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## OBITUARIES

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## GOVERNMENT

# State GOP postpones meeting about closing primaries

**BY BRAD MCELHINNY**  
WVMetroNews.com

CHARLESTON — With the state pounded by snow, West Virginia GOP has postponed a meeting that could have included a vote on closing primary voting to party members only.

That would have meant voters registered as non-affiliated would not be able to ask for the Republican ballot in primary elections, including, possibly, the one this May.

"In view of the governor's setting a state of emergency for the entire state, it is unlikely that we will have a quorum present and it would be unfair to people most affected by the storm to proceed," stated Elgine McArdle, chairwoman of the West Virginia GOP.

The Republican Party's winter meeting would have been at 1 p.m. today in Charleston.

Now, party leaders are talking about rescheduling for the following weekend, with a meeting at 1 p.m. Jan. 27 in Charleston.

The potential move to close primary voting has been controversial, mostly because of the timing. Candidates have been busy filing to run for office, and questions have focused on whether independent voters could be informed adequately in the lead up to the May primary.

"It would require that the information be disseminated. It would require education to the individuals who are unaffiliated giving them reasons of why they should convert to Republicans," McArdle said earlier this week on MetroNews' "Talkline."

"There should be debate. There should be discussion and then make a decision. That can't happen in 90 days," she said. "Changing the rules in the middle of the game is probably not a good idea."

Figures with the Secretary of State's office show that through December, West Virginia had

**SEE GOP, A-2**

## MON COUNTY

# MPO votes to create seat for Morgantown Area Partnership

**BY BEN CONLEY**

BConley@DominionPost.com

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board voted Thursday to alter

its membership.

In a unanimous vote, the policy board approved an amendment to its bylaws adding the president of the Morgantown Area Partnership, or their appointee, as the body's 14th member.

The Partnership's representative — presumably current President and CEO Russ Rogerson — will initially serve a two-year term as non-voting member.

This will represent the only non-voting member of the body and the fourth unelected member.

"I think the idea is that this is a process that has some steps, and this is one step, a trial period. Then we can decide to keep it the same or change it," Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin

**SEE SEAT, A-2**

# Sliding fun at park



Ron Rittenhouse / The Dominion Post photos

Madeliene Caswell gets riders ready to tube down the newly opened tubing hill at Chestnut Ridge Park. Friday's snow came just in time for the first opportunity to try out the new facility.

## County tubing hill opens Friday

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Ten inches of snow and temperatures in the mid-20s didn't keep some tubers away from Chestnut Ridge Park & Campground Friday.

The park opened its tubing hill Friday morning and enthusiasts were there to take a run at it.

Monongalia County Director of Parks & Recreation J.R. Petsko had said the frigid temperatures and the park's ability to make snow have the slope ready for action.

Tickets for tubing sessions went on sale online Thursday and sales were brisk — most selling out by Friday morning.

Two sessions today and Sunday are available: from 10 a.m.-noon and from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for

\$10 at moncountyparks.com.

Each session is limited to 50 people and only Chestnut Ridge rental tubes are permitted.

Children must be at least 4 years old and 42 inches tall and must ride independently.

Park officials recommend checking online for reservations or calling (304-594-1773) ahead to see if space is available, and arriving 30 minutes prior to your selected session.



Who needs a hat? This tuber lets the wind blow through his hair as he sails down the tubing hill. He and others were ready for Friday's opening of the tubing hill at Monongalia County's Chestnut Ridge Park.

## EDUCATION

# Justice says he is flexible if bigger teacher pay raises are advanced by legislators

**BY BRAD MCELHINNY**  
WVMetroNews.com

Gov. Jim Justice indicated flexibility if lawmakers choose a pay raise for educators at a higher price tag than he's already advocated.

"There's plenty of wiggle room in mine," Justice said during an administration briefing.

"If we have dollars, these folks are hard-working. We need to attract more, whether it be our state employees, our teachers, our service personnel on and on and on."

Justice in his State of the State address called for average 5% pay raises for state employees at a cost to the state of \$123 million. Justice said the pay raise is meant to cover increased costs under the Public Employees Insurance Agency and more.

This week, the House Education Committee advanced bills that would go even farther.

House Bill 4202 raises salaries for school service personnel. It would provide a raise of \$670 a month for those workers.

House Bill 4767 would provide pay raises for teachers, saying the change is to "bring them into parity with salaries offered in surrounding states."

The bill for teachers' salaries raises the base pay, with starting pay at a bachelor's degree level at \$44,000, and then adjusts for each year of service.

Fiscal estimates suggest the teacher raise bill could total \$116 million. The total between the two bills is estimated to be \$210 million to \$220 million.

House Education Chair Joe Ellington acknowledged the price tag but said committee members have a priority of assuring West Virginia schools can fill positions with competitive pay.

"We have to be competitive with our surrounding states," he said. "That's one of the arguments we've had — that we're losing good people to other states."

**SEE FLEXIBLE, A-2**



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SYSTEMS

PSC staff approves of MUB purchase of Cheat View PSD

BY DAVID BEARD  
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The proposed consolidation of Cheat View Public Service District's waterworks system into Morgantown Utility Board's received the blessing of the Public Service Commission's staff, Utilities Division and legal team this week.

The three groups pooled brief memos of support into a group filing.

Legal staff wrote, "The consolidation ensures the customers continued maintenance of water facilities, and provides a mechanism to encourage and promote continued growth in the Cheat View area of Monongalia County. MUB is certainly qualified to provide the

expertise and knowledge to efficiently own, operate and maintain the District's potable water system, and Technical Staff believes it is in the best interest of the District's customers for MUB to consolidate the District's water system with MUB's waterworks system."

MUB and Cheat View filed for PSC approval of the merger on Dec. 11, shortly after receiving the approval of the Monongalia County Commission. Cheat View reached out to MUB after two of its long-time leaders, Glenn Staddon and Allen Colebank, died in 2023.

MUB serves about 27,800 customers throughout Mon County while Cheat View serves about 4,300 Cheat

Lake-area customers. As the staff memos noted, MUB already does the billing and collecting and meter reading for Cheat View PSD. It also provides the treated water that Cheat View re-sells to its customers.

The two utilities set the formal PSC process in motion in May, by jointly seeking an Operating and Maintenance Agreement, allowing MUB to assume all operations of Cheat View's system. The PSC approved the agreement on Oct. 20.

A November asset purchase agreement between the two utilities shows that MUB will buy all of Cheat View's assets. Cheat View has no outstanding bond-related debt.

WORLD

Biden, Netanyahu finally talk, but visions still clash for ending Israel-Hamas war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finally spoke Friday after a glaring, nearly four-week gap in direct communication during which fundamental differences have come into focus over a possible pathway to Palestinian statehood once the fighting in Gaza ends.

Biden and his top aides have all but smothered

Netanyahu with robust support, even in the face of global condemnation over the mounting civilian death toll and humanitarian suffering in Gaza as the Israelis have carried out military operations in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

But the leaders' relationship has increasingly shown signs of strain as Netanyahu has repeatedly rebuffed Biden's calls for Palestinian sovereignty,

gumming up what the U.S. president believes is the key to unlocking a durable peace in the Middle East — the oft-cited, elusive two-state solution.

Neither side shows signs of budging.

Friday's phone call came one day after Netanyahu said that he has told U.S. officials in plain terms that he will not support a Palestinian state as part of any post-war plan.

SEAT

FROM PAGE A-1

said.

Michael Kelly, representing the Monongalia County Board of Education, explained the purpose of the move when he floated the idea back in November.

"It all boils down to going to Charleston with one voice," he said. "They're so active in all the same things we are, and I think sometimes it winds up where they're going one direction and we're going another direction."

The Morgantown Area Partnership is a public/private entity formed in 2019.

The Monongalia County Development Authority, Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce, Morgantown Area

Economic Partnership, Main Street Morgantown and the Campus Neighborhoods Revitalization Corp. (formerly Sunnyside Up) all fall under its umbrella.

The organization is governed by a 34-member board made up of individuals from education, government, private sector and businesses, both large and small.

MPO Executive Director Bill Austin said The Partnership's transportation committee already serves as the MPO's policy advisory committee.

Along with the new addition, the policy board is made up of all three county commissioners (Jeff Arnett, Tom Bloom, Sean Sikora), three representatives from Morgantown City Council (Selin, Bill Kaweck, Joe Abughannam), and one rep-

resentative each from Westover (Bob Lucci), Star City (Steve Blinco), Granville (Patty Lewis), Blacksville (Joe Statler), the Monongalia County Board of Education (Kelly), Mountain Line (Maria Smith), WVU (Ron Justice) and the West Virginia Division of Highways (Brian Carr).

The board serves as the governing body for the MPO, the regional agency responsible for administering the comprehensive transportation planning process in Monongalia County.

In other news from Thursday's meeting, the policy board set its leadership for 2024.

Joe Statler was named chair with Maria Smith as vice chair and Patty Lewis reappointed as the body's treasurer.

REGULATIONS

FERC seeks answers from Lake Lynn Generation on allegations of poor Cheat park maintenance

BY DAVID BEARD  
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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has heard the allegations about Lake Lynn Generation's poor maintenance of Cheat Lake recreational sites and is seeking answers.

FERC wrote to Lake Lynn Generation on Wednesday, noting the allegations and providing a list of questions to be answered within 30 days.

"We received several allegations concerning the lack of oversight and maintenance associated with recreation facilities required ... of the project license and the approved recreation plan for the Lake Lynn Hydroelectric Project," FERC wrote.

"The information we received indicates that you are not adequately removing garbage and debris and appropriately maintaining facilities," FERC continued. "You have a continued obligation to maintain your project recreation facilities under your approved recreation management plan and under [federal code]."

As we've reported, FERC is reviewing Lake Lynn Generation's application to renew its Lake Lynn Hydroelectric Project license. As part of the application, Lake Lynn Generation/Eagle Creek Renewable Energy propose to

remove 307.1 acres surrounding Cheat Lake from federal protection. FERC held a public hearing in Morgantown on the case on Sept. 25.

They say they will make no changes to operations or facilities. Lake Lynn proposes to adjust the project boundary to include only lands necessary for operation and maintenance of the power station. They will not sell any land. The eight non-contiguous areas in the boundary proposal will allow them to adjust the project boundary to follow the contour line of the high reservoir elevation, 870 feet, and bring all parts of the boundary into the highest contour line.

But the proposal has generated significant skepticism and opposition from the public and various groups with an interest in the lake — who fear the land may in fact be sold off to developers. The letters of concern also include criticism of the company's maintenance of the public access areas.

In its letter, FERC reminds the company that it is responsible for providing 13 recreation sites — among them, Tailrace fishing area, Cheat Lake Park and Trail, Sunset Beach Marina boat launch; a picnic area, several viewing areas and parking lots.

FRC wants answers on

these topics:

A detailed statement regarding the frequency of trash and debris removal and mowing at each recreation site.

A detailed statement regarding the frequency of general ground maintenance at each recreation site.

An explanation for the out-of-service toilets, sinks, and water fountains at the Cheat Lake Park; and its plan and schedule for getting them back in service before the upcoming recreation season.

The storage and/or placement of sand over storm drains within various other areas of the recreation sites.

What has been done to address the rusty metal sticking up out of the ground at the playground at Cheat Lake Park.

When The Dominion Post visited Cheat Lake Park and reported on the complaints in November, we twice contacted Jody Smet, chief compliance officer and vice president of regulatory affairs for Lake Lynn Generation and Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, with a series of questions about the complaints, its stewardship and its plans to address the concerns. Smet did not respond to either contact.

COURTS

Russian prosecutors seek lengthy prison terms for suspects in cases linked to the war in Ukraine

Associated Press

A Russian court in Siberia on Friday sentenced a man to 19 years in prison for shooting a military enlistment officer, while prosecutors in St. Petersburg asked for a 28-year sentence for a woman charged in the

bombing of a cafe last April that killed a prominent military blogger, reports said.

Both cases underscore the tensions in the Russian society heightened by President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, with some of those opposing it turning to

violent acts.

In the Siberian city of Irkutsk, 26-year-old timber truck driver Ruslan Zinin was sentenced Friday to 19 years after opening fire in September 2022 at the military enlistment office in Ust-Ilimsk.

FLEXIBLE

FROM PAGE A-1

Particularly in the northeast it's hard to maintain people. People are going to travel to where they can get paid more."

He said the governor proposed a certain amount of spending for the coming

year, and it's up to the legislative branch to allocate according to its priorities.

"We do have a budget that the governor gave us that has a revenue estimate. How we decide to appropriate all those extra funds that he wanted to put into different things, that's up to the Legislature to

decide," Ellington said.

Justice said he is glad the Legislature is starting to consider the pay raise, whatever the format.

"We're going to check the math, and we're going to mind the store," he said, "but absolutely I'm all in."

GOP

FROM PAGE A-1

469,099 registered Republicans, 367,532 registered Democrats and 286,918 registered voters with no party affiliation.

Gov. Jim Justice, a two-term Republican who first won office as a Democrat, questioned the possible move to closed primaries when he was asked about the issue during an administration briefing this week. Justice is running for U.S. Senate.

"From my standpoint, it's late in the game," Justice said.

"Why give independents the opportunity to vote in the Democratic primary and not the opportunity to

vote in the Republican primary? We're just going to run independent voters over to the Democratic side. You know, we're going to take away votes to President Trump, where he could be showing a great big momentum swing here."

Justice continued, "The primary reason is it's just late, late, late in the game. It costs money. You know, too many things."

Preston County Clark Linda Huggins pushed back on the closed primary possibility during an appearance this week on "Talkline."

"When you are running an election and you have been preparing for this election for a year prior

then to at the last moment throw a wrench into the system it just causes room for more error," Huggins said.

