- DOWN**
- 1 — monster
  - 2 Battery fluid
  - 3 The devil
  - 4 Portuguese capital
  - 5 Org. for doctors
  - 6 Shopping center
  - 7 John Jacob —
  - 8 Rind
  - 37 Lose color
  - 38 Ledger entry
  - 40 Sound stage item
  - 42 Holiday drink
  - 44 Pierce
  - 45 Be triumphant
  - 49 Open a bottle
  - 52 Racer in a fable
  - 53 Supremes singer
  - 54 Diana —
  - 55 Regret
  - 56 "Like — — not!"
  - 57 Faithful
  - 58 Raw material
  - 59 Defunct jet
  - 60 — apparent
  - 61 Tug of —

- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
- |         |         |      |
|---------|---------|------|
| MAC     | DUST    | SHAD |
| ASH     | IKEA    | PONE |
| ITA     | TEAM    | LATE |
| DOUGH   | ELIXIR  |      |
| FOE     | DEN     |      |
| OFFERED | ATALE   |      |
| LIES    | READ    | MIA  |
| GNU     | BEST    | APER |
| AERIE   | KETCHUP |      |
| GEM     | AMI     |      |
| EVENSO  | REBUS   |      |
| REDO    | RITZ    | IRE  |
| STIR    | ALVA    | AGA  |
| ESTE    | LEAN    | NET  |



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## CURTIS



## BY RAY BILLINGSLEY



## PEANUTS



## BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



## MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



"Yeah, well, this is Marmaduke's carrier."

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

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A	A	E	X	C	L	T
I	I	O	D	M	H	N
A	E	I	Y	L	N	R
A	E	L	T	T	H	C

PAR SCORE 150-160  
BEST SCORE 229

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

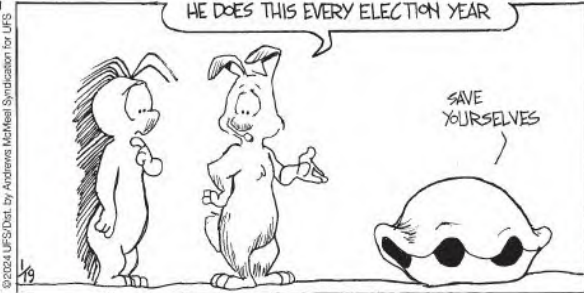
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Solutions — B-5

## THE GRIZZWELLS



## BY BILL SCHORR



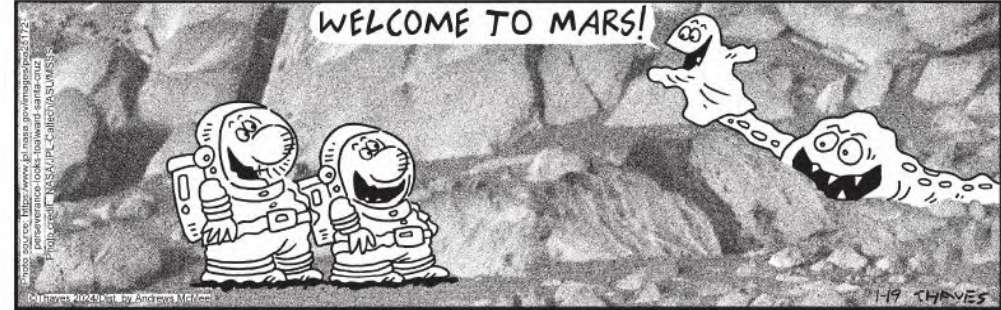
## BEETLE BAILEY



## BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



## FRANK & ERNEST



## BY BOB THAVES

## BORN LOSER



## BY ART & CHIP SANSON



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## BY DIK BROWNE

## GARFIELD



## BY JIM DAVIS

## FAMILY CIRCUS

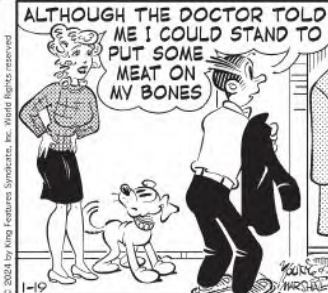
## BY BIL KEANE



## BLONDIE



## BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



## BY HILARY PRICE

## MUTTS



## BY PATRICK MCDONNELL





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Stk# L3035A 30,972 Miles  
Was \$18,875 **Now \$16,000**  
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**ESCAPE SE**  
Stk# 44045A 74,784 Miles  
Was \$20,475 **Now \$19,000**  
Save \$1,475



2016 Jeep  
**CHEROKEE LIMITED**  
Stk# 64028A 56,400 Miles  
Was \$21,700 **Now \$18,500**  
Save \$3,200



2016 Mazda  
**CX-5 GRAND TOURING**  
Stk# 24126A 61,169 Miles  
Was \$20,175 **Now \$19,000**  
Save \$1,175



2017 Honda  
**HR-V EX-L**  
Stk# 23536A 44,045 Miles  
Was \$23,075 **Now \$20,000**  
Save \$3,075



2020 Buick  
**ENVISION PREFERRED**  
Stk# 23474B 46,879 Miles  
Was \$24,825 **Now \$22,000**  
Save \$2,825



2019 Honda  
**CR-V EX-L**  
Stk# 23487A 71K Miles  
Was \$26,575 **Now \$19,900**  
Save \$6,675



2018 Jeep  
**WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT**  
Stk# 63166B 36,275 Miles  
Was \$32,875 **Now \$27,000**  
Save \$5,875



2019 VW  
**ATLAS SE**  
Stk# 63142A 33,108 Miles  
Was \$29,675 **Now \$28,000**  
Save \$1,675



2022 Nissan  
**ROGUE SL**  
Stk# 24138A 32,775 Miles  
Was \$32,600 **Now \$29,000**  
Save \$3,600



2020 Chrysler  
**PACIFICA HYBRID LIMITED**  
Stk# 24088A 45,123 Miles  
Was \$34,350 **Now \$31,500**  
Save \$2,850



2019 Chrysler  
**PACIFICA LIMITED**  
Stk# 63130A 26K Miles  
Was \$33,300 **Now \$31,000**  
Save \$2,300



2022 VW  
**ATLAS SE w/Tech**  
Stk# 23442B 22,500 Miles  
Was \$38,075 **Now \$33,500**  
Save \$4,575



2017 Chevy  
**SILVERADO 1500 LT**  
Stk# 44009B 36K Miles  
Was \$35,325 **Now \$31,500**  
Save \$3,825



2019 BMW  
**X4 XDrive 30i**  
Stk# 23529A 30K Miles  
Was \$37,650 **Now \$31,800**  
Save \$5,850



2021 Ford  
**EXPLORER ST**  
Stk# 64056A 46,334 Miles  
Was \$44,875 **Now \$39,000**  
Save \$4,275



2023 Tesla  
**MODEL Y LONG RANGE**  
Stk# 64070A 7,236 Miles  
Was \$48,350 **Now \$44,000**  
Save \$4,350



2023 Ford  
**F-150 XLT**  
Stk# 23283B 2K Miles  
Was \$62,150 **Now \$55,000**  
Save \$7,150



2023 Land Rover  
**RANGE ROVER SPORT SE**  
Stk# 63213A 25,479 Miles  
Was \$63,300 **Now \$61,000**  
Save \$2,300

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2023 EQE500X4  
Certified stock# 63100X | 2,587 Miles \$84,500



2023 EQS450V4  
Certified stock# 63124B | 6,685 Miles \$87,500