She said clerks have had interactions with non-affiliated voters for years to allow selection of either Democratic or Republican ballots. A quick switch of format, she said, could catch voters off guard and put unnecessary stress on poll workers.

"We are the people that meet these voters face to face. Our poll workers see these voters face to face. It'll just cause a disservice to our citizens in West Virginia."

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Trump tightens his grip on the GOP nomination

As expected, Donald Trump earned an easy victory in the Iowa Republican caucus on Monday, breaking records in the process. The result moves him closer to recapturing the GOP presidential nomination, although he still has significant work ahead of him.

Trump took 51% of the vote, beating Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis by 30 points and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley by 32 points. His performance easily broke the previous record for margin of victory in Iowa during a contested caucus, set in 1988 when Bob Dole beat runner-up Pat Robertson by 13 points.

The bad news for Gov. DeSantis and Ms. Haley is that Trump more than doubled his support in Iowa from 2016, when his 24.3% showing was good for second behind Ted Cruz. “He continued to dominate among less well-educated and working-class voters,” the Financial Times reported. “But he also won in counties that were younger and richer, barely losing to Haley in Johnson County, home to the University of Iowa.”

The campaign now moves to New Hampshire and then South Carolina, Ms. Haley’s home state. Both Ms. Haley and Gov. DeSantis will no doubt point out that nearly half of Iowa’s GOP caucus participants preferred somebody other than the former president. True enough, but if they continue to split the anti-Trump vote, neither has a viable road to victory.

Time is indeed running out on both Gov. DeSantis and Ms. Haley. But it’s worth remembering that a non-incumbent winner of the Iowa GOP caucus hasn’t won the party’s presidential nomination since 2000. And don’t forget that Joe Biden was given up for dead after early primary defeats in 2020. Rapid change is a fixture of electoral politics.

Trump was uncharacteristically gracious in victory. He complimented his two main challengers as “great competition” and sounded a positive note.

“I feel really invigorated and strong for our country,” he told Fox News Digital. “We want to Make America Great Again — the greatest slogan ever — and the fact is, that’s what we did. ... We’re going to quickly do it all again. We are going to fix our border and we are going to do it and do it quickly.”

But speed bumps remain. As Iowa proves, Trump has a rabidly loyal base that will support him regardless of prosecutions and controversies. To win in November, however, he’ll need to attract moderate and independent swing-state voters, many of whom may have a different view of the massive baggage that trails him. Turnout Monday was down significantly from eight years ago. A result of Trump fatigue? Antipathy over a potential Trump-Biden rematch? Time will tell.

**THIS EDITORIAL** first appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. This commentary should be considered another point of view and not necessarily the opinion or editorial policy of The Dominion Post.

BUT IT’S WORTH REMEMBERING THAT A NON-INCUMBENT WINNER OF THE IOWA GOP CAUCUS HASN’T WON THE PARTY’S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION SINCE 2000.

Measles outbreak a vaccine wake-up call

**A CLUSTER OF MEASLES CASES IN THE NORTHEAST IS PUTTING A SPOTLIGHT ON HOW EASILY THE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE CAN SPREAD — AND HOW DANGEROUS ANY FURTHER SLIP IN CHILDHOOD VACCINATION RATES COULD BE.**

It takes only a handful of measles cases to make headlines. That’s because infants and toddlers not old enough to have been fully protected through vaccination are vulnerable to the virus. Kids don’t get their first shot until they are at least 12 months old and aren’t fully vaccinated until their second dose, given somewhere between ages 4 and 6.

But these days, clusters of cases like those sprinkled across Philadelphia, Wilmington, Del., and Camden County in New Jersey feel even scarier thanks to weakening support for routine childhood vaccinations. An increasing portion of the public seems to consider vaccination a choice rather than an obligation.

And of all the vaccines to skip, the routine combination shot for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) is a head-scratcher. Side effects from the shot are mild and similar to other immunizations — redness at the injection site, a fever or mild rash. Meanwhile, measles can spread like wildfire among the unvaccinated, and it hits people hard. Beyond the pain and discomfort of a high fever and body-wide rash, there’s a high risk of hospitalization: In an outbreak last winter in Ohio, 42% of the 85 measles patients ended up in the hospital. In other parts of the world, where vaccination is less readily available, measles killed some 136,000 people, primarily kids, in 2022.

The safe and inexpensive MMR shot acts kind of like a forcefield against other infections, too. In the last two decades, scientists have shown measles wreaks havoc on the immune system of an unvaccinated person, making the body “forget” how to fight off other pathogens by knocking down levels of antibodies against them.

This “immune amnesia” can render someone vulnerable for months or even years, and helps explain why some people infected

with measles die from a secondary infection — and why the world saw a puzzling drop in rates of deaths from a range of other conditions after measles vaccination became commonplace.

Given the value of the vaccine, it’s mindboggling that some in the U.S. would choose not to protect their children. And yet, vaccine rates among U.S. kindergartners fell for the second consecutive year in 2022, a situation the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said left some 250,000 kids vulnerable to measles. While some of those missed shots were potentially due to challenges accessing timely health care during the pandemic, there’s reason to worry that growing hesitancy about vaccination is also at play.

It does not help that some states are making it easier to forgo routine childhood vaccines. Mississippi, for example, previously led the nation in vaccination coverage for kindergartners, with more than 98.6% of kids receiving both doses of their MMR shots in the 2021-2022 school year. But anti-vaccine activists succeeded in loosening the state’s childhood vaccination policy, and last year families could for the first time seek religious exemptions for basic shots like MMR, tetanus, polio and others. According to a report from NBC, the state granted more than 2,200 exemptions in the first five months they were allowed.

The shift seemingly reflects a new partisan divide. A recent Pew Research Center poll found a steep drop in the number of Republicans and people who lean Republican who don’t believe vaccines should be required for attending public school.

This is part of a broader, worrisome trend when it comes to vaccination. Differences in opinion along party lines on the safety and benefits of the COVID vaccine have been stark.

That’s showing up in vaccination rates for kids. Fewer par-

ents are seeking out a flu vaccine for their kids this season — an issue not just because kids can get sick, but because vaccinating kids can help protect the elderly. By the end of 2023, just 43.9% of U.S. children had gotten the shot, down from 49.2% at the same time last year — and continuing a five-year downward trend from the 54.1% vaccinated against the flu in the 2019-20 season. Meanwhile, 13 children died from the flu in the first week of 2024.

In a recent editorial in JAMA, Food and Drug Administration officials asked whether the country had reached a tipping point when it comes to vaccination. How scary to be seriously pondering that question. The authors, Robert Califf, commissioner of the FDA, and Peter Marks, director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, suggest the “best way to counter the current large volume of vaccine misinformation is to dilute it with large amounts of truthful, accessible scientific evidence.”

In the current climate, that would seem easier said than done. Physicians, who are on the front lines of convincing parents of the benefits of childhood vaccines, would benefit from more training so they are better equipped to have hard talks with parents that push back on vaccines.

In the meantime, maybe everyone would benefit from a reminder of the sizable toll measles used to take on kids in the U.S. — and of the layers of benefits that follow vaccination.

**LISA JARVIS** is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMAIL submissions to [opinion@dominionpost.com](mailto: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.

There’s no emergency response plan for this government crisis

**HAS IT EVER STRUCK YOU AS ODD THAT CAVEMEN DIDN’T HAVE FIRE DEPARTMENTS? AFTER ALL, THEY DISCOVERED FIRE, RIGHT?** The absence of this emergency service, though, makes a whole lot of sense given that cave folks weren’t in danger of burning anything down.

The upshot is that we’re only capable of designing emergency plans for the scenarios we’ve encountered or, at least, can imagine happening with some likelihood. So we don’t have much of an excuse for failing to plan for worst-case scenarios once we’ve experienced that storm, disaster, calamity, etc.

Just as cavemen had no reason to organize fire departments; the Founders had no reason to plan for Congress failing to operate. In fact, the Founders were scared more of legislative tyranny than legislative lethargy.

Pardon the brief lesson in constitutional design, but I promise

it’s worth it.

In response to King George III’s manifold abuses, the Founding Fathers (understandably) became extremely opposed to excessive or unchecked power being held by the executive branch. That’s why states limited the powers available to their respective governors and why the Articles of Confederation (the predecessor to the Constitution) did not establish an executive branch. Welp. The Founders soon realized that their attempts to prevent one worst-case scenario (tyranny by a king) led to another (tyranny by legislatures).

Rather than sit on their hands, the Founders responded to yet another governance debacle by picking up a quill and drafting the Constitution. This time around they distributed power across three different branches — the legislative, the judicial and, yes,

the executive. Based on their experiences with ambitious officials attempting to exercise their powers to the fullest extent possible, Hamilton, Madison and the rest of the crew created a system of checks and balances. Under this system, each branch received specific powers as well as specific ways to rein in any egregious acts by the others. What the Founders did not anticipate was a branch coming to an absolute standstill, especially the legislative branch — the one they had come to fear most.

Fast forward 200-plus years and the cave is now on fire — Congress has come to a halt. Consider that the 118th Congress barely managed to pass 27 bills last year, which makes it one of the least productive in quite some time. And the future doesn’t seem to promise any legislative giddyup for at least two reasons: In

the short run, election years rarely lead to major legislative initiatives given a turn in congressional focus to securing votes at home rather than on the House floor; in the long run, the House seems destined to become more legislatively lethargic due to entrenched partisanship. According to political scientist Larry Sabato, “One growing trend in American politics is that fewer and fewer members of the U.S. House hold districts that the other party won for president.” In other words, red districts will stay red and blue will stay blue.

Something’s got to give. In this era of a politically paralyzed Congress, the other branches have exceeded their intended roles in order to fill a legislative lacuna — or at least that’s the common perception. Concerns about activist judges and a jump in executive orders have spread

on both sides of the aisle. The cumulative result is a system that’s operating in a mode the Founders didn’t anticipate; there’s no escape route for this scenario.

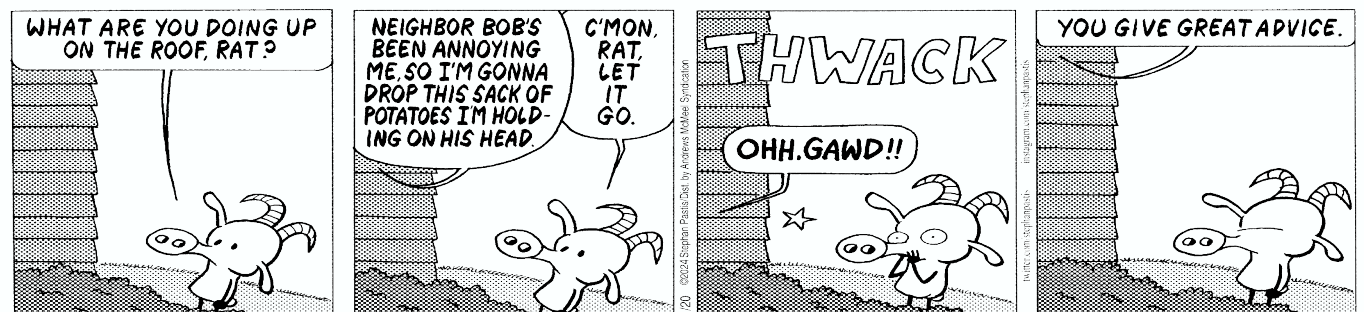
Rather than accept this fate, we need to exercise the same agency as our forefathers. Let’s restart conversations about term limits; let’s revive discussions about campaign finance reform; let’s explore means to increase the public’s ability to hold their respective members accountable for inaction. I’m not endorsing any of these approaches but I’m vehemently opposing the status quo.

We’ve been stuck in this emergency situation for too long. Thankfully, we’ve proven capable of planning for and putting out fires before. We can do it again.

**KEVIN FRAZIER** is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University. He previously clerked for the Montana Supreme Court.

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



NON SEQUITOR



BY WILEY

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MON COUNTY

# Mountain Line seeks renewal of transit levy

Rates would remain unchanged from original 16 passage

BY BEN CONLEY  
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The Mountain Line Transit Authority passed a resolution this week indicating its intent to seek renewal of the public transit excess levy during the May 14 primary election.

If renewed, rates for the levy would remain unchanged from its original passage in 2016 and 2020 renewal — 2.2 cents per \$100 assessed value on Class II

(residential) property and 4.4 cents per \$100 on Class III and IV (commercial).

It's anticipated the levy would provide Mountain Line \$2,223,973 annually for four years, beginning July 1, 2025 (\$8,895,892 total).

Of the annual allocation, \$500,000 will be earmarked for equipment purchases and just over \$1.7 million will support bus service.

Mountain Line General Manager Maria Smith said levy funding has allowed for a dramatic expansion in service equal to more than 41,000 hours annually. That number is in addition to the 56,744 hours of service being oper-

ated prior to passage of the levy in 2016.

"These hours have increased our frequencies and expanded our evening and weekend service. It has also provided service to new growth areas in our community such as WestRidge, Mylan Park, Fort Pierpont and Suncrest Towne Centre," Smith explained.

Levy dollars have also served as the local match to leverage more than \$6.1 million in federal funding for the purchase of 20 new vehicles.

"With the renewal of the levy, Mountain Line can continue to expand its service as the community grows, and can replace aging equipment past useful life,"

Smith said, later adding, "If the levy does not pass the transit system will need to reduce service levels back to what is financially feasible."

As a tip of the cap to the county's taxpayers, Mountain Line implemented a tax pass program in January 2020 through which county residents who pay property taxes are eligible for one or more bus passes, depending on the amount of taxes paid.

For example, a landlord may be eligible for multiple passes and make those passes available to tenants.

Between January and November 2023, more than 200 of the one-year passes were distributed and

just over 71,000 tax pass rides were provided.

Renewal of the transit levy will require a 60% supermajority on Election Day. In 2016, the original transit levy received 63% of the vote. The levy was renewed in 2020 with a 66.82% approval rate.

**"IF THE LEVY DOES NOT PASS THE TRANSIT SYSTEM WILL NEED TO REDUCE SERVICE LEVELS BACK TO WHAT IS FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE."**

Maria Smith  
Mountain Line General Manager

# UNIVERSITY ALERT



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post photos

WVU's downtown campus was quiet Friday as the university canceled in-person classes due to the weather.

## Morgantown Campus closed, classes canceled Friday

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Forecasters were right and snow started falling on the Morgantown area between 1-2 a.m. Friday.

Roads quickly became covered and slick in some areas.

This led West Virginia University to do something it rarely does: close the Morgantown Campus and cancel all in-person classes for the day.

The PRT and Visitors Centers were also closed and campus tours canceled.

WVUp All Night activities were anticipated to continue as planned.

The university was scheduled to resume operations at 12:01 a.m. today; however, officials will continue to closely monitor reports from the National Weather Service, as well as state, local and campus conditions.

Schools in Monongalia and Preston counties also closed Friday due



to weather and road conditions. All 55 counties were affected by the snow storm. Most — 45 — closed for the day, while 10 went to a non-traditional schedule.

AccuWeather's winter weather advisory is in affect until 10 a.m. today.

Forecasters say to expect a high of

19, with "low clouds, windy and frigid with a couple of flurries."

Sunday will be cold with sunshine and patchy clouds; a low of 9 degrees and high of 26.

It should warm up Monday (40 degrees) and even more Tuesday (47).

## LEGISLATURE

# Sampling of bills introduced Friday

BY DAVID BEARD  
DBeard@DominionPost.com

Here is a sampling of bills introduced Friday. Local sponsors and co-sponsors are noted.

■ HB 4922, to establish a cause of action upon violation of prohibition of providing gender reassignment or gender-altering medication to a minor.

■ HB 4923, to establish parental requirements regarding gender reassignment surgery or gender-altering medications for minor children.

■ HB 4933, to exclude dentures from the \$1,000 Medicaid dental cov-

erage cap. Delegate Amy Summers, R-Taylor, sponsor.

■ HB 4934, to make certain acts of panhandling and solicitation unlawful.

■ HB 4936, the Men's Equality Act, requiring 100% coverage under PEIA for voluntary male sterilization.

■ HB 4940, to prohibit squatting, and to clarify that squatters are not considered tenants.

■ HB 4945, the annual Hope Scholarship Program appropriation calculation will be based on the estimated number of participating students instead of the number of par-

ticipating students in the prior year; and clarifying that providers may not assess increased or additional fees against Hope Scholarship students based on participation in the program. Delegates Geno Chiarelli and Joe Statler, both R-Monongalia, co-sponsors.

■ HB 4946, to require that public schools teach the full Constitution of the United States, the Federalist Papers and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letters from Birmingham Jail.

## AWARD

# Mon Principal Rosetta Le receives MLK recognition

BY JIM BISSETT  
JBissett@DominionPost.com

A Monongalia County educator received state recognition on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Charleston for her work in the classroom and community.

Rosetta Le, who is principal of Suncrest Elementary School, was a recipient of the Governor's Living the Dream Award during an ecumenical service at the state capitol this past Monday, on the federal holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader.

Le was presented her award from the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission in the morning gathering at the Culture Center on the grounds of the state capitol complex.

"She is an esteemed leader," said Patricia Wilson, a commission member who is also the edu-



Rosetta Le

cation chair at West Virginia State University.

Wilson lauded her fellow educator for her work in getting Suncrest

Elementary established on the map with West Virginia Behavior/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center.

The center, which is housed at Marshall University in Huntington, gave the school Tier 1 status through its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports initiative (PBIS).

PBIS schools work to quell bullying, arguing and other forms of harassment that can carry over from the classroom to the teacher's lounge.

That's because every-

SEE PRINCIPAL, A-5

## STREAMING REVIEW

# 'Role Play' proves switching it up won't always work

**BLENDING GENRES IS ALWAYS TRICKY BUSINESS** and the results are often a bit of a mixed bag. Story formulas exist, and deviating from them can be disastrous or delightful. I am a hopeful movie watcher, so I am always interested to see how they turn out. Which is why I was excited to see Thomas Vincent's comedy/action movie "Role Play," currently streaming on Prime Video.

Emma (Kaley Cuoco) and Dave Brackett (David Oyelowo) are a couple with a blended family. When Emma forgets their anniversary, she and Dave decide that they need to spice things up. They get a nice hotel room and choose to do a little role-playing at the bar. But Dave doesn't realize that Emma has been role-playing their entire marriage — because her actual job is that of a trained assassin. When Bob Kellerman



ALISE CHAFFINS

(Bill Nighy) recognizes her and tries to collect the bounty on her head, Emma kills him, but in so doing exposes her and their entire family.

Unfortunately, this was one of those movies that did not work with the blending of styles. It managed to be both an unfunny comedy and a tedious action film. Instead of delivering laughs and thrills, I struggled to connect with the story in any meaningful way.

SEE REVIEW, A-5



OBITUARIES

Dora Everly

Dora Lee Everly, 82, of Kingwood, went to her eternal home on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at home surrounded by her family. She was born Jan. 28, 1941, in Kingwood, a daughter of the late Howard James and Goldie Elsie (Sisler) Moats.

Dora was a lifetime member of the Mill Chapel Church. She was a godly, loving and giving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt. She was devoted to her family throughout her life. She loved to camp and travel, and always had a smile on her face.

Dora is survived by her children, Pamela Dumire and husband, Richard; James Everly Jr. and wife, Katherine; Franklin Everly and Steven Everly Sr.; grandchildren, Scott Dumire and wife, Alissa; Jennifer Roth and husband, Josh; Todd Everly and wife, Elesá; Zach Everly, Stacey Everly, Kacey Everly and

fiancé, Krysten; April Grimm and husband Stephen, Steven Everly Jr. and Jordon Everly; great-grandchildren, Jameson Everly and Bishop Dumire; brother, Arthur Moats and wife, Rose; sister, Cora Wilson; and many nieces and nephews.

Dora is preceded in death by her loving husband of 64 years, James Ralph Everly Sr., on Nov. 28, 2021; three brothers, Dewey Moats, Donald Moats and Paul Moats; three sisters, Delores Fullmer, Opal Nelder and Shirley McKinley.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to all the angels from WV Caring Hospice for their care and compassion to Dora and her family during this time.

A graveside service will be held at the West Virginia National Cemetery, 42 Veterans Memorial Lane, Grafton, at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, with Pastor Marshall Woods officiating.

Condolences: fieldfuneralhome.com.

Field Funeral Home

Terry Cole

Terry Lynn Cole, 69 of Tunnelton, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at his son's residence with family by his side. He was born on June 9, 1954, in Philippi, son of Grover Franklin Cole of Tunnelton and the late, Nina Alice (Christopher) Cole.

Terry retired as a truck driver for Greer Limestone with 44 years and one day of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, NASCAR and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Terry is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda Gaye (Sisler) Cole; one son, Jerry Lynn Cole and fiancée, Kathy Fowler; Grafton; one grandson, Tyler Austin Cole; two brothers, Willard Edward Cole and Ruby, Ebby Road, Larry Allen Cole, Morgantown; four sisters, Judy Haskiell and Joe, Kingwood, Connie Sue

Morris and Don, Newburg, Alice Hunt and Ron, Grafton, Kathy Harrison and Ronnie, Kingwood; his in-laws, the loving Sisler family of Newburg; special friends, Angela Cole, Marvin and Cathy Kensley; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his mother, Terry is preceded in death by two brothers, Franklin Cole and Ricky Cole; father-in-law, William H and Geraldine Sisler; sister-in-law, Nora Bishop.

Family and friends will be received at Bolyard Funeral Home, 79 Morgantown Ave., Newburg, on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 from 1-5 p.m. and on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, from 10 a.m. until time of service at noon with the Rev. Ray Frankhouser officiating. Interment will follow at the Shay's Chapel Cemetery.

Bolyard Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cole family.

Condolences: bolyardfuneralhomewv.com.

NATURAL DISASTERS



AP file photo

A boat sits amidst debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Fla. Oct. 11, 2018. FEMA announced Friday it is making changes to its program that helps those who survive wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

New FEMA rules aim to cut the red tape

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anyone who has lived through a natural disaster and then applied to the federal government for assistance knows that it can be a lengthy, frustrating and bureaucratic process. New rules announced Friday by the federal agency in charge of emergency management aim to simplify and speed up the process.

With natural disasters now affecting more people across the United States, insurance markets in many states are buckling under the weight of payouts to those hit by wildfires and hurricanes.

Deanne Criswell, who heads the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the changes, going into effect in March, are designed to make it easier for disaster survivors to get help — a challenge for those often struggling to recover from the worst day of their lives.

“Mother Nature is not letting up,” Criswell said to reporters on a call announcing the changes. “We need to be better prepared and better informed to recover from natural disasters faster and more effectively.”

Criswell described the changes as the “most comprehensive update to our individual assistance program in 20 years.” She said

the changes were the result of a huge amount of feedback from survivors, organizations that work in disaster recovery, and elected officials.

Under previous rules, homeowners who had received payments from their insurance company for home repairs but not enough to cover all of the damage were essentially out of luck when it came to getting help from FEMA. Now those homeowners can apply to FEMA for help. Criswell gave an example of a homeowner who has \$80,000 in damage but receives only \$45,000 from the insurance company. Previously, FEMA couldn't help them because their insurance payout already exceeded the agency's assistance cap of \$42,500 per disaster. Now, that homeowner can get money from the agency to make up the difference.

And FEMA is creating a new category of aid called displacement assistance, designed to help those who can't return to their home. It gives them money for housing while they're looking for a long-term rental and has flexibility so that they can, for example, use the money to pay a friend's utilities if they're crashing on a couch.

These and other new rules go into effect March 22.

WELLNESS

Stay healthy during cold, flu and COVID-19 season

Associated Press

Winter is here, inflicting its usual array of symptoms — coughs, nasal congestion, fatigue and fever — and, this year, a new COVID-19 variant is dominating the scoreboard.

COVID-19 is leading hospital admissions among the respiratory viruses, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last week, 25 U.S. states had high or very high levels for respiratory illnesses with fever, cough and other symptoms. That's down from 37 states the week before, the CDC said.

Since the beginning of October, there have been at least 16 million illnesses, 180,000 hospitalizations, and 11,000 deaths from flu so far this season. The CDC said 47 children have died of flu.

January can be the worst month for these illnesses. With vaccination rates low, what can you do to protect yourself from respiratory viruses, including influenza, COVID-19 and RSV?

Hand-washing remains crucial to reducing the spread of viral infections. Take your time at the sink. Twenty seconds is recommended. If you feel silly singing “Happy Birthday” twice while you scrub with soapy water, count to 20. Slowly.

Use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol when you don't have access to soap and water.

Also, wear a mask in crowded areas. Increase ventilation in your workplace and home.

In the United States, only 17% of those eligible have received the updated COVID-19 vaccine, which provides good protection against the now-dominant JN.1 variant.

It's not too late to roll

up your sleeve. While you're at it, make sure you've had your annual flu shot. Those 60 and older may want to get the RSV vaccine, which also is recommended during pregnancy to prevent RSV in infants.

Young children seem to pick up every germ going around. Can their parents avoid getting sick?

This time of year, children are indoors in close quarters with other kids, touching the same toys and surfaces, said Jennifer Sonney of University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle. Some haven't learned to cover their coughs and they simply haven't been exposed to many illnesses, so their immune systems are still developing.

It's important to take care of yourself if you're a parent or caregiver of young children, said Sonney who is immediate past president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

“We know if you are sleep deprived or dehydrated or experiencing a lot of stress, that can compromise your immune function,” Sonney said.

Having young children is very demanding, “so all of this advice needs to be interpreted within the context of reality,” she said. “Despite doing everything right, kids are still going to get colds.”

If you do get sick, prompt testing can help determine whether you have COVID-19 or influenza. That's important to see if you need one of the medicines that can help prevent severe illness: Paxlovid for COVID-19 and Tamiflu for flu.

If you don't have a test kit at home, look for a test-to-treat site at a pharmacy clinic or health center near you.

see what might have been if there had been more to work with in Seth W. Owen's script. Cuoco has solid comedy chops, but they were severely underused and her ability to play an action star seemed like a stretch. The direction didn't aid anything either, leaving the movie feeling stale and uninspired.

More than anything, this movie felt like it was playing everything too safe, so there are never any stakes. I recognize

that having children in peril can be off-putting to a large audience, but there could have been any number of scenarios that might have made this more entertaining than it was.

Instead, this film felt interminable despite a run time of just 100 minutes. I think if either the comedy or the action had been more noteworthy, the whole movie would have been more fun.

I appreciate it when filmmakers and actors

stretch outside their comfort zones. Going beyond conventions is a risk, and I applaud those who are willing to take it. That said, sometimes that risk doesn't pay off, and in the case of “Role Play,” I think sticking with the same old, same old might have had better results.

ALISE CHAFFINS is a Morgantown writer who loves movies and sharing her opinions. She reviews a movie from a streaming service every Saturday and one newly in theaters every Sunday. Find more at MacGuffin or Meaning on Substack.

STATE

Justice, T-Mobile announce \$200M W.Va. upgrades

DPNews@DominionPost.com

During a press event at the West Virginia State Capitol Friday, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, along with T-Mobile executive Edwige Robinson, highlighted the impact of a \$200 million investment from T-Mobile in the Mountain State.

The state has traditionally been ranked near the bottom of studies comparing the availability of high-speed broadband and mobile service across all 50 states.

Partly a result of T-Mobile investments, West Virginia is on an upward trajectory. One recent study showed a 66% increase in median download speeds in West Virginia from 2022 to 2023.

“West Virginia's journey towards improved connectivity is a testament to the power of collaboration,” said Justice. “We've been working diligently with T-Mobile and other partners, to ensure that all corners of our state have access to the tools and resources they need to thrive in the digital age. The \$200 million investment by T-Mobile is a game-changer, contributing to wider 5G coverage and faster internet speeds for West Virginians.”

Through a merger with Sprint in 2020, T-Mobile

has made a commitment to improve internet connectivity and mobile service for rural and small-town America. In 2021, T-Mobile finalized its acquisition of Shentel Wireless, one of the primary mobile service providers in West Virginia. An additional \$200 million has upgraded 5G service via 377 new towers and upgrades to 121 existing towers.

The result:

■ 100% of interstate highways in West Virginia are serviced with T-Mobile 5G;

■ 90% of West Virginians now have T-Mobile 5G access, up 30%, or 500,000 people, in just two years;

■ 70% of West Virginians now have access to Ultra Capacity 5G which delivers median download speeds of 99.98 Mbps statewide, 41% faster than in 2021;

■ Expanded backup power sources to ensure redundancy in case of severe weather or other emergencies that may impact mobile service.

T-Mobile is the fastest provider in West Virginia, according to third-party experts at Ookla.

“Part of T-Mobile's promise when we merged with Sprint was to build a more connected country leveraging 5G,” said Ulf Ewaldsson, president of Technology at T-Mobile.”

16 years ago in her home state.

In 2022 she was hired as a vice principal at North. She became principal a year later after Doug Gaither took a job outside of West Virginia.

She's also the author of “Grateful Surrender,” a novel about faith, love, friendship and purpose.

Le made the writing of her story from the classroom to administration look easy, said Mon Superintendent Eddie Campbell Jr., who nominated her for the state MLK award.

“She's talented and innovative,” he said.

“And she's absolutely the definition of an instructional leader.”

PRINCIPAL

FROM PAGE A-4


one, Wilson said, is dealing with unprecedented amounts of stress and angst these days.

“This kind of support is needed more than ever,” Wilson said in her remarks.

Le, a Greensboro, N.C., native and graduate of the University of North Carolina, moved to West Virginia and Morgantown with her husband and young children seven years ago to take a job as an academic coach at North Elementary School.

She started her career in education as a teacher

*Hilda Ralston*  
1927-2024



**Gathering**  
Today, 10am-11am

**Funeral**  
Today, 11am

*Fred L. Jenkins*  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

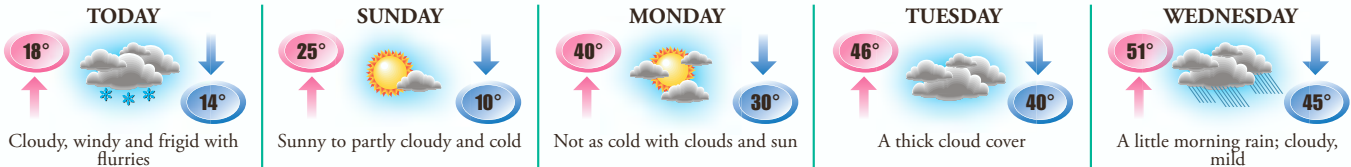
Jared Jenkins, LIC  
Justin Dalton  
Ethan Umstead  
Tabitha Whetzel

10 South High Street  
Morgantown, WV  
(304) 296-6446  
Call or Text

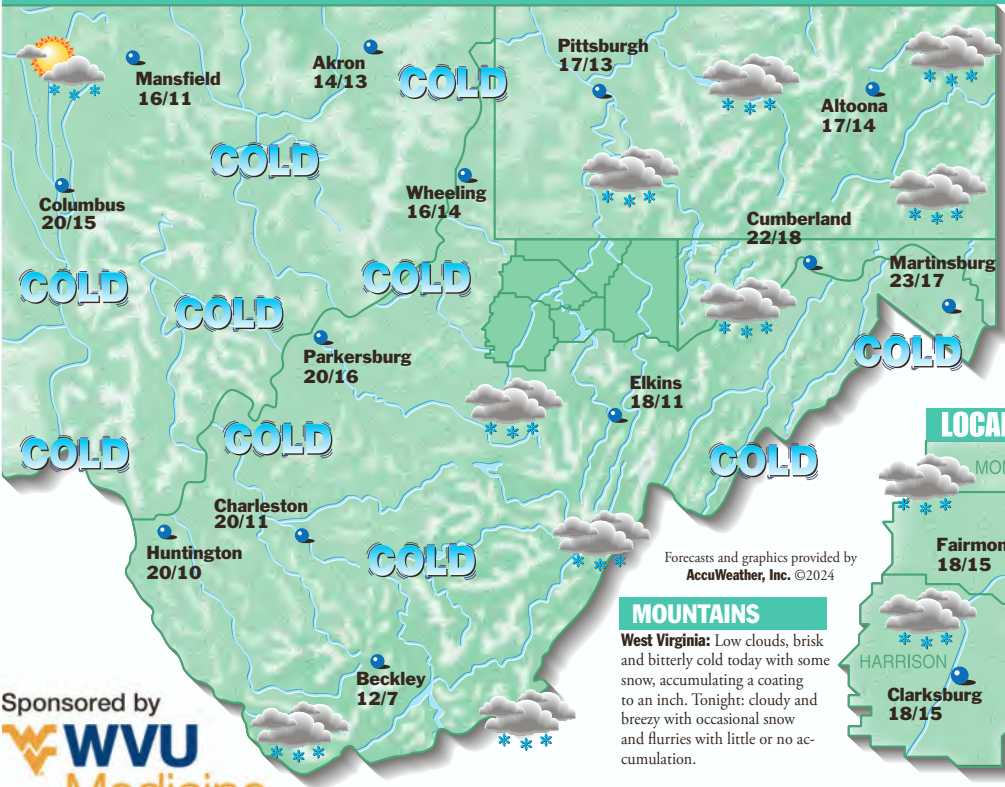
[www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fredjenkinsfuneralhome.com)



FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR MORGANTOWN



REGIONAL WEATHER



Sponsored by  
**WVU**  
Medicine

ALMANAC

Morgantown through 4 p.m. Friday

Temperature	30°/24°
Normal high/low	38°/20°
Record high	70° in 1929
Record low	-19° in 1994
Precipitation	0.17"
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Friday	0.17"
Month to date	2.82"
Year to date	2.82"

**SUN AND MOON**

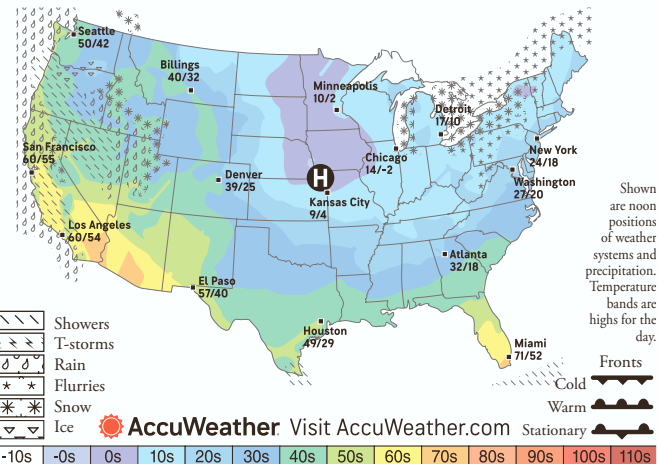
Sunrise today	7:37 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:25 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:53 p.m.
Moonset today	3:18 a.m.

Full Jan 25, Last Feb 2, New Feb 9, First Feb 16

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



SKI CONDITIONS

Ski Area	New snow (in)	Base (in)	Trails Open
Canaan Valley	6	40-64	33
Seven Springs, PA	1	18-18	37
Snowshoe/Silver Creek	2	50-50	47
Timberline Four Seasons	0	30-70	20
Wisp, MD	2	20-22	29

Snow reports provided by OnTheSnow.com

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Beckley, WV	12/7/sn	22/13/s
Charleston, WV	20/11/c	26/8/s
Columbus, OH	20/15/c	25/17/pc
Cumberland, MD	22/18/sf	28/7/pc
Fairmont, WV	18/15/sf	25/4/s
Grafton, WV	18/14/sf	24/4/s
Huntington, WV	20/10/pc	28/12/s
Kingwood, WV	16/12/sf	21/8/s
Pittsburgh, PA	17/13/sf	25/13/pc
Wheeling, WV	16/14/c	26/16/pc

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

SOLAR TABLES

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

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
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.
Wed.:	10:18 a.m.	4:05 a.m.	10:44 p.m.	4:31 p.m.

LAKE AND RIVERS

Lake	7 a.m. Yest.	24-hour Change
Cheat Lake	862.61	-1.67
Deep Creek, MD	2457.36	-0.02
Jennings Randolph	1442.79	+0.33
Stonewall Jackson	1068.28	-0.35
Tygart	1044.45	-3.45
Youghiogheny	1418.63	+0.08

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

Monongahela	Fld.	Prs.	Chg.
Morgantown	22	9.82	-0.27

ALMANAC

Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2024. There are 346 days left in the year.

Highlight:

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

On this date:

In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African American, president.

**Today's birthdays:** Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 94. Movie director David Lynch is 78. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 59. Rap musician Questlove is 53.

Parents blatantly ignore all personal boundaries

DEAR ABBY: I am uncomfortable about being touched. I have been this way all my life. As a child, my parents forced me to hug and kiss relatives, and if I protested, I was reprimanded. I remember being dragged and pushed toward people.

After I became an adult, I decided to tell people I no longer want to be hugged or kissed. While most people respect that, my parents do not. They hug me even more often now, and think it's funny. They laugh as they do it and say, "Oh, you don't like this, do you?"

When I protest, they start with the guilt trip, telling me they are my parents and they are allowed to touch me.

They can't get it through their heads that this is about me, and not them. They have told me that I've "gone weird," but this isn't something new. As a child, I couldn't speak up because I was chastised for it. How can I get them to respect my boundaries? I don't want to start a feud, as they are good to me in every other way, but I'm starting to dread seeing them. — KEEP OFF IN SCOTLAND

DEAR KEEP OFF: A way to get the message



JEANNE PHILLIPS

across to them would be to explain it to them just as you have to me: You were young and defenseless, and in spite of your protests, they forced you into physical contact with people. Tell them you realize that it had everything to do with their egos and how they wanted you to be perceived instead of accepted as the individual you were and are. No one has the right to touch you if you do not want to be touched.

If your parents continue forcing their physical demonstrations of "affection" (which seem to me more like demonstrations of dominance) over your protests, recognize it for what it is — a mild form of sadism (no, I'm not kidding). See them less often, and be sure they know why.

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

1/20/24	► 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-TV News (N)	CBS Weekend News (N)	KDKA-TV News (N)	The NFL Today (L) (N)	NFL Football Divisional Round: Teams TBA Football action from around the National Football League. (L) (N)				KDKA-TV News at Eleven (N)		Paid Programming	
4	WTAE ABC World News (N)	Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Will Trent "Pilot" Will Trent relies on his keen instincts to solve a case.	Will Trent Angie is forced to evaluate her current relationships.	Will Trent "The Look Out" The wife of a local football hero is shot in a robbery.		Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (N)		Fast: Home Rescue	
5	WDTV 5 News at 5 (N)	CBS News	TBA	NFL (N)	NFL Football Divisional Round: Teams TBA (L) (N)				5 News		Beat	
7	WTRF News (N)	CBS News	Inside Ed.	NFL (N)	NFL Football Divisional Round: Teams TBA (L) (N)				7NewsWe.		Paid Prog.	
9	WTOV News 9 at Six (L) (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune "Teacher's Week"	America's Got Talent: Fantasy League	America's Got Talent: Fantasy League			Saturday Night Live		News 9 Tonight (L) (N)	SNL Jacob Elordi; Renee Rapp (N)
11	WPXI 11 News	NBC News	Jeopardy!	Wheel	America's Got	America's Got			Saturday Night Live		Channel 11	SNL (N)
12	WBOY TBA	NBC News	To Be Announced		America's Got	America's Got			Saturday Night Live		12 News	SNL (N)
13	WQED PBS News Weekend (N)	Rick Steves' Europe	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Doc Martin	Secrets of Underground London			Filmmaker's Corner		Austin City Limits	(N)
22	WCWB The Liquidator "The Floor"	The Liquidator	Modern Family "Dude Ranch"	Modern Family "Door to Door"	Wild Cards The commissioner forces Ellis and Max to become partners.	Family Law Abby represents a woman who is battling her ex-husband.	Modern Family "Punkin Chunkin"	Modern Family "Hit and Run"			Paid Programming	Paid Programming
24	WNBP Weekend	Hoover	Lawrence Welk		Song of Mountains	Doc Martin			Marriage		Austin City Limits	(N)
46	WVFX NFL Football		Tip-Off (N)		College Basketball Connecticut at Villanova (N)	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		Beat Shazam			
53	WPGH NFL Football		Tip-Off (N)		College Basketball Connecticut at Villanova From Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. (L) (N)	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)			Paid Programming		Beat Shazam "This One's Got It All!" Sisters, cowboys and a married couple battle.	
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	
AMC	*** First Blood	*** Die Hard '88, Action	Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia, Bruce Willis.						*** Die Hard 2 '90		Bruce Willis.	
AT&TSP	College Hockey Miami (Ohio) at Colorado College (L) (N)	Penguins	Pens (N)	Penguins	NHL Hockey							
BET	*** Next Friday	*** Friday After Next '02	Mike Epps, Ice Cube.						*** Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls		Gabrielle Union.	
CNN	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Newsroom (N)	CNN Special Program	CNN Special Program	CNN Special Program	CNN Special Program			CNN Special Program		CNN Special Program	
DISC	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid	"No Holds Barred"	Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid			Naked and Afraid		Naked and Afraid	
DISN	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	*** Coco Anthony Gonzalez.	Hamster & Gretel			Hamster & Gretel		Kiff	Kiff
ESPN	ESPN Doc.	ESPN Films	UFC 297 - Prelims (L) (N)						College Basketball Teams TBA (L) (N)			
ESPN2	College Basketball Teams TBA (L) (N)				ESPN Films	2024 Australian Open Tennis Round of 16 (N)						
FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FNC	Fox Report (L) (N)	Weekend (N)	Life, Liberty (N)	One Nation (N)					FOX Saturday (N)		Gutfeld!	
FREE	*** Pirates of the Caribb.	*** Pirates of the Caribb.	On Stranger Tides '11	Johnny Depp.					*** Armageddon		Bruce Willis.	
HIST	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	The UnXplained	UnBelievable	UnBelievable			UnBelievable		UnBelievable	
LIFE	Abducted by My Teacher: Elizabeth Thomas Story	Dying in Plain Sight '24	Raffa Virago. (P)		Dirty Little Secret '22	Melissa Joan Hart.						
NEWSN	Blue Bloods	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)			NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime	
NICK	Cloudy With a Chan.	*** Hotel Transylvania '12	Adam Sandler.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
PARMT	*** Mission: Impossible ...	*** World War Z '13	Mireille Enos, Brad Pitt.						*** World War Z '13		Mireille Enos, Brad Pitt.	
TNT	*** Fast Five '11	Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.		All Elite Wrestling: Collision (N)					*** Fast Five '11		Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.	
TVLAND	Mike	Mike	Mike	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	
USA	*** Batman Begins '05	Christian Bale.		*** The Dark Knight Rises '12	Act Anne Hathaway, Tom Hardy, Christian Bale.				911 Crisis			
WE	NCIS	NCIS "Recruited"		NCIS "Freedom"	NCIS				NCIS "Defiance"		NCIS "Kill Screen"	
WTBS	*** Thor: Ragnarok '17	Chris Hemsworth.	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang			*** Back to the Future '85		Michael J. Fox.	
MOVIE CHANNELS												
HBO	*** Live Free or Die	Hard Bruce Willis.		*** RoboCop '14	Joel Kinnaman. (P)				True Detective		Real, Bill Maher	
MAX	*** Barbershop 2: Back in Business			*** Paranoia '13	Liam Hemsworth.				*** Out of the Furnace '13		Christian Bale.	Knowing
SHOW	*** World War Z '13	Brad Pitt.		*** Beau Is Afraid '23	Hor Patti LuPone, Amy Ryan, Joaquin Phoenix.				*** Pearl			
TMC	JFK Revisited: Through the Looking Glass			B...A... '22	Teon Kelley.				Grizzly II: Revenge		Out of the Blue Diane Kruger.	

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PREP SPORTS

# Morgantown’s Irene Riggs wins record third-straight McCoy Award

**BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH**  
Sports@DominionPost.com

Being on the other side of the country couldn’t stop Irene Riggs from earning another in-state award as she was named the McCoy Female Track Athlete of the Year Award winner for girls’ track and field for the third consecutive year.

She is the first female ever to win the award three years in a row.

Riggs, who is currently a freshman at Stanford University in California, helped lead the MHS girls’ track team to a co-state championship in 2023 by earning

three of their five individual state titles at the state meet last May. She took first overall in the 800, 1600, and 3200-meter races in her final performances as a Mohigan before taking her talents to Stanford.

“This is so exciting, it’s always an honorable and surreal feeling anytime you are recognized for the work you’ve put in and for the support you’ve received from the community,” Riggs said upon receiving the news. “Even though I am far away from West Virginia, I still consider it my home. Without the support of family, friends, and mentors, I wouldn’t be where

I am today.”

Riggs will go down as one of the most successful athletes in MHS history, having captured multiple state titles in both track and cross-country, including a national championship for XC in 2022. She also went on to represent the United States in the under-20 World Championship in Bathurst, Australia where she finished 12th overall.

Now a member of the Cardinal for both cross-country and track, Riggs said being on campus has been a crucial part of her development, both as a student-athlete.

**SEE RIGGS, B-2**



Michael Switzer/For The Dominion Post

Morgantown High’s Irene Riggs won the McCoy Award for a record third straight year.

# WINTER WEATHER BALL



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

The Mountaineers will be hoping to repeat a wintry victory over Kansas from 2016 as the Jayhawks come into a snowy Morgantown.

## When the snow hits Morgantown it’s a sure thing Kansas is in town for a visit

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

A state of emergency was called Friday, as the entire state of West Virginia was blanketed with snow.

It all makes perfect sense, because, well, Kansas is in town.

Those who can remember back nearly 10 years ago will know exactly where we’re headed, a night that Bryan Messerly, WVU Associate Athletics Director for Communications, calls the “Gridlock Game.”

“I remember looking out the window in my office in the afternoon and you could hardly see,” Messerly said. “It was nothing but white and traffic didn’t move.”

Many may remember the game for WVU’s 74-63 victory against the then- No. 1-ranked Jayhawks.

Or the vision of WVU player Jonathan Holton celebrating on top of the TV announcers’ table afterward and someone handing them their baby for Holton to hoist into the air.

The Mountaineers (6-11, 1-3 Big 12) would

certainly like to relive that ending at 4 p.m. today, as No. 3 Kansas (15-2, 3-1) plays its only game against WVU in the regular season.

Flashing back to 2016, by 3 p.m. on the afternoon of Jan. 12, snow had begun to pile up on local Morgantown roads and highways.

According to news reports by The Dominion Post that day, MECCA 911 Director Michael Wolfe said there were 55 accidents and 30 motorist assist calls between 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Former Monongalia County Superintendent Frank Devono reported busses stranded in traffic, with other students stranded at the schools still waiting to get on a bus.

A picture was submitted to the Dominion Post of a Mon County school bus stuck in a ditch, while another story developed that one bus carrying Morgantown High students was stuck in traffic so long they were unloaded at rival University High, where they were fed pepperoni rolls.

WVU students, too, were caught in the frenzy, as the PRT had broken down earlier that day.

Yeah, it was chaos.

“That storm was unexpected,” Messerly recalled. “It caught everyone off guard.”

That included Kansas’ bus and WVU players, who were stuck in the mess trying to work their way to the Coliseum.

A police escort was called to help the Kansas team bus make its way through the gridlock.

Even with the escort, Kansas head coach Bill Self said the team was stuck on Patteson Drive for an hour trying to reach the Coliseum.

“Hopefully, nobody was seriously injured,” Self said after the game. “With the number of ambulances and police cars that we saw, there had to be numerous wrecks.”

WVU player Jaysean Paige told the story that night of being in a car with teammates Tarik Phillip and Teyvon Myers stuck on Mon Boulevard.

All of a sudden, they saw Holton running up the hill past them.

“We all jumped out of the car and started running with Jon,” Paige said. “Cars were honking at us. They knew who we were. I had

**SEE WVU, B-2**

.....

**(3) Kansas at WVU**

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

## WOMEN’S HOOPS

# Mountaineers look to sweep season series with Cincinnati

Sports@DominionPost.com

The WVU women’s basketball team is back on the road today with its second matchup of the season against Cincinnati. Tipoff inside Fifth Thirds Arena in Cincinnati is set for 4 p.m.

The Mountaineers have squared off with Cincinnati once this season on Jan. 3, when the WVU collected its second Big 12 win of the season with a 68-53 result at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown.

Today’s contest marks the 14th all-time meeting between WVU (15-2, 4-2 Big 12) and UC (9-7, 1-4 Big 12). West Virginia leads the all-time series 8-5 and is an even 3-3 when playing in Cincinnati. WVU is the winner of five straight meetings.

Cincinnati is coming off a 68-58 loss on the road against BYU. Malea Williams led the way with 15 points and seven rebounds as Jillian Hayes added 14 points and eight rebounds.

Five of the Bearcats’ seven losses this season have come against teams all ranked inside the AP Top-25 Poll, including No. 3 Colorado, No. 10 NC State, No. 11 Kansas State, No. 17 Louisville and the Mountaineers.

UC’s offensive attack is led by Hayes, who is averaging a team-high 12.8 points per game. She is the only Bearcat averaging double figures this season. Hayes nearly averages a double-double with 8.5 rebounds per game. Williams averages 9.9 points and 6.9 rebounds.

Last time out, West Virginia collected its largest margin of victory against a Big 12 opponent, 41 points, racing past Houston 80-39 in Morgantown. WVU held the Cougars scoreless in the opening quarter, marking the first time in program history a team has accomplished the feat.

The Mountaineers were led in scoring by junior guard JJ Quinerly, who tallied her 16th double-digit scoring game of the season with 18 points. Fifth-year senior Lauren Fields collected her first double-double of the season with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Junior guard Kyah Watson added 10 rebounds, marking the first time this season two Mountaineers have finished in double figures on

**SEE CINCINNATI, B-2**

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Magnolia at Trinity Christian, 7:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Brooke at Morgantown, 1:30 p.m.  
Frontier (Oh.) at Trinity Christian, 2 p.m.  
**HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING**  
OVAC Championships at Brooke High School  
**HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING**  
Ron Muack OVAC Tournament at WesBanco Arena, 8 a.m.  
Northern Garrett (Md.) at Preston  
**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Kansas at West Virginia, 4 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
West Virginia at Cincinnati, 4 p.m.

ON TV

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
12 p.m.: BTN — Penn St. at Ohio St.  
CW — Virginia Tech at NC State  
ESPN — Baylor at Texas  
ESPN2 — Miami at Syracuse  
ESPN — Louisville at Wake Forest  
FOX — Marquette at St. John's  
FS1 — Creighton at Seton Hall  
12:30 p.m.: USA — Rhode Island at Dayton  
1 p.m.: CBS — San Diego St. at Boise St.  
SECN — South Carolina at Arkansas  
1:30 p.m.: CBSSN — Army at Navy  
2 p.m.: ESPN2 — Alabama at Tennessee  
ESPN — Iowa St. at TCU  
FOX — Southern Cal at Arizona St.  
FS1 — Purdue at Iowa  
2:15 p.m.: BTN — Northwestern at Nebraska  
CW — North Carolina at Boston College  
2:30 p.m.: USA — Duquesne at Saint Joseph's  
3:30 p.m.: SECN — Vanderbilt at Mississippi St.  
4 p.m.: ACCN — Clemson at Florida St.  
CBSSN — New Mexico at Air Force  
ESPN2 — UCLA at Arizona  
ESPN — Texas A&M at LSU  
FS1 — DePaul at Butler  
5 p.m.: PAC-12N — Washington St. at California  
6 p.m.: ACCN — Virginia at Georgia Tech  
CBSSN — Coll. of Charleston at UNC-Wilmington  
ESPN2 — BYU at Texas Tech  
ESPN — Harvard at Penn  
SECN — Georgia at Kentucky  
7 p.m.: PAC-12N — Oregon St. at Colorado  
8 p.m.: ACCN — Pittsburgh at Duke  
CBSSN — S. Illinois at N. Iowa  
ESPN — Florida at Missouri  
FS1 — UConn at Villanova  
8:30 p.m.: SECN — Mississippi at Auburn  
9 p.m.: PAC-12N — Washington at Stanford  
10 p.m.: CBSSN — Saint Mary's (Cal) at San Francisco  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
11 a.m.: CBSSN — Army at Navy  
4 p.m.: ESPNEWS — Columbia at Princeton  
6 p.m.: FS1 — San Jose St. at San Diego St.  
**GOLF**  
11 a.m.: ESPNEWS — Latin America Amateur Championship: Third Round, Santa Maria Golf Club, Panama City  
2 p.m.: GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament Of Champions, Third Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.  
3 p.m.: NBC — LPGA Tour: The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament Of Champions, Third Round, Lake Nona Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.  
4 p.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour: The American Express, Third Round, Pete Dye Stadium Course, La Quinta, Calif.  
7 p.m.: GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Final Round, Hualalai GC, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii  
2 a.m. (Sunday): GOLF — DP World Tour: The Hero Dubai Desert Classic, Final Round, The Majlis Course, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
**NFL**  
4:30 p.m.: ABC — AFC Divisional Playoff: Houston at Baltimore  
ESPN — AFC Divisional Playoff: Houston at Baltimore  
8:15 p.m.: FOX — NFC Divisional Playoff: Green Bay at San Francisco  
**NHL**  
1 p.m.: NHLN — Colorado at Philadelphia  
7 p.m.: NHLN — Montreal at Boston  
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**  
7:30 a.m.: USA — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Arsenal  
8:20 a.m.: FS2 — The French Cup: Laval at Nantes, Round of 32  
11:20 a.m.: FS2 — The French Cup: Monaco at Rodez, Round of 32  
12:30 p.m.: NBC — Premier League: Nottingham Forest at Brentford  
3 p.m.: TNT — International Friendly: U.S. vs. Slovenia, San Antonio  
5:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Venezuela vs. Bolivia, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela  
**TENNIS**  
3 a.m.: ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia  
7 a.m.: ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Third Round, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)  
8 p.m.: ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia  
3 a.m. (Sunday): ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia

TENNIS

Australian Open Results

**Men's Singles**  
**Third Round**  
Jannik Sinner (4), Italy, def. Sebastian Baez (26), Argentina, 6-0, 6-1, 6-3.  
Karen Khachanov (15), Russia, def. Tomas Machac, Czech Republic, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5).  
Stefanos Tsitsipas (7), Greece, def. Luca van Assche, France, 6-3, 6-0, 6-4.  
Taylor Fritz (12), United States, def. Fabian Marozsan, Hungary, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.  
Alex de Minaur (10), Australia, def. Flavio Cobalini, Italy, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.  
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry (30), Argentina, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (2).  
Adrian Panatta (20), France, def. Ben Shelton (16), United States, 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4.  
Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, def. Sebastian Korda (29), United States, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-4.  
**Women's Singles**  
**Third Round**  
Amanda Anisimova, United States, def. Paula Badosa, Spain, 7-5, 6-4.  
Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Lesia Tsurenko (28), Ukraine, 6-0, 6-0.  
Coco Gauff (4), United States, def. Alycia Parks, United States, 6-0, 6-2.  
Mirra Andreeva, Russia, def. Diane Parry, France, 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5).  
Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, def. Elina Avanesyan, Russia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.  
Magdalena Frech, Poland, def. Anastasia Zakharova, Russia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.  
Maria Timofeeva, Russia, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia (10), Brazil, 7-6 (7), 6-3.  
Barbora Krejickova (9), Czech Republic, def. Storm Hunter, Australia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.  
**Men's Doubles**  
**First Round**  
N. Sriram Balaji, India, and Victor Vlad Cornea, Romania, def. Andrea Pellegrino and Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.  
Ariel Behar, Uruguay, and Adam Pavlasek, Czech Republic, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Jamie Murray (9), Britain, 6-2, 6-4.  
Jason Kubler and Rinky Hijikata (16), Australia, def. Christopher O'Connell, Australia, and Laslo Djere, Serbia, 6-2, 6-4.  
Jordan Thompson and Max Purcell, Australia, def. Lucas Miedler and Alexander Erler, Austria, 6-2, 7-6 (8).  
John-Patrick Smith, Australia, and Andreas Mies, Germany, def. Thanasi Kokkinakis and Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4.  
**Men's Doubles**  
**Second Round**  
Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni (6), Argentina, def. Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, and Nuno Borges, Portugal, walkover.  
Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Neal Skupski (5), Britain, def. Francisco Cabral, Portugal, and Henry Patten, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.  
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (3), Britain, def. Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Mexico, and Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 6-2, 6-4.  
Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, and Nikola Pichler, Serbia, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin

Krajicek (1), United States, 6-4, 6-7 (8), 7-6 (7).  
Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Wesley Koolhof (14), Netherlands, def. Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and John Peers, Australia, 6-1, 6-4.  
Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, Italy, def. Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (13), France, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-3.  
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matthew Ebden (2), Australia, def. John Millman and Edward Winer, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.  
**Women's Doubles**  
**First Round**  
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Shuko Aoyama, Japan, def. Katarzyna Piter, Poland, and Lidziya Marozova, Belarus, 6-1, 6-1.  
Xinyu Jiang and HanYu Guo, China, def. Bibiane Schoofs, Netherlands, and Kimberley Zimmerman, Belgium, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.  
Timea Babos and Anna Bondar, Hungary, def. Samantha Murray Sharap, Britain, and Angelica Moratelli, Italy, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.  
**Women's Doubles**  
**Second Round**  
Ekaterina Alexandrova and Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, def. Arina Rodionova and Taylor Hearn, Australia, 6-2, 6-3.  
Desirae Krawczyk, United States, and Ena Shibahara (4), Japan, def. Ana Bogdan, Romania, and Rebeka Masarova, Spain, 6-3, 6-1.  
Zhu Lin, China, and Fang-Hsien Wu, Taiwan, def. Wang Xiyu, China, and Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.  
Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Luisa Stefani (9), Brazil, def. Caroline Dolehide and Peyton Stearns, United States, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-5.  
Emma Navarro, United States, and Diana Schneider, Russia, def. Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, and Giuliana Olmos (10), Mexico, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.  
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Elise Mertens (2), Belgium, def. Ajla Tomljanovic and Daria Saville, Australia, 6-1, 6-1.  
Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Ostapenko (11), Latvia, def. Kimberley Birrell and Olivia Godecki, Australia, 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3.  
**Mixed Doubles**  
**Second Round**  
Kevin Krawietz, Germany, and Nicole Melichar-Martinez (7), United States, def. Dane Sweeny and Mayo Joint, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.  
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Nathaniel Lammons (6), United States, def. Priscilla Han and Adam Walton, Australia, 6-3, 6-2.  
Laura Siegemund, Germany, and Sander Gille (5), Belgium, def. Arina Rodionova and Max Purcell, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.  
Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, and Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, def. Marcelo Melo, Brazil, and Taylor Townsend, United States, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 11-9.  
Andrew Harris and Jaime Fourlis, Australia, def. Andres Molteni, Argentina, and Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4.  
Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Hugo Nys, Monaco, def. Tim Puetz, Germany, and Miyu Kato, Japan, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 11-9.  
Heather Watson and Joe Salisbury, Britain, def. Rafael Motos and Luisa Stefani, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4.  
Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia, def. Jack Withrow, United States, and Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 10-8.

NFL

The Ravens are ready to give Dalvin Cook a shot, but there's no telling what to expect

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Even John Harbaugh isn't sure what to expect from Dalvin Cook this weekend. The Baltimore coach sounds ready to put him on the field and find out. "It's new. We haven't seen him out there," Harbaugh told reporters Thursday. "Just like you guys haven't seen him, we haven't seen him." Cook was waived after 15 forgettable games this season for the New York Jets. He then joined Baltimore's practice squad and was signed to the 53-man roster this week. Harbaugh says the running back will be an option today when the Ravens play their postseason opener against the Houston Texans.

"I think it's going to be a great opportunity for him and for us," Harbaugh said. "We'll be looking forward to seeing how he does."

The Ravens posted the best record in the NFL during the regular season. Their offense, led by MVP candidate Lamar Jackson, doesn't need any sort of shakeup. But there's been a bit of a revolving door at running back due to a couple major injuries.

In Week 1, J.K. Dobbins went down with an Achilles tendon injury that ended his season. Eventually, undrafted rookie Keaton Mitchell emerged as a speedy big-play threat. He averaged 8.4 yards per carry in a six-game stretch in November and December, and in every one of those games, he had a run of over 20 yards. Then he



AP file photo

Then-New York Jets running back Dalvin Cook (33) warms up before playing against the Atlanta Falcons in an NFL football game, Dec. 3, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

landed on injured reserve because of a knee injury.

Baltimore has the NFL's top-ranked rushing game despite those injuries. Jackson's running ability at quarterback is a big part of that. And Gus Edwards ran for 810 yards and 13 touchdowns for the Ravens during the regular season. He's been an effective back, and not just in short-yardage situations.

Mitchell was flourishing when he went down in mid-December. Justice Hill has had his moments, scoring three rushing touchdowns and one receiving. Still, with four 1,000-yard rushing seasons to his credit, the 28-year-old Cook could provide an extra boost. The Ravens waived Melvin Gor-

don III and signed Cook from the practice squad to the active roster.

"I'm dialed up. I'm ready to give it all I have — everything I have in the tank," Cook said. "It's the playoffs, man."

There isn't much precedent for what Cook is trying to do — joining a new team just for the postseason and contributing. According to SportRadar, only two running backs since at least 1948 have made their franchise debut in a playoff game and rushed for positive yardage.

In 2008, eighth-year veteran Michael Bennett was released by Tampa Bay and picked up by San Diego in November. He finally played in the team's playoff

win over Indianapolis, rushing for 24 yards on four carries.

In 2014, Pittsburgh signed Ben Tate in late December, after he'd already played for Cleveland and Minnesota that season. Star running back Le'Veon Bell ended up missing the Steelers' postseason game against Baltimore, and Tate had 19 yards on five carries. Pittsburgh lost, and Tate didn't play in the NFL again.

Cook rushed for over 1,100 yards as recently as last season with Minnesota, so it's certainly possible the move from New York's offense to Baltimore's could rejuvenate him a bit.

PREP SPORTS

Preston girls get 1st win over Fairmont Sr. since 2012

Sports@DominionPost.com

KINGWOOD — For the first time in over 10 years, the Preston girls basketball team picked up a win over Fairmont Senior, 68-36, Thursday evening.

The Knights' (9-4) last win over the Polar Bears came in 2012.

Bella Miller led a balanced Preston attack with a career-high 19 points while Camdyn Metheny scored a career-high 10 points.

The Knights had 22 assists on 26 made baskets on offense to go with 15 steals and 12 blocks on defense.

Ella White stuffed the stat sheet with nine points, eight assists and six steals. Cameryn Syptolt had a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Kendra Nazelrod finished with seven blocks and six rebounds.

BOX SCORE

Preston 68, Fairmont Sr. 36  
FSHS 6 8 12 10 — 36  
PHS 17 12 24 15 — 68  
FAIRMONT SR. — Young 41-19, Abel 30-08, Sylva 0-0-0, Hamilton 1-2-2, Bishoff 2-3-6 8, Copney 1-0-0, Wells 1-0-2, Urse 0-0-0, Lupton 0-0-0, Shuck 1-0-3, Totals 13 6-15 36.  
PRESTON — Simmons 0-0-0, Watring 0-0-0, Metheny 4-0-0 10, Sheets 3-1-2 7, Wilson 1-0-2, Wimer 1-0-2, Miller 7-0-0 19, Wolfe 1-0-2, White 3-2-9, Nazelrod 0-2-2, Syptolt 4-3-4 11, Wiles 0-0-0, Bishop 2-0-2 4, Totals 26 8-12 68.  
3-PT. Goals — Fairmont Senior 4 (Abel 2, Bishoff 1, Shuck 1), Preston 8 (Miller 5, Metheny 2, White 1).

Trinity Christian 67, Notre Dame 34

(Thursday)

CLARKSBURG — Trinity Christian had 11 player score as the Warriors topped Notre Dame 67-34 on the road Thursday.

The Warriors hit eight three-pointers and 10 players score at least two field goals.

Jenna Barnett led TCS with 18 points while Peyton Moore added 12.

Trinity is scheduled to host Frontier (Oh.) today at 2 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Trinity Christian 67, Notre Dame 34  
TCS 13 13 20 21 — 67  
ND 14 7 8 5 — 34  
TRINITY CHRISTIAN — Barnett 6 3-4 18; Lohmann 2 0-0 4; Blake 2 0-0 5; Lynch 0 0-0 0; Fisher 2 0-0 4; Dinkel 2 0-0 4; Slinoski 0 0-0 0; Flecker 2 0-0 4; Moore 5 0-0 12; Williams 2 0-0 5; Conn 0 1-2 1; Deal 0 0-0 0; Hopkins 2 0-0 5; Kurlika 2 1-3 5.  
3-PT. Goals — Trinity Christian 8 (Barnett 3, Moore 2, Blake 1, Williams 1, Hopkions 1).

Morgantown 66, John Marshall 52

(Wednesday)

MOUNDSVILLE — The Morgantown girls basketball team improved to 10-1 on the season with a 66-52 win at John Marshall on Wednesday. Sadaya Jones led the Mohigans with 23 points. Lily Jordan was next with 17 points and Kayli Kellogg added 13. Jm was led by 23 points from Rilee storm and 20 from Kayli Derrow. Morgantown's home games against rival University originally scheduled for Friday has been postponed to Feb. 13.



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

West Virginia's Noah Farrakhan (1) rushes down the court against Radford this season.

buzzer-beater.

As for the 2024 version, Kansas may have pulled off the travel decision of the year by flying into Clarksburg late Thursday night and bussing to their team hotel, arriving just an hour before the snow started to fall.

"They got into Clarksburg between 11 p.m. and midnight," Messerly said. "They're practicing at the Coliseum (Friday)."

What awaits the Jayhawks today is unknown, except for the weather.

It will be cold and miserable in Morgantown, and again, Kansas is in town.

WVU

FROM PAGE B-1

some big old boots and I carried my shoes. It was fun."

Oddly enough, just a year earlier, the state was hit with another major snowstorm on Feb. 16.

You guessed it, Kansas was in town again for what was a Big Monday showdown that day.

WVU's Juwan Staten was the hero of that 62-61 victory, scoring the winning lay-up with 3.1 seconds left, and then got back on defense just in time to alter Kansas' shot at a

CINCINNATI

FROM PAGE B-1

the glass.

Quinerly (18.2), sophomore guard Jordan Harrison (14.2) and Fields (10.3) pace WVU's offensive effort

RIGGS

FROM PAGE B-1

"Injury is a part of sports and I struggled with one upon arrival in the fall," she said. "But being at Stanford, where there is such an academic emphasis, has been beneficial for me. I've learned the importance of patience. It's ok if

things don't go how you imagined, it's how you respond and handle the adversity before working to come back stronger. It's about putting the work in day in and day out, knowing that the results that you want will come from it."

Despite being so far away from her home, Riggs said she still has high hopes

24.7 turnovers per game, the fourth most in the country. The Mountaineers add the best turnover margin in the country at 9.2 while holding a 23.4 scoring margin this season which is the 12th-best mark in the nation.

which is the second-best in the conference. Watson paces WVU in rebounding, with 5.7 boards per game.

West Virginia averages 14.6 steals per contest which is the best mark in the nation. Additionally, WVU forces

for the future of running the W.Va. and won't ever forget where she came from.

"I hope to see the running scene in West Virginia continue to grow and appear on the map, as there are so many talented athletes," she said. "Of course, as a former Morgantown High athlete, I hope to con-

tinue to watch their success on both the track and cross-country course."

Rigs will be recognized for her award at the 77th annual Victory Awards Dinner on May 5th at River City in Wheeling.

Runners-up for the award were Alyssa Sauro of Williamstown and Rachel Withrow of Winfield.



GOLF

Lydia Ko feels at home and shares lead in LPGA opener

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Outside of a great honeymoon to start 2023, Lydia Ko had a year she'd pretty much like to forget. She struggled mightily on the golf course after winning three times the previous season, and on several occasions left the 18th green at a tournament in tears.

Ko, a 19-time LPGA Tour winner, two-time major champion and still only 26, will have a great chance to bounce back this weekend at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions on the Lake Nona course she now calls home.

Ko played bogey-free for a 5-under 67 as temperatures began to cool in the LPGA's season opener, and she heads into the weekend alongside Japan's Ayaka Furue (71) in a share of the 36-hole lead.

They were at 8-under 136. Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh (68) and Mexico's

Gaby Lopez, a former TOC champion who shot 71, are two shots back. Defending champion Brooke Henderson and Alexa Pano — at 19, the youngest player in this week's field — will begin the weekend three shots out of the lead. Both shot 70 on Friday.

Ko tasted success elsewhere in 2023, winning an event on the Ladies European Tour (the Saudi Ladies International) and an unofficial mixed-team tournament alongside the PGA Tour's Jason Day late in the year. That gave her the confidence she was searching for.

Her results on the LPGA were a mess. After a tie for sixth to begin her season in Thailand last February, Ko teed it up in 19 other LPGA events, with only one other top-10 finish. She failed to qualify for the year-ending CME Group Tour Championship, which was something of a shock to her system.



AP photo

Lydia Ko, from New Zealand, watches tee shot on the first hole during the first round of the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions LPGA golf tournament Thursday, in Orlando, Fla.

Two days into the TOC — which features LPGA winners from the past two years — Ko's game appears strong, and very steady. She ripped a 3-wood into the par-5 ninth hole to set up an eagle from 9 feet and finished strongly with a 4-hybrid to 15 feet to run in

one last birdie at the 18th hole. She missed only one green on a challenging day.

Ko and her fellow LPGA pros will be tested this weekend with a cold front expected to drop temperatures into the low 40s Fahrenheit. On Friday, she and a few other late fin-

ishers, including Furue, dealt with rain at the end of the round.

"It wasn't easy, especially the wind picking up after nine holes," Ko said. "So that's going to be the mindset for the next couple days ... but definitely glad that I'm done and it's still raining outside."

One season after leading the LPGA in total strokes gained on the field, Ko slipped to 56th last season. Ko is close enough to be thinking about the World Golf Hall of Fame — she is two points away, with victories counting as one point and majors two — and she enters a new season refreshed, with a new coach (Si Woo Lee) and boosted confidence.

Furue, a 23-year-old who is a strong putter and owns one LPGA victory at the 2022 Scottish Open, did not play as well as she did a day earlier, when she opened with a tournament-record 65. But she

managed to hang in there in more difficult conditions. Furue did not make her first birdie until the 12th hole, and one more birdie on the shortened par-5 15th carried her to an under-par round.

The LPGA members play 72 holes of stroke play in their season opener, doing so alongside a field of 50 athletes and celebrities who compete in a separate division using a Modified Stableford points system.

Annika Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA and a Lake Nona resident, is tied with former NHL player Jeremy Roenick for first among the celebrities, with 75 points. Former MLB pitcher Derek Lowe, who clipped Sorenstam in a playoff two years ago, had one of his best rounds, shooting the equivalent of 70 on Friday. He trails Sorenstam and Roenick by four points.

NFL

Falcons interview Aaron Glenn for coaching vacancy, but all eyes are on Bill Belichick

Associated Press

ATLANTA — With Bill Belichick set for a second interview, the Atlanta Falcons have talked with Detroit Lions defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn about their vacant head coaching job.

The Falcons announced Friday they had completed a virtual interview with Glenn, who has led the Lions' defense for the past three seasons.

Glenn became the ninth candidate to interview with the Falcons, but all eyes were on Belichick amid reports that he was the team's top choice and had flown into Atlanta on one of owner Arthur Blank's private jets for a second interview.

The Falcons confirmed they were meeting further with Belichick, but said no additional details would be provided until the follow-up interview was completed.

If Belichick heads to the Falcons, a team that hasn't had a winning season since 2017 and has never won a Super Bowl championship, it would be a stunning turn of events.

Belichick was coach of the New England Patriots when they pulled off the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history, rallying for a 28-3 deficit in the second half to beat the Falcons 34-28 in overtime at the end of the 2016 season.

Atlanta hasn't reached the playoffs or had a winning record since the 2017 campaign. Arthur Smith was fired just hours after this season's final game — an ugly loss at New Orleans that capped his third straight 7-10 campaign.

Belichick, whose six Super Bowl titles are more than any other coach, is coming off a 4-13 season — the worst of his career — that led to him parting ways with the Patriots less than two weeks ago.

His final season in New England with marred by major issues at quarterback. Mac Jones was benched and Bailey Zappe

struggled as well.

The Falcons endured similar problems at the most prominent position on the field, switching back and forth between Desmond Ridder and Taylor Heinicke in a desperate bid by Smith to save his job.

If Belichick comes to Atlanta, it would surely be with an understanding that Blank, CEO Rich McKay and general manager Terry Fontenot are willing to pursue an upgrade at quarterback.

With a career record of 333-178, including the playoffs, Belichick clearly wants to keep coaching as he approaches the late Don Shula's record of 347 victories.

Belichick teamed with quarterback Tom Brady to capture a half-dozen rings over an 18-season span in what many consider the greatest dynasty in NFL history. For good measure, Belichick was a part of two more championship teams while working on the New York Giants' staff under Bill Parcells.

But Belichick's reputation took a big hit after Brady left the Patriots following the 2019 season — and immediately won his seventh Super Bowl ring with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a rival of the Falcons in the NFC South.

The Patriots have had only one winning season since then — a one-and-done playoff appearance in 2021 — while posting a record of 29-38. That's not much better than Atlanta's 25-42 mark over the same span.

In addition to Belichick and Glenn, the Falcons have interviewed Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Macdonald, Cincinnati Bengals offensive coordinator Brian Callahan, San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Steve Wilks, Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator Ejiro Evero, Ravens assistant head coach and defensive line coach Anthony Weaver, and Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Brian Johnson.

TENNIS

Defending champion Sabalenka reaches 4th round at Australian Open. Coco Gauff also advances easily

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff swept to commanding wins at the Australian Open on Friday to reach the fourth round.

Second-seeded Sabalenka beat Lesia Tsurenko 6-0, 6-0 in 52 minutes while No. 4-seeded Gauff lost just two games in beating fellow American Alycia Parks 6-0, 6-2.

Sabalenka, who won her first Grand Slam title here 12 months ago, has dropped just six games in three rounds.

"Last year, Iga (Swiatek) won so many sets 6-0 and this is one of the goals, to try to get closer to her," Sabalenka joked. "I'm just super-happy with the level I'm playing so far. Hopefully I can just keep going like that or even better."

The pair did not shake hands — as is the convention for Ukrainian players against opponents from Russia or Belarus, where Sabalenka is from — but Tsurenko congratulated Sabalenka verbally.

Sabalenka will play Amanda Anisimova, who continued her comeback with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Paula Badosa. Anisimova, who took seven months out



AP photo

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus celebrates after defeating Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine in their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 19, 2024.

of the game last year for mental health reasons, hit 40 winners on her way to the fourth round.

"It's quite unbelievable," the American said. "For sure taking a step away from the game ... gave me a new perspective. I'm trying to be in the present. I think in the past I was getting too caught up in the past and the future."

Sabalenka said she expects a tough match against Anisimova, who has won four of their five matches.

"She's an incredible player and I'm really happy to see her back," Sabalenka said.

Gauff played an almost

night match.

Novak Djokovic opened the night session with a 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (2) victory over Tomas Martin Etcheverry in his 100th match at the Australian Open.

The 10-time Australian titlist's career record is 92-8 at the season-opening major and he'll take a 31-match winning streak at Melbourne Park into his fourth-round encounter against No. 20 Adrian Mannarino, who held off U.S. Open semifinalist Ben Shelton in five sets.

No. 4 Jannik Sinner, who had two wins late last year over Djokovic, moved into the fourth round without losing a set, thanks to a 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Sebastian Baez.

The Italian won 18 of 25 points at the net as he set up a fourth-round match with 15th-seeded Karen Khachanov, who beat Tomas Machac 6-4, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5).

"I loved the conditions today because there was no wind and no sun," Sinner said. "I felt great on the ball. I made the right decisions, and I used every chance I had."

No. 7 Stefanos Tsitsipas was equally impressive, beating Luca Van Assche 6-3, 6-0, 6-4. He'll meet No. 12 Taylor Fritz, who defeated Fabian Marozsan 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

MLB

Josh Hader agrees to \$95 million contract with Astros, AP source says

Associated Press

Hard-throwing reliever Josh Hader and the Houston Astros agreed to a \$95 million, five-year contract on Friday, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on

condition of anonymity because the deal was subject to a successful physical.

Hader will get a \$19 million salary in each of the next five seasons, none of it deferred. He gets a full no-trade provision and would receive a \$1 million bonus for

winning the Mariano Rivera/Trevor Hoffman Reliever of the Year Award.

Hader's deal can be considered the most lucrative for a relief pitcher, even while falling short of the total dollars in Edwin Díaz's \$102 million, five-year

contract with the New York Mets that began last year. Díaz's deal includes \$26.5 million in deferred payments he won't completely receive until 2042 and was valued at \$93.2 million for baseball's luxury tax and \$88.8 million by the players' association.

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ROYALS

Prince Harry drops libel case against Daily Mail after damaging pretrial ruling

Associated Press

LONDON — Prince Harry dropped his libel lawsuit Friday against the publisher of the Daily Mail tabloid following a punishing ruling in which a judge suggested he might lose at trial. Lawyers for the Duke of Sussex notified the High Court in London that he would not continue the suit against Associated Newspapers Ltd., one of several cases he had pending in his high-profile battle with the British press. No reason was given, but it came the day he was due to hand over documents in the case and after a punishing ruling last month in which a judge ordered Harry to pay the publisher nearly 50,000 pounds (more than \$60,000) in legal fees after he failed to

achieve victory without going to trial. The action will leave him on the hook to pay the publisher's legal fees, which the Daily Mail reported to be 250,000 pounds (\$316,000). A spokesperson for the duke said it was premature to speculate about costs. Harry, 39, the estranged younger son of King Charles III, has broken ranks with the royal family in his willingness to go to court and it has become the main forum in his efforts to hold the news media accountable. Associated Newspapers is one of three tabloid publishers he has sued over claims they used unlawful means, such as deception, phone hacking or hiring private investigators, to try to dig up dirt on him.

FINE ARTS

Japan's imperial family hosts a poetry reading with a focus on peace

Associated Press

TOKYO — A mother's love and a yearning for peace flowed from Japanese Empress Masako's poem, read Friday at an annual celebration of poetry at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. The poem sings of how Masako was touched by what her daughter, Princess Aiko, wrote after her school trip to the southern Japanese city of Hiroshima, which was devastated by an atomic bomb in the closing days of World War II. Starting the new year

with poetry is part of Japanese culture. The gathering at the palace is believed to have begun in the 13th century, according to the Imperial Household Agency. Among the guests wearing suits, kimono and other formalwear were people who had won awards for their own poems. Various works written in traditional "waka" style were presented Friday, solemnly read aloud in a sing-song way, like a chant, as the imperial family watched. Waka — literally

meaning Japanese-style song — is short-form poetry that usually follows a 5-7-5-7-7 syllable format. Aiko's poem depicted her fascination with the waka form, which she has studied at Gakushuin University. She marveled at how the art has survived a thousand years, which she imagined to include deep human suffering. Emperor Naruhito's poem affirmed the idea of peace by describing seeing the smiles of all the people during his travels throughout Japan. Naruhito — grandson of

the wartime emperor Hirohito — and his family are fairly popular, greeted by waving crowds wherever they go. The emperor does not have political power, but he carries symbolic significance for Japan. Naruhito's father, Akihito, abdicated in 2019. The move is rare for a Japanese emperor, whose reign typically ends upon death. The official translation of Masako's poem reads: "How moved I was to read / My daughter's deep feelings for peace / After her first visit / To Hiroshima."

COURTS

Grand jury indicts Alec Baldwin in fatal shooting of cinematographer on movie set in New Mexico

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — A grand jury indicted Alec Baldwin on Friday on an involuntary manslaughter charge in a 2021 fatal shooting during a rehearsal on a movie set in New Mexico, reviving a dormant case against the actor. Special prosecutors

brought the case before a grand jury in Santa Fe this week, months after receiving a new analysis of the gun that was used. Defense attorneys for Baldwin indicated they'll fight the charge. "We look forward to our day in court," said Luke Nikas and Alex Spiro,

defense attorneys for Baldwin, in an email. While the proceeding is shrouded in secrecy, two of the witnesses seen at the courthouse included crew members — one who was present when the fatal shot was fired and another who had walked off the set the day before due to

safety concerns. Baldwin, the lead actor and a co-producer on the Western movie "Rust," was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal on a movie set outside Santa Fe in October 2021 when the gun went off, killing her.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30247JANUARY 20, 27

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CAGE NICHOLAS LEE FLETCHER,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-C-16

BLACK LABEL TRANSPORTATION, LLC, AND JOHN DOE PERSONS AND/OR ENTITIES,

Defendant.

That the object of the above-styled claim is to obtain judgment against the Defendants, Black Label Transportation, LLC and/or John Doe Persons and/or Entities, jointly and severally where allowable by law, for compensatory damages in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of the Court and sufficient to make the Plaintiff whole for his damages and losses as a result of a vehicle colliding into a retaining wall located on Plaintiff's real estate located at 9826 Mason Dixon Highway, Wana, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and for punitive damages in excess of the jurisdictional threshold of the Court in an amount sufficient to punish the defendants for their conduct and/or dissuade the defendants and others similarly situated from engaging in similar conduct in the future; for attorney's fees and costs where allowable by law; for pre- and post-judgment interest where allowable by law; and for such damages and relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

That there are or may be persons, other than those named in the Complaint as defendants, interested in the subject matter of the action, whose names are unknown to the Plaintiff and who are made defendants by the general description of John Doe Persons and/or Entities.

That the name and address of these Defendants, John Doe Persons and/or Entities, is unknown to Plaintiff.

And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that Defendant, John Doe Persons and/or Entities, are any and all persons and/or entities unknown to the Plaintiff who may have collided into a retaining wall located on Plaintiff's real estate located at 9826 Mason Dixon Highway, Wana, Monongalia County, West Virginia causing damages, and who may be directly or indirectly liable to the Plaintiff for said damages caused to his retaining wall, and they do serve upon **DAVID J. STRAFACE, JOHN R. ANCOITTI, and CHAD C. GROOME whose address is 274 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505**, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before February 23, 2024, otherwise judgement by default will be taken against Defendants at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court this 17th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Donna Hidock  
Donna Hidock  
Clerk of Court

30142January 13, 20, 27

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by the virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated January 29, 2008, executed by the Borrower(s), Christopher E. Lipscomb and Renee D. Lipscomb, to Janet Phillips, the Trustee, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Monongalia County, West Virginia, in Book 1612, Page 97. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 1133 Grafton Rd., Morgantown, WV 26508. Pill & Pill, PLLC was appointed as Substitute Trustee by the SUBSTITUTION OF TRUSTEE dated December 28, 2023, of record in the Clerk's Office in Volume 2590, Page 298. The Borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Monongalia County, in Morgantown, West Virginia on the following date:

February 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING TRACT OR PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE, TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN CLINTON DISTRICT, MONONGALIA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AND BEING AND MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POST ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF A 30-FOOT ROADWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY (PAVED), CORNER TO LANDS OF BRUCE A. LIPSCOMB (DEED BOOK NO. 932, AT PAGE 547, ASSESSORS MAP 6, PARCEL 66.2), WHICH SAID POST IS THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) COURSES AND DISTANCES FROM AN IRON ROD SET ON THE EAST SIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA ROUTE NO. 119 AND THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID 30-FOOT ROADWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY WITH ITS JUNCTION WITH SAID STATE ROUTE, NAMELY, S. 88 DEG. 02 MIN. E. 431.30 FEET AND S. 13 DEG. W. 147.50 FEET, AND RUNNING THENCE FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT, AS THUS ESTABLISHED, AND WITH THREE (3) LINES OF SAID BRUCE A. LIPSCOMB TRACT, S. 79 DEG. 05 MIN. E. 34.50 FEET TO A POST; THENCE S. 5 DEG. 50 MIN. W. 43.00 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N. 81 DEG. 55 MIN. W. 40.50 FEET TO A POST IN THE EASTERN LINE OF SAID 30-FOOT ROADWAY, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND WITH THE SAME, N. 13 DEG. E. 44 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING .037 OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS. MAP 6, PARCEL 66.7.

BEING THE SAME FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED FROM RICHARD L. LIPSCOMB TO CHRISTOPHER E. LIPSCOMB AND RENEE D. LIPSCOMB HUSBAND AND WIFE JOINT TENANTS, DATED 04/27/2005 RECORDED ON 04/26/2006 IN BOOK 1316, PAGE 056 IN MONONGALIA COUNTY RECORDS, STATE OF WV.

TERMS OF SALE:

1)

The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.

2)

The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.

3)

The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.

4)

The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.

5)

The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

6)

The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: Richard A. Pill  
Richard A. Pill, Member  
Pill & Pill, PLLC  
85 Aikens Center  
Edwin Miller Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1440  
Martinsburg, WV 25402  
(304) 263-4971  
foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

30246JANUARY 20, 27

NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
#2024MCC-002

Monongalia County Commission is issuing this **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** from qualified vendors to provide **JANITORIAL SERVICES** for the Monongalia County Courthouse and the Monongalia County Justice Center.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** The full **RFP** documents with required specifications are on file in the office of the Monongalia County Commission and can be requested during regular business hours. Please direct inquiries to: Collene Coon, Office Manager at [info@monongalia-county.gov](mailto:info@monongalia-county.gov). The Monongalia County Commission is not responsible for any verbal communication between any employee of the County and any potential Bidder.

**DEADLINE: Sealed Proposals** must be received by **10:00am, Local Time, Wednesday, February 28, 2024** in accordance with the instructions located in the full RFP document:

Monongalia County Commission  
ATTN: Collene Coon, Office Manager  
Monongalia County Courthouse  
243 High Street Room 202  
Morgantown, WV 26505

at which time and place all submitted Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The **OWNER** reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any informalities therein.

30216JANUARY 20, 27

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**TOWN OF GRANVILLE  
GRANVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA  
UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTRE DRIVE  
TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION**

Sealed Bids for the Town of Granville Traffic Signal Installation Project along University Town Centre Drive will be received by the Town of Granville located at 1245 Main Street, Granville, West Virginia 26534, until **Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM** local time at which time all proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the conditions of this project will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project consists of furnishing labor and materials and performing all work set forth in the Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid and Bid Schedule (Bid Form including Unit Price Basis of Bid), General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Specification Special Conditions, Technical Specifications and Plans (Drawings) prepared by Potesta & Associates, Inc., and all addenda issued prior to receipt of Bids.

The Work to be bid upon is generally described as follows: The University Town Centre Traffic Signal Installation Project consists of the installation of new traffic signal poles and foundations, lighting systems, signage, minor grading/excavating, conduit installation with electrical service coordination, minor concrete and pavement work including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp accommodations, pavement markings, and all appurtenances related to the construction of the fully function traffic control system.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Potesta & Associates, Inc. located at 7012 MacCorkle Avenue, SE, Charleston, West Virginia 25304. Call 304-342-1400 to purchase Bidding Documents. Bidding Documents will be released upon payment of \$50 for an electronic set and \$200 for each hard-copy set of documents. All checks shall be made payable to Potesta & Associates, Inc. Prospective Bidders may obtain previously ordered Bidding Documents by appointment at the Issuing Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Cost does not include shipping charges.

Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at The Contractor's Association of WV, 2114 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia 25311 or at the Town of Granville office, located at 1245 Main Street, Granville, West Virginia 26534.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **11:00 AM** local time on **February 13, 2024** at the **Town of Granville Town Hall at 1245 Main Street, Granville, West Virginia 26534**. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is mandatory.

Bids will be opened using a two-envelope bidding system as outlined in the contract documents. Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. Evidence of a current and valid West Virginia Contractor's License, a Certification of Equal Employment Opportunity, a Certification of Non-segregated Facilities, a Drug Free Workplace Performance Affidavit, and a West Virginia Jobs Act Compliance Certification is required. Bids received after the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidders. The Town of Granville reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to award the Project to a Bidder other than the low Bidder and to waive any informality in bidding. The Town of Granville reserves the right to reject any and all bids that are not in the best interest of the Town of Granville. In addition, the Town of Granville also reserves the right to terminate the Work at any time due to noncompliance with the Town of Granville's expectations and requirements.

Honorable Patricia Lewis, Mayor  
Town of Granville

COUTURE

Dior puts on a daytime fashion ballet under the Parisian stars

Associated Press

PARIS — Dior's menswear maestro Kim Jones transformed a sunny afternoon in Paris into a starlit evening of balletic grandeur at Paris Fashion Week, in a display of fashion theatrics. Inspired by the legendary ballet icons Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev, Jones delivered an exuberant spectacle at the Ecole Militaire annex on Friday. Amid the haunting melodies of Sergei Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," the collection intertwined Dior's fine tailoring with a joyful explosion of theatrical glamour. It drew screams and cheers from a VIP audience — as it explored the duality of an artist's persona onstage and backstage. In a front row as starry as the simulated night sky above, luminaries like Lewis Hamilton, Bill Nighy, Kate Moss, Nicholas Hoult, Rita Ora, Princess Eugenie and Pharrell Williams witnessed a fashion ballet that transcended the traditional runway. Their presence underscored the collection's appeal to a diverse audience, from royalty to pop culture icons.

AP photo

Models wear creations for Dior as part of the Menswear ready-to-wear Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection presented in Paris on Friday.

ENTERTAINMENT

For Netflix documentaries, there's no place like Sundance

Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Ten years after "The Square," an acquisition that put Netflix documentaries on the map, the streamer is back at the Sundance Film Festival with an eye towards acquisitions and two very different originals. Yance Ford's latest, "Power," an inquiry into the evolution of policing in America that had its world premiere Thursday night in Park City, Utah. Bao Nguyen's "The Greatest Night in

Pop," about the making of the charity anthem "We Are The World," debuts Friday before streaming on Jan. 29. For Netflix, there's no one type of documentary that they're looking for: Diversity has proven to be the most successful strategy. "I think that Netflix is largely responsible for the documentary landscape that exists today," Ford said. "It was responsible for giving the public access to films like mine."



Friend upset not to be chosen as maid of honor

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I've invested a lot of effort in planning my close friend's wedding and helping coordinate the engagement. However, despite this involvement, I recently discovered that I'm not her maid of honor. Should I have a conversation with her about feeling left out, express my disappointment or consider scaling back my level of involvement in the wedding preparations? — FEELING SNUBBED

**DEAR FEELING SNUBBED:** In your mind, you feel that it is natural that you should be the maid of honor. The bride clearly felt otherwise. It is worth talking to her about, especially since you are feeling it so viscerally. Sit down with her at a moment when she is not distracted. Tell her that you were surprised to learn that you were not asked to be the maid of honor. Ask her why. Know that this may be difficult for her to answer, as it can feel like a confrontation. Remind her of all of the help you have been providing. Tell her that you would like to step back and give those duties to the person she

has chosen as MOH. That doesn't mean that you will walk away completely, but if you feel like you have put your life on hold to help organize her wedding, you can stop doing that if the role has been assigned to someone else. Do your best to forgive your friend for not honoring you with the role you expected.

**DEAR HARRIETTE:** I am a college student preparing to study abroad in Spain. The unique situation is that I have a close friend who will also be joining me on this journey. While I value our friendship, I don't want to completely rely on her as my only friend throughout my time abroad. How do I approach this new chapter in a way that allows me to make the most of the experience and form meaningful connections with people beyond my existing friend? — A CHANCE TO FLY

**DEAR A CHANCE TO FLY:** Make it a goal to meet at least one new person each week and do one thing weekly with someone else independent of your friend.

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024

Take a trip down memory lane, and it will remind you of goals you have yet to achieve. Your timing is much better now, and it's time to revive something on your bucket list that gets your heart pumping.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** — Avoid taking on too much. Keep your pursuits secret until you have tested the final product.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** — Adopt a perfectionist attitude. Attention to detail will give you the edge necessary to outdo any competition.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Think about how you feel, look and present yourself to the world. A minor adjustment will boost your morale.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Find out all you can before you make a commitment. Stick to simple, practical endeavors.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You'll do better on your own. Someone will try to manipulate you. Don't allow anyone to make your life difficult.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Put more effort into relationships. The people who share your beliefs will rally around you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Don't engage in



EUGENIA LAST

something that's too costly, time-consuming or indulgent. Focus on making a difference.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Planning will help fend off any emotional complications you encounter. Keeping busy will be necessary.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** — Recognize your worth and let your light shine brightly. Don't let someone rain on your parade.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** — Put your best foot forward and don't look back. Take control of your life and point yourself in the right direction.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** — Review what's left to do and map out a schedule. Distance yourself from anyone who tempts you to avoid your responsibilities.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Take the initiative and learn something new or travel somewhere special. An emotional situation will prompt a lifestyle change, offering plenty of exciting options.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Criminal charge
  - 4 Catchall abbr.
  - 7 Fedora feature
  - 11 "Gotcha!"
  - 12 Reveal
  - 14 Midway attraction
  - 15 "Like father, like —"
  - 16 Walking stick
  - 17 Religious image
  - 18 Snake
  - 20 Traitor
  - 22 Sculling need
  - 23 Schlep
  - 24 Complete range
  - 26 PIN prompter
  - 27 Blunder
  - 30 Wicked
  - 31 "That's disgusting!"
  - 32 — gin fizz
  - 33 Male animals

- DOWN
- 1 Coarse file
  - 2 Cry heard at sea
  - 3 Wordless entertainment
  - 4 Chaparrone
  - 5 Lighter- — air



- 6 Swindle
- 7 Fetch
- 8 Puerto —
- 9 Object of worship
- 10 Fix
- 13 In the money
- 19 Transports
- 21 Certain liquor
- 24 "I — Kick Out of You"
- 25 Affirm
- 26 Very excited
- 27 Complicated
- 28 Stir up
- 29 Philosopher — Descartes
- 31 Pressing importance
- 32 Shovel
- 37 Poet's always
- 38 Flair
- 39 From bad to —
- 41 "Woe — —!"
- 42 Unmixed, said of whiskey
- 43 Outdo
- 44 Preserve with salt
- 45 Golf club
- 46 Mention
- 49 Dog breed, for short

CURTIS

BY RAY BILLINGSLEY



PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



THE GRIZZWELLS

BY BILL SCHORR



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



FRANK & ERNEST

BY BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER

BY ART & CHIP SANSON



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY DIK BROWNE



MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



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

